

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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(English Version)

Third Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)

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No. Friday, December 17, 1998/Agrahayana 26, 1920 (Saka)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 17, 1998/Agrahayana 26, 1920 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

US MILITARY ATTACK ON IRAQ

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have given a notice to suspend the Question hour to discuss about the bombing carried out by the United on Iraq . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I am allowing the Leader of the Opposition to speak

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Mr. Speaker Sir, today, attack on Baghdad and Iraq has posed a threat to World peace. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have given a notice . . . *(Interruptions)* it is a question of my prestige . . . *(Interruptions)* India Today Magazine has published a report without my consent . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Not now, speak in zero hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : People are asking me that how I have apoloised . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Situation has become very serious. It is a fact that India is a partner in reservation of Security Council and as far as inspection is concerned, if somebody has expected cooperation, then there is nothing incorrect. But the manner in which America has carried out bombing, on Bagdad City and its surrounding areas today, I think that it has posed much bigger threat to the World peace. Today, there is need to condemn it. Under these circumstances China, Russia, General Secretary of the United Nations have expressed strong reaction against it. I feel that Government of India should come forward with a statement and there is need to clarify its position before the country and the World. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehruji, Indiraji or Rajiv ji had tried to take initiatives in such situations and came forward with a policy before the world. Similarly, there is a need to take stern action at

this time. There is a need that India should come forward with its own policy and opinion.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully support what the Leader of the Opposition has said. This is some naked aggression which is being carried out by the United States. They were preparing for some days. We were reading the reports about the mobilisation of their Armed Forces in the Gulf. This is nothing but a devise of the President Clinton to avoid or to delay his impeachment and other things. In order to do that, in order to sidetrack that, they are carrying out this naked aggression against Iraq. Bombing is going on. The BBC has shown live pictures of the city of Baghdad being bombed. The civilian population is being mercilessly attacked.

I think, the Government of India should come forward with a strong statement condemning this attack, which can escalate into a much bigger threat to the peace of the whole region and peace of the world. Therefore, I would request the Government of India to speak out on this issue because India's opinion on this matter is very very important and vital.

MR. SPEAKER : What is the response of the Government?

(Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we all join with the hon. Leader of the Opposition and Shri Indrajit Gupta on this. This should be a reaction of the country as a whole. The Government must come forward with a confirmed and a very decisive policy. The Government of India should tell the Americans that this is not the way that they can finish the humanity. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very sad that today America has once again started to show hooliganism and I associate myself with the statement of Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Sharad Pawar.

Iraq has been our friend country. It stood by us at the time of our crisis. Today it is in difficulty, and is being besieged by all sides. We watched B.B.C. continuously for three hours that bombing is being carried out by America on civilian areas of entire Bagdad. Therefore, the House should condemn it and India should take initiative and Government of India should give a statement in this regard.

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (Madras Central) : The conscience of the civilised World is shocked. A brutal attack is going on in Iraq.

Now, I saw in the T.V. the U.S. Secretary of State saying that they are going to punish Iraq. It is not an attack on any particular military targets, it is against human targets. It is carpet bombing. She says that the bombings will continue for days and weeks.

We should pass a Resolution in this House condemning this attack. It is nothing but an arrogance of power. The U.S. is not a policeman for the World. Nobody has given the licence to U.S. to attack humanity. A great civilisation will be perished.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : The United States of America has ordered a sustained attack. There is no limit to air campaign that they have announced. Already six people have been killed and hundreds are injured. The House should condemn unanimously. The hon. Minister must make a statement here and take strong action against the United States of America and mobilise public opinion against this barbarity. We condemn this attack.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai) : Iraq is a country which has supported India on Kashmir throughout. This action of the United States is without the mandate of the Security-Council. In fact, without convening the Security Council this attack has taken place. So, the United States is emerging as a World policeman. I think, the Government without mincing words, for a friend which had stood by us in a very crucial time, should come up categorically and condemn this attack.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY (Khagaria) : U.N.O. is an organization of the countries and America is not a police force that whatever may happen in world it makes them afraid by bombing but it is becoming its tendency. The members of NATO-CEATO want to dominate on other countries. The President of America, Bill Clinton is involved in Lewinsky case, therefore he wants that until and unless the matter is over the bombardment should continue. We all should raise our voice against this hooliganism.

[English]

SHRI R. MUTHIAH (Periyakulam) : Sir, this House and our nation should come forward to condemn the brutal attack of the United States of America on Iraq. This attack is unwarranted on so many issues.

As our Hon. Shri Indrajit Gupta rightly pointed out, to avoid the impeachment in the Parliament of the United States of America, Mr. Bill Clinton has ordered this brutal attack on Iraq.

This House and this Government should come forward to condemn this brutal attack.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : Mr. Speaker. Sir, the Government entirely shares the concern and the anguish of the House, the Parliament and indeed the people of India. The Government has been constantly watching the situation.

Sir, if it would meet your consent and convenience of all the hon. Members who have expressed their concern, at 12 O'Clock or soon thereafter, the Government will come forward with a detailed statement in both the Houses of Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER Now, we will take up Question Hour.

11.09 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Drinking Water Supply in Maharashtra

+

*261. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether shortage of drinking water is being experienced in many States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an agreement was signed with United Kingdom in 1991 for drinking water supply in Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the names of States which are receiving foreign assistance for drinking water supply schemes and the quantum of assistance received by each State?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) Drinking water supply is a State subject. It is the responsibility of the State Governments and implementing agencies to plan, formulate and execute schemes to augment the water supply services to meet the growing demands of the population. As per the information furnished by the State Governments, the percentage coverage of water supply in the urban and rural areas is given in Annexure, I and II respectively.

Shortage of drinking water experienced by the State Governments is not being monitored by this Ministry and is also not being reported by the State Governments, unless asked for specifically. The Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran has reported that there has been very good rainfall in Maharashtra this year. Therefore, there is no shortage of drinking water by the State at present.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment has reported that an integrated water Supply and Sanitation project to provide safe drinking water to 187 villages and one town (Nandgaon) of Jalgaon, Dhule and Nashik districts of Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs.

71 crores has been under implementation since 1990-91 with assistance from the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) of the British Government. The project has been completed in respect of 136 villages in Jalgaon and Nashik Districts and handed over to the respective Zilla Parishads for operation and Maintenance. The project in the remaining 51 villages in Jalgaon (48 villages) and Dhule (3 villages) is expected to be completed by 31.3.1999.

(e) As per available information, the names of States which are receiving foreign assistance for drinking water supply schemes in urban and rural areas are given in Annexure-III and IV respectively.

Annexure-I

Status of Urban Water Supply and Sanitation - India Population Coverage as on 31.3.93

(Population in '000)

S. No.	Name of State/UT	Estimated Population by end of March 1993	Population served with water supply through			
			H.S.C.	Stand Post	Total Population	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15339	8953	3853	12806	83.48
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	111	78	33	111	100.00
3.	Assam @ n &	2593	185	110	295	11.37
4.	Bihar	11892	4187	5327	9514	80.00
5.	Delhi &	10300	4730	4540	9270	90.00
6.	Goa	506	311	135	446	88.14
7.	Gujarat	15127	11910	2977	14887	98.41
8.	Haryana	3864	2705	1159	3864	100.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	480	274	206	480	100.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	2030	1421	609	2030	100.00
11.	Karnataka	14039	10247	2888	13135	93.56
12.	Kerala	8217	2360	2690	5050	61.45
13.	Madhya Pradesh	15851	9064	5216	14280	90.08
14.	Maharashtra	32115	20284	11296	31580	98.33
15.	Manipur	548	402	60	472	84.30
16.	Meghalaya	302	107	111	218	72.18
17.	Mizoram	175	40	60	100	57.14
18.	Nagaland	214	63	151	214	100.00
19.	Orissa	4332	688	1617	2305	53.20
20.	Punjab \$	6217	2922	560	3482	56.00
21.	Rajasthan	10864	8503	2361	10864	100.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
22.	Sikkim	195	95	25	120	61.53
23.	Tamil Nadu	22941	8720	2514	11234	48.96
24.	Tripura n	344	128	55	183	53.19
25.	Uttar Pradesh	29470	19643	8418	28061	95.21
26.	West Bengal	19412	9493	7167	16660	85.82
Total		227478	127513	64138	191651	84.25

UNION TERRITORIES

1.	A & N Islands n	90	55	22	77	85.55
2.	Chandigarh	617	617	0	617	100.00
3.	D & N Haveli	14	9	4	13	92.85
4.	Daman & Diu ?	27	10	17	27	100.00
5.	Lakshadweep	29	0	29	29	100.00
6.	Pondicherry	517	349	168	517	100.00
Total UTs :		1294	1040	240	1280	98.91
Grand Total		228772	128553	64378	192931	84.33

Remarks :

HSC - House Service Connection

LCS - Low Cost Sanitation

? - Discrepancy in Figures. Letter has been written to the concerned Agency.

@ - The figures for from Assam State is less than those furnishel in 1985. In Regard to sanitation, Director, MPL. ADMN. DEPT, Govt. of Assam has been requested to furnished the Data.

\$ - Punjab W.S. & S. Bd. has furnished revised figures for the period ending 31.12.91. The figures for L.C.S. As of 31.3.93 1% shown as less than for 31.12.91.

n - The information of these states are of previous years - viz. Andhra Pradesh - 1990, Tripura - 1986 and A & N Islands - 1991.

& - Data on Sewage and Sanitation is yet to be received from these agencies.

Annexure II

Rural Water Supply

Status of Habitations as on 1.4.98 and coverage during 1998-99

Sl.No.	State/UT	Status as on 1.4.98				Coverage During 1998-99		
		NC Habs.	PC Habs.	FC Habs.	Total Habs.	NC Habs.	PC Habs.	Total Habs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	28083	41649	69732	0	2301	2301
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	666	1248	2384	4298	1	2	3
3.	Assam	8623	23485	38561	70669	688	198	886
4.	Bihar	2522	7596	195318	205436	248	721	969
5.	Goa	35	45	325	405	0	1	1
6.	Gujarat	1008	5898	23363	30269	216	217	433

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7.	Haryana	60	573	6912	7545	3	275	278
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4590	14047	26730	45367	543	311	854
9.	J & K	2618	4544	8564	15726	9	150	159
10.	Karnataka	1942	13898	40842	56682	336	1998	2334
11.	Kerala	990	6889	1884	9763	17	91	108
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6909	30714	122245	159868	2054	6988	9042
13.	Maharashtra	2985	40689	33450	77124	1293	1376	2669
14.	Manipur	220	592	1979	2791	55	45	100
15.	Meghalaya	1005	1621	6013	8639	1	58	59
16.	Mizoram	24	642	245	911	0	0	30
17.	Nagaland	448	745	332	1525	0	0	0
18.	Orissa	7136	6360	100603	114099	1770	1191	2961
19.	Punjab	6000	3123	4326	13449	44	0	44
20.	Rajasthan	7077	41341	55648	104066	1707	1919	3626
21.	Sikkim	0	862	817	1679	0	50	50
22.	Tamil nadu	0	24945	41686	56631	0	3257	3267
23.	Tripura	888	2102	4422	7412	21	93	114
24.	Uttar Pradesh	384	27012	247245	274641	0	11797	11197
25.	West Bengal	0	26109	54268	80377	0	1677	1677
26.	A & N Islands	11	21	472	504	0	0	0
27.	D & N Haveli	128	216	172	516	0	18	18
28.	Daman & Diu	0	1	28	29	0	0	0
29.	Delhi	0	62	138	200	0	0	0
30.	Lakshadweep	0	10	0	10	0	0	0
31.	Pondicherry	0	0	276	276	0	5	5
32.	Chandigarh	0	0	24	24	0	0	0
Total		56269	313473	1060921	1430663	9006	34769	43575

Note : NC - Not Covered

PC - Partially Covered

FC - Fully Covered

Annexure - III*List of States Receiving Foreign Assistance for Drinking Water Supply Schemes in Urban Areas*

S. No.	State	Name of Project	Leading Agency	Amount of Loan Assistance	Loan Amount Utilised
					(in million)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Tamil Nadu	11 Chennai Water Supply	World Bank	US\$ 86.5	US\$ 22.12
2.	Maharashtra	Urban City Water Supply	OECD, Japan	Yen 6788	Yen 3634.5

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Tamil Nadu	Functional improvements to Chennai Water Supply and Sanitation Systems	OECF, Japan	Yen 17098	Yen 306.4
4.	Karnataka	Bangalore Water Supply & Sewerage	OECF, Japan	Yen 28462	Yen 312.7
5.	Kerala	Kerala Water Supply	OECF, Japan	Yen 11997	—

Annexure - IV

Statement Giving State-wise Details of Cost of the Projects Supported by External Agencies (Rural Areas)

S. No.	State	Cost of the Projects (Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5048.00
2.	Gujarat	8056.00
3.	Karnataka	49340.10
4.	Kerala	6564.00
5.	Uttar Pradesh	41164.20
6.	Tamil Nadu	4330.00
7.	Maharashtra	7100.00
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1907.00
9.	Rajasthan	68500.00

SHRI D.S. AHIRE : It is stated that in 187 villages drinking water schemes have been completed. But in many villages of Dhule no scheme has been completed and those schemes are not functioning till now.

It is stated that there were 55,625 villages which were to be provided with safe drinking water schemes. It is mentioned that during 1997-98 only 187 villages were provided with such schemes. Why is there such a delay and why are the other villages not covered?

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : The supply of water is a State subject and this Government has nothing to do with it except that we render assistance for specific projects whenever that assistance is asked for and the projects are recommended by the State Governments.

The hon. Member is obviously referring to some projects which fall in the area near Dhule from where he has the distinction of coming. What has happened in Dhule is that there was a scheme which was being funded by a foreign agency, an English agency and it was found that those three villages which were mentioned were in Dhule. Nothing could be done because the original supply of water

from the Tapti river was unavailable and no alternative source was found in the three villages of the Dhule district, which were all supposed to be originally supplied with water. The scheme totally failed and has been abandoned. Further information can only be had from the State Government and not from me.

SHRI D.S. AHIRE : The schemes are still not functioning.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your supplementary? He is a new Member, please allow him to ask his supplementary.

SHRI D.S. AHIRE : An agreement was made with the United Kingdom. The amount has not been utilised till now.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : The agreement with the British Government was for development of water resources in 187 villages. Out of them, the schemes in respect of only 136 villages have been completed now. In the remaining villages including the three villages of Dhule district, the scheme has been abandoned or has not been completed.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : It is the responsibility of the State Government. Why have they not implemented it? Three villages are not getting water. Is it not the duty of the Government to look into it?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shinde, I will allow you later.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Three villages are not getting water.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you to raise a supplementary. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, two Annexures have been furnished in reply to this question. In Annexure No. 1, a mention has been made about water supply in urban areas. It has been stated in it that water supply is cent percent in urban areas of Jammu Kashmir. I would like to challenge the statement of Hon. Minister. There is scarcity of water in three districts of my constituency i.e. Kathua, Udhampur and Doda.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chaman Lal Gupta, this question relates to the drinking water supply in Maharashtra.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Sir, in the Annexure it has been mentioned about the entire country, therefore, it is not a question of only Maharashtra.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Bizay Sonkar Shastri, please take your seat.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : I must concede that the first part of the question relates to all India and it is not confined to Maharashtra alone. Therefore, I have no difficulty in answering those questions.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Sir, I would like to say that there is great scarcity of water in three districts i.e. Doda, Udhampur and Kathua and water supply is not 100 percent. The second part of my question. . .

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your supplementary. You do not read the entire thing. You must understand the Question Hour procedure also.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Sir, the information regarding Urban and Rural areas in reply to a question is given separately. It is stated in our National Agenda that we supply drinking water to all villages by 2000 A.D. I would like to know from the Minister that how many villages in Jammu & Kashmir especially in my constituency Udhampur will be covered under this scheme in the current year?

[English]

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Sir, I have already very respectfully informed this House that water supply is not our function. It is monitored and executed by the State Government.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : This is in your National Agenda that you will be supplying water to all the villages by 2000 A.D.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Kindly allow me to complete the sentence.

[Translation]

DR. BIJAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Sir, the hon'ble Prime Minister also has said about it. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Bizay Sonkar Shastri, this is not the way to obstruct the Minister. When the Minister is giving the reply, how can you obstruct him? Please take your seat.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Sir, it is true that in the National Agenda for Governance, there is an express promise that we will ensure that potable drinking water is available in all the villages in the next five years. I agree with that. That is so. What you are saying in Annexures-I and II is the condition as it existed prior to the 16th March, 1998. This is the position which I have inherited and I am informing you. And, this information is supplied by the State Governments, and not by me. If you say that this information is false, I will convey your allegation to the State Governments and call for their comments. But I have no further jurisdiction to interfere with the autonomy of the State Governments.

MR. SPEAKER : This question relates to the entire India, and not your constituency alone.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is related to Urban Area and the reply is being given by Minister of Urban development whereas it should be given by Minister of Rural development. I would like to tell the Minister that Rs. 71 crores were allocated to Jalgaon, Dhule and Nasik districts during the year 1990-91 but this scheme has not been completed so far. Water is not supplied to 136 districts so far. The scheme can not be completed with the amount allocated. I would like to know that whose responsibility is of monitoring. The allocated amount is being diverted to the development of Urban areas. They are spending on development of Mumbai but not on rural areas. I would like to know from the Minister that when situation is like this then how the amount is being allocated to the Government of Maharashtra?

[English]

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Sir, if any such malversation of funds is taking place on a vast scale which the hon. Member has reported, I will bring this to the notice of the present Government so that they should find out what the previous Governments were doing.

[Translation]

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of drinking water is a national issue. It is mentioned in the National Agenda of the Government that Government will supply drinking water to all the people of the country.

But today I am seeing the statement whose half part is furnished by Ministry of Urban Development and another

half by Ministry of Rural Development complete reply is not coming out of even after adding both the replies. First of all, it is my request that discussion should be held on drinking water in this House. Secondly, it is mentioned in the statement that the problem of drinking water in Rajasthan is much more serious than the entire country. Ground water is very dangerous . . . (Interruptions) the contents of flouride and salt are such that it is deteriorating the health of people and spoiling the lives of children. I understand their difficulty because only Urban Ministry of Urban Development comes under his control. I would like to request the Minister that provision should be made for drinking water under National Drinking Water Scheme especially for desert areas of Rajasthan so that people may get pure water which is the commitment of the Government. I would like to know that by what time it will be materialised?

[English]

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Sir, the Rajasthan Government has reported that except in some very specified areas, small areas, where no water supply is possible, hundred per cent of the population is supplied with water.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : This is not correct. You kindly have a round of the Rajasthan State and you will see it for yourself . . . (Interruptions). You ask any Member from Rajasthan, he will tell you . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Please allow me to complete the sentence . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Please, Shri Buta Singh. You are a senior Member.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Sir, I assure the hon. Member concerned that [Translation] if you will permit me, I shall visit Rajasthan and present a full status report.

[English]

Sir, the hon. Member wanted something about the future. The future is that to comply with our election promise, we have already prepared an Action Plan which we have circulated now to the Planning Commission and to various Ministries. We have sent it to the State Governments for comments. As soon as the Action Plan is accepted, we will start implementing it. But give us five years to complete our promise.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Sir, in the next millennium, the country is going to face the problem of acute shortage of drinking water. There are lots of projects which are being assisted by foreign agencies, especially the Accelerated Water Supply Scheme. The difficulty which is being faced by the State of Kerala is in these projects

which are being financed by foreign agencies. The land component is not included in the project. So, for execution of the project, it is difficult to get land for water tank and for other connected purposes. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering to include the land component in the scheme of the project.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Sir, I am afraid, I have no such plan under consideration. But since the hon. Member has mentioned, I will bring this to the notice of the Kerala Government and we will emphasise upon them the importance of this.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Sir, I want to know whether it will be included in the project. That is my question. The land component has to be included in the project.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : These are projects which are executed by the funding agencies and the State Governments. We have really nothing to do with it. But as I said, this is a suggestion which is very valuable and I shall put it to the State Government.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, the great legal luminary's genius is under-utilised in this Ministry. But I think if he takes initiative, he can give new dimension. There is no use writing in the National Agenda that potable water will be supplied within five years. The Government is spending about Rs. 20,000 crore to Rs. 25,000 crore for highways, linking Kanyakumari to Kashmir and West Bengal to Gujarat. Likewise, will the hon. Minister come forward to initiate a massive programme so that there is no shortage of drinking water within five years? Secondly, as Shri Premchandran has put it, even foreign assistance could not be used fully by the State Governments because of bureaucratic delays. Therefore, will the Minister take initiative to cut the bureaucratic red-tape so that not our money but at least the money being pipelined by the foreign companies reaches the State Governments in time?

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Sir, the hon. Member will give me credit for having become notorious for trying to get over bureaucratic delays. I have been struggling to do it and I hope I will soon succeed. So far as the Government is concerned, I am afraid, all that we can do is to advise the Government to give them our advice and give them our projects. If the hon. Member wants it, in advance I shall give him the Action Plan which we have prepared and which is being considered by the Planning Commission and the State Government.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : I want massive investment in this . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : I do not want the hon. Member to be unduly sarcastic about what we

intend to do during the next five years. We have already started taking vigorous steps in that direction. . . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : Sir, will the hon. Minister tell us why even after fifty years of our Independence, the previous Government has failed in providing even drinking water to all the villages?

SHR! RAM JETHMALANI : Sir, I wish I could answer that question, but I do not want to tread on people's toes unnecessarily. . . . (Interruptions)

, SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : Sir, we want to know the reasons for the failure of the previous Governments. Even after fifty years of our Independence, they have not provided drinking water to the people. What are the reasons for their failure?

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that it is disgraceful.

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : I would like you to give the details.

[Translation]

Derailment of Goods Trains

*262. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the derailment of goods trains have taken place in many parts of the country during the past one year;

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

(c) whether 16 wagons of a goods train were derailed between Bhadaiya-Lambhua railway stations;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the Government property damaged thereby;

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

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

(g) the steps being taken by the Government for checking such incidents in future?

[English]

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the last one year, i.e. 1997-1998, 194 consequential goods train derailments had taken place. Cause-wise break up of these accidents are as under:

No. of goods train derailments	Cause
163	Human failure
22	Equipment failure
3	Sabotage
3	Incidental
3	Could not be established

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) On 19.8.1998 at 2.43 hrs. 16 wagons of Goods train Down "COM Crack Special" derailed between Bhadaiya and Lambhua Stations of Northern Railway's Lucknow Division.

Damage to Government property in this accident is Rs. 2.75 lakhs (Provisional).

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The inquiry was conducted by a committee of Junior Administrative Grade Officers which has concluded that the accident occurred due to excessive cross level variation and missing/loose track fittings. The accident has been classified as "Failure of Railway Staff".

(g) Following steps have been taken to check recurrence of such accidents.

(i) Intensive inspection of track at supervisors and senior officers level is undertaken to ensure round the clock safety.

(ii) Maintenance corridors have been provided on all the trunk route and main line sections. Integrated Maintenance Blocks are being regularly provided for various maintenance work in order to ensure that no aspect of safety is neglected due to lack of maintenance.

(iii) Joint Inspection of Points and Crossings by the Permanent Way and Signal Inspectors is being emphasised for improving the maintenance standards in this vulnerable area.

(iv) Regular patrolling of the railway track by gangmen is carried out during vulnerable seasons such as summer, monsoon and the winter months. These patrolmen ensure that safety is not endangered by buckling, flash floods or rail fractures.

(v) Stringent penalty to the extent of dismissal/removal from service is being imposed on staff held responsible for causing accidents.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Mr. Speaker Sir, this question relates to train accidents. We read in the newspapers daily that the coaches of goods trains or passengers trains have been derailed. It is a matter of grave concern. The question asked by me was related to goods trains. The Minister also have admitted and he has given the calculation of ten months of 1997-98. I would like to ask the Minister about the period to which these figures relate.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : These figures relate to the financial year 1997-98.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : You have stated in your reply that out of the total 194 train accidents 163 accidents have occurred due to human failure. This percentage is very high. In his reply the Hon'ble Minister has given suggestions to prevent these accidents. Some of them relate to improvement and some relate to penalty. While so many accidents take place due to human failure, then it becomes a matter of grave concern. They should be trained properly and behaved properly, for all these I am not levelling any allegation against hon'ble Minister. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Speaker Sir, Many people are dying in accidents. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the problem is mounting day by day despite their best efforts being made to solve it. The details of works done by him and given in reply to a question in Rajya Sabha on 10th December shows decline in expenditure. An expenditure of Rs. 161.26 crores was incurred on signal works in 1995-96 which was subtracted to Rs. 146.93 crores only in 1997-98. Similarly, in respect of works relating to bridges, while an amount of Rs. 89.28 crores was spent in 1995-96, only Rs. 74.97 crores have been spent during 1997-98. It seems that more amount is required to be spent. Secondly, the last step in the steps suggested by you in your reply is about suspension and termination of employees found guilty in accidents. The incident of train derailment in Northern Railway on 19.8.98, in respect of which an enquiry was also got conducted by the officers of Junior Administrative Grade, is attributed to the failure of railway employees. I would like to know one number of persons against whom stern action has been taken to terminate their services.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member raised a large number of supplementary questions. His question was about the derailment of a particular goods train. He asked that what action being taken? An enquiry was conducted in this regard and report has also been received. The Enquiry Committee have held the Chief

Permanent and Inspector, Maintenance, Sultanpur and Permanent and Inspector, Maintenance responsible for this incident. The D.R.M. has accepted the findings of Enquiry Committee. Both of the staff have been held responsible for this. Action is being taken to fill a major penalty chargesheet against them. So far as the paucity of funds is concerned. The position in this regard has also been mentioned in status paper on economic condition of Railway. Reference has also been made in details about the different priorities of last years as stated by hon'ble Member. Just now, hon'ble Member asked as to why accidents are taking place?

(Interruptions)

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : About 100-200 persons are died in accidents . . . (Interruptions) Two accidents take place only in a month . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, an accident, when was occurred in Punjab was also due to track defect . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question relates to derailment of goods trains.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It would be better if we concentrate on basic question. I am ready to give reply to every question to be asked about the accidents and the position about the safety of Railway but the reply to the questions would be given turn by turn. One question can be answered only once. If you are required to held discussion about the position of overall railway safety. I request that whenever House gets time, discussion may be held in this regard.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, there should be a discussion in this regard.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker Sir, the discussion has already been held in the other House in regard to two references. We want that in this regard discussion should also be held in this House so that whole position can be elucidated in details by you and government. With this, we will be able to state the position about whole action. Hon'ble Member raised a question about derailment of a particular train. We have informed about the action being taken in this regard. So far as the derailment and other type of accidents are concerned, the figures of accidents of passenger trains and goods trains increased during last some months taking together are comparatively equal to the figures of last year. There are many reasons like railway failure and human failure responsible for this. The reasons responsible for these accidents have been elucidated. This accident has been kept under human

failure category. Its reasons have been stated. Lack of maintenance was found responsible for this. Therefore, the human failure was attributed to this. Action was also taken against them.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If the House agrees, we can have a Half-an-hour Discussion on 'train derailments and accidents'.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : All rights.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Sir, my second supplementary is there.

MR. SPEAKER : You take it up during Half-an-Hour Discussion. The House has agreed to it.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : Sir, I have very important suggestions to make. That is why, I seek your permission.

MR. SPEAKER : You can make your suggestions during Half-an-Hour Discussion.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : I shall not speak in more than three sentences.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, but be very brief.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : I have come to know that most of such accidents are being occurred due to human failure. You have no control on it. Shri Sultan Singh Jain, a Scientist from Roorki has made a research on it. (Interruptions) He has expended the Railway Operating System. He also exhibited it before Railway Board and Department of Railway. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are committing accidents in the House also.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if any train is running ahead, it will stop automatically, if there is unmanned crossing, there will be red light automatically. I would like to ask the honourable Minister that Shri Sultan Singh Jain, who is a scientist in Rurki University and who has developed Railway Operating System, whether the Department of Railway would like to take advantage of this operating system and whether it will give an opportunity to him to demonstrate this system?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have any immediate information about it that a person has developed such a system. If it comes to us or comes to Railway Board it will be studied and examined completely. As far as its study is concerned, I would

like to inform the House that so far no study has been conducted on the interaction of track and wheel but, some work in R.D.S.O is being undertaken sometime or the other. If the persons who are working there go to other places after transfer, they do not percolate the information at the lower level. Therefore, we have taken a decision that Rs. 50 lakh is being spent to study the interaction of Rail and Wheel and to create a post for Professor in Rurkee University so that it can be studied. If there is any disturbance, it can be decided only after conducting study and concrete results as to what action can be taken by us.

[English]

Safe Drinking Water

*263. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had fixed any target for providing safe drinking water to every village to the country by 2000;

(b) if so, the progress made so far State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the work in order to achieve the target fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (c) Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. State Governments have been implementing Rural Water Supply Programmes under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government by providing central assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). A statement indicating State-wise coverage of rural habitations with safe water facilities as on 1.4.98, as per the information furnished by the State Governments, is enclosed as Annexure-I.

The National Agenda for Governance of the Government envisions providing safe drinking water to all villages of the country in the next five years starting from 1998. The Action Plans prepared by the State Governments in consonance with the National Agenda for Governance indicates that all rural habitations of the country except for a few in Rajasthan would be provided with drinking water facilities during the 9th Plan period, subject to availability of funds.

Annexure-I*Status of Coverage of Habitations as on 1.4.98*

S.No.	State/UT	NC Habs.	PC Habs.	FC Habs.	Total Habs.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	00	28083	41649	69732
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	666	1248	2384	4298
3.	Assam	8623	23485	38561	70669
4.	Bihar	2522	7596	195318	205436
5.	Goa	45	45	325	405
6.	Gujarat	1008	5893	23363	30269
7.	Haryana	60	573	6915	7545
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4590	14047	25530	45367
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2618	4544	8564	15726
10.	Karnataka	1942	13898	40842	56682
11.	Kerala	990	6809	1884	9763
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6909	30714	122245	159868
13.	Maharashtra	2985	40689	33450	77124
14.	Manipur	220	592	1979	2791
15.	Meghalaya	1005	1621	6013	8639
16.	Mizoram	24	642	245	911
17.	Nagaland	448	745	332	1525
18.	Orissa	7136	6360	100603	114099
19.	Punjab	6000	3123	4326	13446
20.	Rajasthan	7077	41341	55648	104066
21.	Sikkim	0	862	817	1679
22.	Tamil Nadu	0	24945	41686	66631
23.	Tripura	888	2102	4422	7412
24.	Uttar Pradesh	384	27012	247245	274641
25.	West Bengal	0	26109	54268	80377
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	11	21	472	504
27.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	128	216	172	516
28.	Daman & Diu	0	1	28	29
29.	Delhi	0	62	138	200
30.	Lakshadweep	0	10	0	10
31.	Pondicherry	0	0	276	276
32.	Chandigarh			24	24
Total		56269	313473	1060921	1430663

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that, "The National Agenda for Governance of the Government envisages providing safe drinking water to all villages of the country in the next five years starting from 1998." It has also been stated that the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government by providing Central Assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP).

Kutch District, my constituency, which is the largest district in area in the whole country, suffers from acute shortage of drinking water - even the cattle do not get the drinking water - and as a result many people have migrated from that area. The only way to provide drinking water in my constituency is to get water from South Gujarat River, which is at a distance of 700 Kilometres.

MR. SPEAKER : You must ask a very good question now.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any special assistance can be given under ARWSP for providing drinking water in this part of the Gujarat State.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I understand the feelings of the hon. Member, but I am very sorry to say that these schemes are implemented by the State Governments concerned. Of course, we supplement the efforts of the State Governments. Let me give the picture about the present status. There are 14,30,663 habitations in India out of which, 56,269 habitations have not yet been covered, 3,13,473 habitations have been partially covered, and the rest 10,60,921 habitations have been fully covered. We have prepared an Action Plan, and we require Rs. 9,149 crore for this. The hon. Member can see the details in Annexure I. The Action Plan has been prepared in consonance with our National Agenda, and it is duty of the Government of India to assist the State Governments in implementing the programmes prepared by them.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Sir, the Central Government is giving assistance to the State Governments but I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether or not the Central Government could make any special provision for the places where there is acute shortage of water. If you take the country as a whole, then there are certain places where the people feel the acute shortage of water and have to travel a few kilometres to fetch water. I would like to know very specifically from the hon. Minister whether in such cases the Central Government could compel the State Governments to do something and also provide more assistance to them.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : The State Governments are autonomous in planning and implementing the schemes. We are not implementing the Schemes.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : I would like to know whether the Central Government would like to make any special provision for that.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : There is no such provision.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, many times you have given the directions to associate Members of Parliament but State Government does not associate them. Here the Minister submits that it is a plan of State Government. Ultimately what we will do here, Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should give directions in this regard.

[English]

They should give clear cut directions. . . (Interruptions) The State Government is not associating us in the schemes . . . (Interruptions) The MPs would have to be associated with the schemes.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Not just now, we will take it up later on.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever honourable Member is saying, there is stability in it. We defer it by saying that it is the work of State Government so they should do it. We have given the money but we do not come to know whether State Government is doing it or not. The question is whether things are made available to the people or not? It should be our responsibility. Honourable Minister has said that he is ready to go and I am ready to take him to Rajasthan. On the one hand you have promised this, on the other in the month of Jyaishta, I will take you towards the mounds of Rajasthan where there is no drinking water, then you will not make any complaint to me. You will get Paramvir Chakra for it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bikaner areas of Rajasthan people have to go 10 miles away to fetch water. Government has done a lot in this regard but in these places the matter has been resolved. I would like that special attention should be paid to these places and water should be made available. If water is finished, then human life will come to an end there. In this situation even crops are ruined. Therefore, there is a need to provide drinking water to the people easily. There should be priority for this. We have means due to coming of Indira Canal. There is a need to do the work, water cannot be provided only by laying water pipe, water is provided by arranging

water. . . (Interruptions) Therefore, to support your point I want to ask honourable Minister that he should appoint you and I to the duty so that we can also see that in this work money would be spent or not, whether honourable Minister is agree with this?

[English]

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Sir, I have written letters to all the State Governments to involve the MPs in the Programme and my Secretary also had written letters to the Secretaries of the States on 26th August, 1998 for involving the MPs in these programmes.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : About Maharashtra . . .

[English]

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : The Government of Maharashtra has replied that the participation of the MPs and the MLAs are being done in planning, implementation and monitoring of the Centrally-sponsored programmes. They are going to include them. The process has started in Maharashtra . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It is not right you please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Sir, we have asked the State Governments to involve Members of Parliament in this programme. We cannot encroach upon the powers of the State Governments.

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI (Machhalishahar) : Honourable Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the honourable Minister that in the places where the level of ground water has become very low and where India Mark-2 handpump are not working, whether Government of India are proposing a separate plan for these places and on the plan to provide special assistance and whether it will do the survey of these places?

[English]

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Sir, the ground water level is going down every year. The sources are drying up. The 'Villages not covered' are emerging every year. We are making some exercises in the Ministry for a ground water recharging programme. For that, under EAS, we have specifically mentioned that 50 percent of the money should be used for ground water recharging programme. I have also written letters to the Minister of Agriculture and the

Minister of Forests to club all these programmes for ground water recharging. Very soon we are going to have a comprehensive programme for ground water recharging.

DR. RANJIT KUMAR PANJA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for allowing me to speak.

Rural water supply in West Bengal has a very special problem. In six Districts, the soil is laden with arsenic. This arsenic is being consumed by people through drinking water. This arsenic causes cancer. It is causing cancer killing hundreds of people. As this is a State subject, I would like to know whether this special health hazard has been brought to the notice of the Central Government by the State Government, and whether any measures have been taken, or are being taken at the national level for water supply to the rural areas.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Sir, there is a separate Technology Mission, namely, Rajiv Gandhi Technology Mission, for such quality-affected areas. If the State Government comes with a project for treatment of water, we will consider it. . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Projects are already there.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : If there is a project with us, we will definitely consider it.

SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, like in West Bengal, in many parts of Andhra Pradesh, there is a serious problem of fluoride content in drinking water. Because of excess fluoride content in drinking water, deformity of bones and premature deaths are occurring. There used to be special funds earmarked for fluoride-affected areas. Now the Government has withdrawn such special funds and some funds are given to each State against which this has to be adjusted. I would like to know whether the Government has got any plan to give special funds for fluoride-affected areas, particularly, for my constituency in Andhra Pradesh where a number of villages are affected by this fluoride content in drinking water.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Sir, we have not withdrawn the programme under Rajiv Gandhi Technology Mission. We have delegated powers to the State Governments to implement those programmes. Only the funding pattern has been changed. If the hon. Members request to go to the earlier funding pattern, I will consider that also.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the whole country level of ground water is going down. Particularly in Gujarat the level of water has gone so down that water is available at the depth of 500 feet. Honourable

Minister has explained in his reply that it a State subject. State is trying to provide water in every village. But I am listening for the last ten years that whichever Government comes it says that in the coming two years every village of Hindustan will get pure drinking water. But for the last ten years this question has not been solved. Through pipeline Government of Gujarat wants to give pure drinking water to every village. I want to know from honourable Minister that whether Government of India would give any special financial assistance in this regard?

[English]

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Sir, for depleting ground water, we have identified 595 blocks as grey and dark. For this, we are having a programme. If the State Government comes with some projects to recharge these grey and dark blocks, we are going to release funds under this programme.

[Translation]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of drinking water in our country is such that in my constituency from where Ganga-Jammu originates even there also drinking water is not available to us. Honourable Minister is right in saying that State Government is responsible for this. But really most painful situation is that villages which are shown benefitted here, even water is not available in those villages. I, therefore, would like to know from honourable Minister that whether they will start monitoring system after discussion with State Government, in which Members of Parliament should also be involved so that it can be seen that the villages which are shown benefitted what is the situation of water there and villages which are not shown benefitted how water would be provided there. Whether honourable Minister would tell something about starting a monitoring system based on Members of Parliament.

[English]

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Sir, I have already answered this question . . . (Interruptions)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : Sir, the hon. Minister has not answered this question.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : I have written letters. . . (Interruptions)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : I am asking for the monitoring arrangements which have the authority. Here, he is only requesting the State Governments. I want to know specifically from the hon. Minister as to whether he is willing to accept the necessity of a system whereby monitoring will be done by the Centre.

. . . (Interruptions) Otherwise, he is helpless. He is just saying that everything will be done by the States. Then why should he come here? Then, we should not ask questions here. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI K.S. RAO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as everybody is aware, shortage of drinking water is a major problem in our country. Whenever we ask for sanction of water tanks in a villages sanction is being made. But the villagers are being asked to contribute partly the cost of the project, that is, water tank, and sometimes where the villagers are not in a position to contribute, they are not getting the water tanks. That means, most of the investments are going only to the rich villages where the local villagers can afford to pay more than what is required.

Now, I wish to bring to his kind knowledge that . .

MR. SPEAKER : You have to ask the supplementary and not to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister.

SHRI K.S. RAO : Sir, crores of rupees which are invested in constructing water tanks are not being used because either the pipelines are not laid or they are incomplete and all that. So, I wish to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he will ask the State Governments or the concerned Departments to make an assessment of those projects which are incomplete and where crores of rupees have been invested for the last couple of years, and find a way out as to how to complete them and put them to use in order to have the public money.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Sir, we are not asking people to contribute any money under the ARWSP and MNP.

MR. SPEAKER : He is asking about the incomplete schemes.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Under the World Bank Schemes, they are asking for some five per cent or 10 per cent contribution. . .

SHRI K.S. RAO : Sir, I am talking about the projects where the villagers are concerned.

MR. SPEAKER : Please let him complete.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : As regards, World Bank Schemes, with the agreement of the people, they are entering into agreement with the NGOs and the public, to contribute five per cent or 10 per cent.

SHRI K.S. RAO : Sir, I am not talking about them. I am talking about villagers.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Sir, under the ARWSP, we are not asking the people to contribute any money.

About the incomplete projects, if the hon. Member has a specific reference

SHRI K.S. RAO : It is not one. There are hundreds and hundreds of incomplete projects pending in my constituency. Here, I am talking about the whole country.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Sir, I will see to it. . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If the House agrees, I have no objection to have Half-an-Hour Discussion. What is the reply from the hon. Minister? Do you agree for Half-an-Hour Discussion?

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : We have discussed the matter many times. We have prepared an Action Plan. We have also prepared the programme for ground water recharging.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you agreeable for Half-an-Hour Discussion?

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : I am agreeable, if Hon. Members are very much interested in it.

MR. SPEAKER : We will have Half-an-Hour Discussion. The hon. Minister has agreed.

People Living Below Poverty Line

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*264. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR :
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey is being conducted to ascertain the percentage of the people living below poverty line in the country; and

(b) if so, the norms being adopted for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) The percentage of people living below poverty line is estimated from time to time by the Planning Commission utilising the National Sample Survey Data on Consumer Expenditure. However, to identify the persons living below poverty line, a 'Below Poverty Line Census' is being carried out in rural areas of all the States and Union Territories at the behest of this Ministry.

(b) For the estimation of the percentage of the people living below poverty line as well as for the 'Below Poverty Line Census', the poverty line as fixed by the Planning Commission, is taken as the norm.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : I will be very brief. Will the hon. Minister let me know whether there are any instructions to the persons conducting surveys that

those who have fans, tiled roofs, sewing machines, stone walls, tin sheds and electricity should be omitted from the list of poverty line? They are not being included according to their income. Is there any guideline in this regard?

Secondly, the Prime Minister had assured this House last time that nearly Rs. 2,700 crore for the year 1997-98 was unutilised and that a meeting of all the Party representatives would be called. I would like to know whether this will be done in this Session at least.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : These data are not being used for identification of poverty. We are using these data for our self-employment programmes like IRDP, DWACRA and other programmes.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : I will give one example. You can check. I will give the name of one specific village, Brashitakli in the district of Akola, Maharashtra where in the last census of survey of the population below poverty line, the people living below poverty line there was found to be 46 per cent. This time the census has been completed and it has been brought down to 20 per cent. These norms have been used to reduce the number of persons living below poverty line. Will you confirm this and report the fact to the House whether it is true or not?

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : The Planning Commission is not taking into consideration these figures.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : I am just asking you whether you will confirm the facts which I have stated and come before the House. It is my specific point. We are not interested in the Planning Commission. I am asking you a specific point. I have given you the name of one village where the population below poverty line was 46 per cent. This time it is 20 per cent. Will you report to the House whether it is a fact or not?

12.00 hrs.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Sir, poverty is a relative term. We are assisting the poorest of the poor.
(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : I am giving you a concrete example.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prakash Ambedkar, please sit down. What is this confrontation?

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : This question is very important. This is not a reply. This is a fraud which is being committed on the people. . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : If the hon. Member wants the data, I will give it. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : You give a specific reply. . . (Interruptions) They are saying that twenty per cent of the population is not being included. Is this under the direction of the IMF? (Interruptions) This is nothing but an eyewash. (Interruptions) The people living below the poverty line will be eliminated from the benefits of the various schemes. (Interruptions) They are not bothered about it.

[Translation]

SHRI VITHAL TUPE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer which is given here, figures of poverty line in rural area is given in that. I would like to ask that whether poor people do not live in towns? . . . (Interruptions) Why this work is not being done in cities?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is no time left.

[Translation]

SHRI VITHAL TUPE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has given the reply about rural area.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

OECF Assistance for Water Supply Projects

*265. SHRI S.S. OWAISI :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of water supply and sewerage projects with the assistance of Overseas Economic Cooperation Funds (OECF) and other external agencies cleared so far by the Union Government, State-wise;

(b) the projects under consideration of the Government State-wise;

(c) the criteria for selection of sites for these projects; and

(d) the cost shared by the Union Government and the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) As per

available information, the number of urban water supply and sewerage projects with the assistance of the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) and the World Bank cleared so far by the Union Government is given State-wise in Statement-I

On receipt of a project proposal from a State Government for external assistance, the Union Government examines the feasibility of the proposal and explores the possibility of obtaining assistance from a suitable external funding agency through the Department of Economic Affairs. The number of projects which have been posed by the Union Government to various external agencies is given in Statement-II.

(c) Since urban water supply and sanitation are State subjects, the selection of sites for the projects rests entirely with the State Governments. The criteria for selection normally depends on the need for augmentation/improvement of the services, technical, financial and institutional capacity of the urban local bodies to implement the projects with foreign assistance.

(d) The cost is not shared by the Union Government with the State Governments for the externally aided urban water supply and sanitation projects.

Statement-I

Statewise List of Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Projects with the Assistance of the OECF (Japan) and the World Bank Cleared by the Union Government

S. No.	State	No. of Water Supply & Sewerage Projects	Agency
1.	Maharashtra	Five	World Bank
2.	Punjab	One	World Bank
3.	Uttar Pradesh	Two	World Bank
4.	Rajasthan	One	World Bank
5.	Gujarat	Two	World Bank
6.	Kerala	One	World Bank
		One	OECF
7.	Tamil Nadu	Three	World Bank
		One	OECF
8.	Andhra Pr.	One	World Bank
9.	Karnataka	One	OECF

Statement-II**Statewise List of Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Projects in the Pipeline for External Assistance**

S. No.	State	No. of Water Supply & Sewerage Projects	Agency
1.	Rajasthan	One	OECF
2.	Tamil Nadu	One	World Bank
3.	Andhra Pr.	*One	World Bank
4.	Maharashtra	Two	World Bank
5.	Delhi	One	World Bank
6.	West Bengal	One	World Bank

Construction of Aircraft Carrier

*266. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
DR. RAVI MALLU :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the first indigenous naval aircraft carrier got stuck after the Defence Ministry had okayed the proposal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the present status of the proposal;

(c) whether in May 1997, the Navy had submitted a proposal to Ministry of Defence for securing the future of India's submarine fleet; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The proposal for indigenous construction of an aircraft carrier (Air Defence Ship) is under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, in May 1997 a proposal was submitted by Naval Headquarters for indigenous construction of submarines. Decision to construct submarines indigenously is taken keeping in view operational requirements, availability of resources, and available expertise.

Upgradation of D.R.D.O.

*267. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade and modernise the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction;

(c) whether the Interim Test Range (ITR) of Orissa is also being upgraded;

(d) if so, the details of the proposal mooted therefor; and

(e) the steps taken in that regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Since DRDO is mostly working in high-tech areas, continuously the facilities and technologies are progressed very close to state-of-the-art, particularly in the environment of technology control and sanctions.

(c) to (e) ITR facilities are already state-of-the-art systems. Whenever new systems are needed, they are added with new technologies.

Unauthorised Constructions in Government Accommodations

*268. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether temporary structures have come up in the Government colonies including Lutyen Zone areas in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details and the action taken by the Government in the matter and the number of cases in which cancellation orders have been issued or the allottees evicted?

(c) whether such illegal construction has also taken place in the bungalows in Lutyen Zone;

(d) whether similar action as in the case of Government colonies of Government employees has been taken, if not, the reasons for following discriminatory policies; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make additional covered shelter available in types II and III quarters in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the attached statement whenever such cases of illegal constructions are reported by the Central P.W.D., notices are issued by the Directorate of Estates to remove the structure within a period of one month. Three (3) allotments have so far been cancelled during the current year and also eviction proceedings have been initiated against them.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Similar action is taken in such cases without any discrimination.

(e) The existing verandahs in types II and III quarters can be covered on payment of 10% of the

estimated cost by the allottees. That apart there is no provision for making additional floor space available in such quarters.

Statement

Number of Encroachments put up by allottees in Government Colonies in Delhi

S. No.	Colony	No. of Encroachment
1	2	3
1.	Mahavar Khan Road	35
2.	Kolla Road	1
3.	Rouse Avenue	2
4.	Minto Road Complex	230
5.	J Block, Mandir Marg	92
6.	K Block, Sector 11, DIZ Area	59
7.	H Block, Kali Bari Marg	122
8.	Hanuman Road	53
9.	BKS Marg, Block 18-33	39
10.	Sector 1, DIZ Area	45
11.	Peshwa Road Apartments	7
12.	D Block, Mandir Marg	16
13.	Alvert Square	70
14.	P.K. Road	9
15.	Peshwa Road, Sec. II DIZ (Block 1-48)	110
16.	Sector III, DIZ Area	9
17.	Sector IV, DIZ Area	542
18.	Mahadev Road	7
19.	Ashok Road	5
20.	Talkatora Road	1
21.	Atul Grove Road	2
22.	T.G. Lane	6
23.	Canen Lane	3
24.	Copernicus Lane	1
25.	B.R. Mehta Lane	5
26.	Fire Frigate Lane	2
27.	Tilak Lane	8
28.	Bapa Nagar	8

1	2	3
29.	Kaka Nagar	61
30.	Bharti Nagar	11
31.	Ravindra Nagar	40
32.	Lodhi Garden	3
33.	Shahjahan Road	27
34.	Humayun Road	5
35.	Pandara Park	4
36.	Pandara Road	42
37.	Kasturba Nagar	322
38.	Tyag Raj Nagar	19
39.	Pushp Vihar	75
40.	Mathura Road	2
41.	Feroz Shah Road	2
42.	Akbar Road	3
43.	Janpath	2
44.	Lodhi Estate	3
45.	Lughlak Lane	1
46.	Meena Bagh	1
47.	M.L.N. Marg	1
48.	Jantar Mantar Road	1
49.	Aurangzeb Road	1
50.	G.R.G. Road	3
51.	M.D. Road	2
52.	T.K. Road	1
53.	B.D. Road	1
54.	A.R.P. Road	1
55.	S.J. Lane	2
56.	K.R. Lane	1
57.	T.R. Lane	1
58.	S.A. Lane	1
59.	North Avenue	16
60.	South Avenue	6
61.	Raisina Road	1
62.	S.J. Road	1
63.	B.D. Marg	2

1	2	3
64.	Teen Murti Lane	1
65.	K.M. Marg	1
66.	Timar Pur	5
67.	Dev Nagar	31
68.	Sarojini Nagar	311
69.	Lodhi Colony	225
70.	Laxmi Bai Nagar/Kidwai Nagar	254
71.	R.K. Puram	1332
72.	Mohammadpur	27
73.	Netaji Nagar	331
74.	Chankyapuri	95
75.	Moti Board	237
76.	North West Moti Bagh	7
77.	Bapu Dham	9
78.	Nanakpura	118
79.	Vasant Vihar	55

Shortage of Parachutes

*269. SHRI DINSHAW PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in 'Pioneer', New Delhi dated October 4, 1998 under the caption "Parachute Crisis to ground troops";

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

(c) the steps taken to meet the acute crisis of parachutes for Defence personnel?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Though, there are certain deficiencies in the holdings of parachutes, these are not so critical as to be affecting the operational preparedness of the Army. Adequate covering indents have already been placed on Ordnance Parachute Factory. User trials are being held on the indigenously developed Parachute Tactical Assault.

Gauge Conversion

*270. SHRI T.R. BAALU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total length of broad gauge lines in India and the share of Tamil Nadu therein;

(b) whether there is a time bound programme to implement the unigauge policy; and

(c) if so, the time limit fixed to convert the metre gauge tracks in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) The total length of Broad Gauge lines (route kilometres) on Indian Railways as on 31.3.98 is 43,083 kms and the share of Tamil Nadu therein is 1575 kms.

(b) No, Sir. However, the works of gauge conversion which have been taken up will be progressed and completed according to the priority list approved by the Cabinet, as per availability of resources in the coming years.

(c) The progress of gauge conversion in Tamil Nadu is as under :

(i) Gauge conversions completed :

- Dindigul - Tuticorin (196 kms)
- Chennai Beach - Tambaram (27 kms)
- Trichy - Thanjavur (50 kms) (out of Trichy - Nagore - Karaikal Project)
- Tambaram - Trichy (309 kms)

(ii) Gauge Conversion works in progress :

- Trichy - Dindigul (93 kms) will be completed by 31.12.1998.
- Chengalpattu - Arakkonam (67 kms) will be completed in 1999-2000.

(iii) Gauge Conversion works which have been taken up and would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources :

- Madurai - Rameswaram (162 kms)
- Thanjavur - Nagore - Karaikal (94 kms) (out of Trichy - Nagore - Karaikal project) The target dates for these projects have not been fixed.

(iv) Project already included in the budget on which work will be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances.

- Thanjavur - Villupuram main line (192 kms).
- Quilon - Tirunelveli - Tiruchendur and Tenkasi - Virudhunagar (263 kms in Tamil Nadu and 94 kms in Kerala)
- Villupuram - Pondicherry (28 kms in Tamil Nadu and 10 kms in Union Territory of Pondicherry)
- Chennai Beach - Chengalpattu (60 kms.)

The target dates for these works have not been fixed.

For remaining MG (metre gauge) tracks in Tamil Nadu, time limits for their conversion can be fixed when these projects are sanctioned in the Budget.

[Translation]

Computerisation of Land Record

*271. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have released funds to State Governments for the computerisation of land records during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have monitored the progress of the work of computerisation of land records in each of the State Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the State Governments have utilised the funds earmarked for the purpose; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (f) The Government of India release funds to the State Governments for the implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Computerisation of Land Records in the country.

A Statement showing the funds released to the State Governments during the last three years under the Scheme of Computerisation of Land Records is attached

A mid-term assessment of utilisation of funds and progress made under the programme of Computerisation of Land Records was made in August, 1998 for using such figures in the Conference of the Revenue Ministers held on 17th September, 1998. Thereafter, regular contacts are being made with the State Governments to pursue further utilisation of unspent balance and completion of the project at the earliest.

Under the Scheme of Computerisation of Land Records upto 1997-98, State Governments have been sanctioned Rs. 84.62 crore and a cumulative utilisation have been received amounting to Rs. 22.46 crore. However, since the scheme is being implemented at the district and Tehsil/Taluk level, it takes some time to collect the details of expenditure. Therefore, the actual utilisation is bound to be more than what has been reported through the utilisation certificates. The identified reasons for non-

utilisation, i.e. delay in utilisation of sanctioned funds include :

- (i) Delay in releasing the funds to the implementing agencies by the State Finance Departments;
- (ii) Date capture being a very slow process, therefore, utilisation of funds for date capture has been slow;
- (iii) The State Governments have not been able to expedite the data capture process in interior districts, due to non-availability of data entry operators;
- (iv) Delay in supply of hard-ware in the States.

Statement

Funds Released to State Governments Under the Scheme of Computerisation of Land Records during the last Three Years

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	State/UTs	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	210.00	15.00	-
2.	Assam	50.00	80.00	97.50
3.	Bihar	-	-	367.50
4.	Gujarat	120.00	-	75.00
5.	Goa	-	20.00	-
6.	Haryana	180.00	-	19.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	55.00	60.00	-
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	30.00
9.	Karnataka	120.00	95.00	69.20
10.	Kerala	200.00	30.00	69.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	75.00	45.00	485.50
12.	Maharashtra	195.00	241.00	197.50
13.	Manipur	-	124.88	-
14.	Mizoram	-	60.00	-
15.	Orissa	135.00	270.00	-
16.	Punjab	-	75.00	52.50
17.	Rajasthan	150.00	210.00	-
18.	Sikkim	20.00	-	-
19.	Tamil Nadu	90.00	210.00	60.00
20.	Tripura	-	15.00	75.80

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Uttar Pradesh	165.00	270.00	247.50
22.	West Bengal	235.00	180.00	173.00
23.	Chandigarh	-	15.00	-
24.	Total	2000.00	2015.00	2019.00

[English]

Grievances of Travellers

*272. SHRI VITHAL TUPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any unit is working under Zonal Railways as well as in his Ministry to take note of grievances of travelling public;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its functions;

(c) whether these units have taken any steps for the redressal of grievances of travelling public during 1997 and 1998, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) At the Railway Board level, Executive Director Public Grievances is the over all in-charge of the Public Grievances Redressal Machinery available on Indian Railways and also co-ordinates with other Ministries/Departments such as Department of Public Grievances (Cabinet Secretariat), Department of Personnel and Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances. Monthly review of the Public Grievances Redressal Machinery is done by Executive Director, Public Grievances on the basis of the reports received from the Additional General Managers of the Zonal Railways. In addition Executive Director, Public Grievances monitors complaints received from VIPs such as Ministers, MPs, MLAs as well as those received from general public for their timely disposal.

At the Zonal Railway level, the Additional General Managers are the nodal officers and co-ordinate the work of public grievances with the concerned Heads of Departments. They hold periodical meetings with Additional Divisional Railway Managers and other Heads of Department and analysis of the causes of public grievances is done identifying the major areas of public grievances. In addition on Zonal Railways, there is a separate branch dealing with public complaints under the charge of Assistant Secretary (Public Grievances)/Deputy Secretary (Public Grievances) who assists the Additional General Manager in the investigation of complaints.

Similar arrangements exist and operate at the Divisional level where Additional Divisional Railway

Managers have been nominated as Public Grievances Officers.

At station level, Station Superintendents/Station Masters have been made personally responsible for public grievances. Suggestion Boxes/Public Grievances Booths have also been provided at important stations. Complaint Books have been provided at stations with Train Superintendents/Guards of trains, Refreshment Rooms, Goods Sheds etc. where the complaints can be lodged by the public.

(c) and (d) Various steps have been taken both at the Ministry's level as well as the Zonal Railways' level to minimise the number of complaints such as :

- (i) Setting up of monitoring cells at the level of Board's Office, Zonal and Divisional Headquarters, etc. including nomination of nodal officers in the monitoring cells. These monitoring cells have also been provided with adequate facilities like telephones, Personal Computers with E-Mail etc.
- (ii) The complaints registration machinery is being computerised. For this purpose, two PCs each are being procured for 150 major/important stations, apart from the zonal headquarters and divisional offices.
- (iii) The drives are launched from time to time for improving cleanliness on the stations as well as on the trains. Besides, efforts are also being made to ensure that there is no shortage of safaiwalas, cleaning material, etc. The cleaning process is being mechanised gradually. 'Pay & Use' Toilets have been set up departmentally and also through Sulabh Sauchalaya and Cooperative Societies, etc.
- (iv) In order to ensure proper behaviour of the front-line staff, seminars on customer care and courtesy are organised from time to time by the Zonal Railways. In addition, it has also been decided to set up a Customer Care Institute on Railways to impart training to the front-line staff and supervisors in customer care and courtesy.
- (v) In order to provide proper facilities to the passengers as regards reservations of berths and seats, the railways have computerised the reservation workload at 339 locations which constitutes more than 95% of the total reservation workload at the stations. Besides, closed circuit colour televisions cameras have also been installed at a few important stations to keep a watch on the activities of anti-social elements and other unscrupulous elements to check malpractices.

[Translation]

Firing on Indo-Pak Border

*273. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the places where firing was resorted to by Pakistan on Indo-Pak border and the loss occurred as a result thereof during each of the last two years;

(b) whether after the Indo-Pak talks there has been any let up in the infiltration of terrorists and trouble from across the border, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Exchange of fire along the Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL), Line of Control (LOC) and International Border (IB) portion of J & K is a regular phenomenon and has been continuing over the years. There were 2813 incidents of firing during 1997 and 3275 incidents of firing during 1998 (upto 9th December, 1998). As a result of these firings, 21 Security Personnel and 35 civilians were killed and 122 Security Personnel and 64 civilians were wounded in 1997. Eighty-four Security Personnel and 35 civilians were killed and 333 Security Personnel and 139 civilians wounded during 1998.

In so far as the Indo-Pak border outside J & K is concerned, during 1997 and 1998 (upto 8th December

1998), there were 3 cases of Pakistan resorting to unprovoked firing along Rajasthan border, as a result of which 1 BSF personnel was killed and 2 were wounded. Barring these incidents, the border along Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat remained free from unprovoked firing by Pakistan.

There is no perceptible change in the pattern of firing/infiltration after the recent talks

[English]

Strikes by Indian Airlines Staff

*274. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of strikes took place in Indian Airlines during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for each strike;

(c) the number of services disrupted and passengers straddled due to each strike; and

(d) the losses suffered by Indian Airlines in each case?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) There were three cases of agitation/disruption of work in Indian Airlines leading to delays/cancellations. The details of these incidents and consequent losses are given in the table below

Period of Strike/ disruption	Category of employees involved	Reasons	No. of flights		Loss (in crores)
			Delayed	Cancelled	
31.5.95	Pilots	Alleged uneven rostering of international flights	5	32	0.38
30.12.95	A Section of Pilots	Agitation was due to apprehension of a section of Pilots that their interest would not be protected by Indian Commercial Pilot's Association.	28	10	0.10
25.1.97 to 27.1.97	Pilots	The main issues raised were : 1. Guaranteed payment of fixed hours. 2. Cash allowance during international flights. 3. Free meals to pilots during their stay in hotel. 4. Comparable terms of payment with the Pilots of Alliance Air.	3	83	3.00

Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana

*275. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allocated funds for the ongoing Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

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

(c) the employment opportunities generated under the scheme in each State and Union Territory; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to propagate the scheme amongst the targetted beneficiaries and the awareness created and response to the scheme from the beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) The funds provided in the Central Budget for the years 1997-98 and 1998-99 under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana, State-wise are given in the attached statement.

(c) The Scheme was launched only at the fag end of the financial year 1997-98 and as such no appreciable physical achievements could be made during the year. Under this scheme no physical targets are fixed by the Central Government. The matter pertaining to the physical targets under the scheme has been left to be decided by the State Governments in conformity with the guidelines of the scheme and results of the beneficiary survey. This has been done to ensure adequate flexibility of operation of the scheme.

(d) The guidelines of the Scheme have been circulated to all the States and Union Territories who in turn have translated those in vernacular language and widely circulated through the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). This Scheme rests on a foundation of community empowerment and provides for establishing and promoting community organisation and structures to provide supporting and facilitating mechanism for local development. For this purpose Community Organisations like Neighbourhood Groups (NHGs), Neighbourhood Committees (NHCs), and Community Development Structure (CDS) have been/are being set up by the States in the target areas. Through the efforts of these community structures sufficient awareness is being created amongst the targetted beneficiaries.

Statement

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	Name of State/UT	Release during 1997-98	Tentative allocation 1998-99
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	839.66	1589.89
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	50.99	68.32
3.	Assam	540.38	943.23
4.	Bihar	506.09	911.39
5.	Goa	20.94	38.82
6.	Gujarat	521.86	922.00
7.	Haryana	86.87	157.16
8.	Himachal Pradesh	50.54	74.94

1	2	3	4
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	63.54	75.28
10.	Karnataka	736.46	1299.70
11.	Kerala	202.99	437.85
12.	Madhya Pradesh	927.18	1761.26
13.	Maharashtra	1402.22	2379.98
14.	Manipur	122.95	218.89
15.	Meghalaya	73.24	136.27
16.	Mizoram	69.63	143.76
17.	Nagaland	53.33	96.99
18.	Orissa	223.11	420.98
19.	Punjab	68.33	157.65
20.	Rajasthan	329.91	724.33
21.	Sikkim	20.51	30.98
22.	Tamil Nadu	919.56	1723.64
23.	Tripura	93.98	180.54
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1181.03	2318.68
25.	West Bengal	518.63	957.47
26.	A & N Islands	72.66	116.43
27.	Chandigarh	48.42	80.98
28.	Dadra & Nagar Havel	12.50	37.67
29.	Daman & Diu	50.05	63.92
30.	Delhi	32.70	183.61
31.	Pondicherry	22.66	67.39
Total		9862.92	18320.00

Writ Petitions filed by Defence Personnel

*276. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an unusual increase in filing of writ petitions in High Courts by armed forces personnel of late;

(b) if so, the number of such writ petitions pending in the High Courts as on date, State-wise with reasons for increase in litigations;

(c) whether the similar situation exists with the civilians working in the armed forces; and

(d) if so, the action the Government propose to take to set the things right in the Ministry of Defence and to remove the shortcomings that give rise to litigations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) There has been some increase in the Court cases filed by the Armed Forces personnel. The increase in Court cases over the years can be attributed to the increasing awareness among service personnel about their rights.

2. According to the latest information available, 5201 cases filed by the Armed Forces personnel are pending in various High Courts as shown in the statement attached. These cases relate to promotions, pensions, reinstatements, postings, matter of premature discharge, and premature retirement and other service-related matters. About 40% of these cases are filed by ex-servicemen or their dependants.

3. In the case of civilians working in the Armed Forces also, there is some increase in the number of cases filed in the Central Administrative Tribunals.

4. Adequate in-built provisions exist in the Army Act, Navy Act and the Air Force Act and the rules/regulations framed under them for the redressal of grievances of the serving personnel. A Pension Grievances Cell functioning in the Ministry of Defence takes adequate care to redress the grievances of the ex-servicemen.

Statement

State-wise Pendency of Writ Petitions in High Courts (HC)

Courts	Total
1	2
Delhi High Court	1375
Allahabad High Court	1054
Bombay High Court	90
Karnataka High Court	124
Calcutta High Court	133
Punjab & Haryana High Court	745
Guwahati High Court	94
Gujarat High Court	35
MP High Court	189
AP High Court	189
J & K High Court	265
Rajasthan High Court	340
Kerala High Court	306
Madras High Court	129

1	2
Orissa High Court	37
Patna High Court	60
HP High Court	105
Sikkim High Court	11
Total	5281

Tax Free Municipal Bonds

*277. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5232 on 23.7.98 and state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has given its concurrence to the proposal of introduction of tax free Municipal Bonds for executing development of cities; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission have given their concurrence to the introduction of Tax Free Municipal Bonds subject to the suggestions that the allocation of such tax free bonds may be linked to specific programmes and schemes relating to Basic Minimum Services such as drinking water supply, sanitation and primary education. The Ministry of Finance has also given its approval to issuing Tax Free Municipal Bonds worth Rs. 200 crores during 1998-99. Necessary guidelines for facilitating issue of Tax Free Municipal Bonds are being formulated in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission.

Allocation for Gauge Conversion

*278. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of funds allocated for converting metre gauge lines into broad gauge vis-a-vis the total railway budget during the last three years;

(b) whether the expenditure on maintenance of rail tracks is very low in comparison to the expenditure on gauge conversion;

(c) whether as a result of decline of percentage of expenditure on maintenance of rail tracks, derailment of trains takes place quite often;

(d) if so, whether the railway officers have drawn attention of the Government to this situation; and

(e) if so, the steps being contemplated to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) (a) The percentage of funds allocated for converting metre gauge line into broad gauge vis-a-vis the total outlay for the annual plan during the last three years is as below

Year	Total Plan Outlay (Crores of Rs.)	Allocation for gauge conversion (Crores of Rs.)	Percentage %
1995-96 (Actuals)	6464	1251	19.4%
1996-97 (Actuals)	8310	1143	13.8%
1997-98 (Revised Estimates)	8403	1185	14.1%

(b) The figures for the expenditure under the plan-head "Track Renewals" vis-a-vis the total outlay for the annual plan for the last three years are given below :

Year	Total Plan Outlay (crores of Rs.)	Allocation for Track Renewal (crores of Rs.)	Percentage %
1995-96 (Actuals)	6464	1546	23.9%
1996-97 (Actuals)	8310	1597	19.2%
1997-98 (Revised Estimates)	8403	1680	20.0%

The funds being provided for track renewal are not considered adequate. The funds required for track renewal and other minor related activities in the IX Plan are Rs. 13,200 crores, but the funds actually provided for the track renewal are not commensurate.

In addition, the railways are incurring expenditure on routine maintenance of track under revenue head of expenditure. The figures for expenditure on track maintenance for the last three years are given below :

Year	Expenditure on track maintenance (Cr. of Rs.)
1995-96 (Actuals)	1050
1996-97 (Actuals)	1183
1997-98 (Revised Estimates)	1554

The expenditure on maintenance of track is dependent upon availability of funds for maintenance in Railways.

(c) The track is maintained satisfactorily for the safe running of trains at the permissible speed of the section. In the sections where the track is overdue renewal, extra effort in the form of more frequent testing of rails and maintenance effort is also provided.

(d) and (e) The inadequacy of funds for track renewal and maintenance has been brought out in para 1.5.6 of the Status paper on Railways laid on the table of the Sabha.

Violation of Guidelines by Jet Airways

*279. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations from Members of Parliament regarding violation of guidelines and provisions contained in New Domestic Air Transport Policy by Jet Airways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision that has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The allegations pertain to ownership pattern of the company, sources of funds, violation of the provisions of civil aviation guidelines etc. and these are under examination.

Mineral Reserve

*280. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many mineral reserves in country;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted by the Department of Geological Survey of India in this regard;

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

(d) whether any technical help has been sought from certain foreign institutions in the country;

(e) if so the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the mining of minerals?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Mineral survey is a continuous process and during the last three years, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has conducted 168 investigations in 1995-96, 170 investigations in 1996-97 and 164 investigations in

1997-98 for augmenting the mineral resources of the country.

(c) Details of important State-wise achievements during 1995-98 given in the attached statement-I

(d) No. Sir. However, French assistance is being availed of by GSI from BRGM, France under the aegis of the Indo-French Joint Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation for upgradation of technical abilities and infrastructure facilities of GSI.

(e) The details of State-wise activities undertaken with the assistance of BRGM, France are at Annexure-II

(f) Government have adopted a number of measures for the development of the mining sector. These include announcement of the National Mineral Policy 1993, opening-up of the mineral sector for private initiatives by induction of capital and state-of-art technology (both domestic and foreign), removing restriction on foreign equity participation (automatic approval of foreign equity upto 50% except for gold, silver, diamond and precious stones), devolving more powers to the State Governments for the grant and renewal of Prospecting Licences and Mining Leases, issue of guidelines for grant of Prospecting Licences over large areas for aerial Survey, rationalisation of the royalty rates of minerals making them comparable with international rates, and setting up of a committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Mines) in February, 1997 to review the existing laws and procedures for regulation and development of minerals. The Report of the Committee has been received.

Statement-I

Andhra Pradesh

Gold : (a) 0.70 mt of gold ore with 7.20 g/t Au in DONA east block.

Diamond : (a) 12 Kimberlite bodies were discovered in Mohboobnagar district and bordering Gulbarga district.

(b) 47 diamond pieces received from kimberlites located at Twajrakarur, Anantapur district.

Bihar

Coal : 335 mt

Gujarat

Coal : 5.0 mt

Karnataka

Gold : (a) 1.5 million tonnes of ore with average grade of 3g/t Au in Chinmulgund block of Shimoga Belt.

(b) 0.63 mt of gold ore with 3.54 g/t Au in Chikkanih block of Shimoga belt.

Kerala

Clay : (a) 2110 mt of good quality china clay (40% recoverability) in parts of Kollam, Kasagod and Theiruvanthapuram and Kannanor district.

Madhya Pradesh

Gold : (a) 2.1 mt of ore averaging 1.28 g/t Au in Ghar Pahar, Sidhi district.

Manganese Ore : (a) 2.17 mt of medium grade Mn ore in UKWA, Balaghat district.

Diamond : (a) Incidence of placer diamonds noted in the River Bed at Karai and Ankera.

Coal : 457 mt.

Maharashtra

Gold : (a) 0.125 mt of gold ore with 2.60 g/t Au in Marupar-Kitari Block.

Pb-Zn-Cu : (a) 0.7 mt of ore with 1.2% Cu in Garara block, Bhandara district.

Meghalaya

Limestone : (a) 894 mt of recategorised reserves of SMS and cement grade limestone estimated.

Orissa

Manganese Ore : (a) 0.89 mt of manganese ore with 25% Mn in Balangir district.

(b) 0.40 mt of manganese ore with 23.4% Mn in Sundergarh district.

Platinum Group Metals : (a) 6 mt of Platinum-gold ore with average grade of 2 g/t Pt+Pd+Au in Baula-Nausahi complex.

Coal : 1041 mt.

Rajasthan

Gold : (a) 2.74 mt. of gold ore containing about 4.9 tonnes of gold in Banswara district.

Pb-Zn-Cu : (a) 1.1 mt. of ore with 2.5% Pb+Zn in South Sindesar ridge, Rajsamand district.

(b) 2.52 mt. of lead-zinc ore with 2.76% Pb+Zn in Sindesar ridge block.

(c) 0.85 mt. of 2.25% Pb+Zn in South Sindesar.

(d) 1.14 mt. of 3.82% Pb & Zn in Latio-Ka Khera block Rajasthan.

Tamil Nadu

Molybdenum : (a) 2.6 mt of ore with 0.116% Mo in Velampatti South block of Harur-Uttangarai belt.

(b) 0.848 mt of Molybdenum ore with 0.177% Mo in Marudapatti Central block.

Uttar Pradesh

Pb-Zn-Cu (a) 1.45 mt of ore with 6.63% Pb+Zn in Amtiyargad block, Dehradun district.

West Bengal

Coal 120 mt.

Statement-II

Statewise Activities undertaken with the Assistance of B.R.G.M. France

Rajasthan

(i) Associated in exploration of copper deposit in Khetri belt.

(ii) Associated in exploration of lead-zinc in Rajasthan.

Karnataka

(i) Regional geochemical inventory of selected areas of the Karnataka craton greenstone belts.

(ii) Search for gold in laterite in Northern part of Kolar greenstone belt.

Orissa

(i) Detailed exploration of platinum group of metals in identified block.

In addition, BRGM was associated in setting up of a geoscientific data centre in the Geological Survey of India which has since been set up.

Regularisation of Sale of Plots/Houses

2943. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have regularised the sale of plots/houses of General Power of Attorney holders in Delhi by allowing conversion from leasehold to freehold in the name of General Power of Attorneys;

(b) if so, the reasons for not allowing conversion so far by the Department of Rehabilitation to the Power of Attorney holders having plots in Rehabilitation Ministry Employees Cooperative House Building Society Ltd., Shivalik, New Delhi from leasehold to freehold basis; and

(c) the time by which the process of conversion from leasehold to freehold is likely to be commenced therein?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHIMALANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department of Rehabilitation could not take up the conversion cases for the reason that a proposal for transfer of work pertaining to the Rehabilitation Ministry Employees Cooperative House Building Society, Ltd., Shivalik, New Delhi, to the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment was under consideration. The work pertaining to the said society has been transferred to the L&DO in October, 1998. All the pending applications for conversion from leasehold to freehold will be processed by L&DO as per prevalent policies/instructions applicable in such cases.

Deployment of Additional Forces in J & K

2944. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of J & K has requested the Union Government for deployment of additional forces in the State in view of the increasing activities of extremists; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The Unified Headquarters headed by the Chief Minister J & K constantly review the security scenario in the State and the requirements for deployment of the Security Forces. The requirements so projected are considered, taking into consideration the overall security scenario in the country and the availability of Central Security Forces. The Security Forces are accordingly made available to the Government of J & K as assistance for maintaining law and order and tackling militancy.

[Translation]

Outstanding Dues

2945. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the arrears payable to U.P. Government by the Railways as on date on account of expenditure incurred on Government Railway police;

(b) the reasons for not making the payment of the said arrears so far; and

(c) the time bound programme fixed for making full payment in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE

IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The arrears payable to U.P. Government by the Railways as on date on account of expenditure incurred on Government Railway police is Rs. 4.56 crore.

- (b) The reasons for outstanding are as under :
- (i) Non submission of Audit Certificate by State Government.
 - (ii) Unilateral creation of posts of GRP Personnel by the State Government without obtaining prior consent of the Railway Administration.
 - (iii) Requirement of additional funds which have been projected in the Revised Estimates 1998-99.

(c) Railways have standing instructions to pay all clearly admissible claims.

Maintenance of Sports Stadium

2945. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the repair and maintenance work of Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium is not assigned to the CPWD;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to bring improvement in the functioning, efficiency and quality of service of the CPWD?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Repair and maintenance of Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium is not assigned to CPWD on regular basis. However, CPWD carries out specific works assigned to it by Sports Authority of India;

(c) Improvement in maintenance of Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium can be brought only if its regular maintenance is assigned to CPWD.

[English]

Inter-Action of Armed Forces with other Countries

2947. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the exchange of army officers with United States and Britain for training has stopped because of the US sanctions;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Army is interacting with some other countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The training of Service officers in the defence training institutions of the United States of America and the United Kingdom has been suspended in the wake of the imposition of sanctions by USA and other related developments following May, 1998 nuclear tests by India.

(b) and (c) Interactions with other countries, based on commonality of interests, is a continuing process. The Countries identified in this respect include Russia, France and South Africa.

New Railway Projects

2948. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently approved some new railway projects;

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

(c) the estimated cost of those projects, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) Following is a list of projects which have been approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 9.9.1998. These projects are out of those included in the Budget to be taken up after obtaining requisite clearances.

Projects approved by CCEA on 9.9.1998

S.No.	Name of Project	Length (in kms)	Anticipated Cost (in Crs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	New line from Koderma to Giridih	104	137.53
2.	Gauge Conversion of Jaynagar-Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj	256	208.16
3.	Gauge conversion of Madurai-Rameshwaram	161.5	193.98

1	2	3	4
4.	New line from Macherla to Nalgonda	76	125.09
5.	New line from Angamali-Erumeli-Sabarimala	145.6	645.87
6.	New line from Lalitpur to Satna, Rewa-Sidhi-Singrauli and Mahoba-Khajuraho	541	974.98
7.	New BG line from Diphu (Dhansiri)-Karong	123.84	1604.08
8.	New line from Ranchi to Koderma via Hazaribagh and Barkakhana	189	491.20
9.	New line from Dharmavaram to Penukonda via Puttaparthi	52.10	82.50
10.	New line from Chandigarh to Ludhiana	112.08	248.43
	Total	1761.12	4711.82

The details of other projects included in the budget are available in the White Paper on Railway Projects tabled in the Parliament on 28.7.1998.

Production in Bokaro Steel Plant

2949. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether steel production is being decreased in Bokaro Steel Plant and the blast furnace and cokeovens are being closed; and

(b) if so, the facts in details and the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Saleable Steel production at Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) during April-November, 1998 has been lower than the production during the corresponding period last year, due to 38 days shut-down of hot strip mill for modernisation during June-July, 1998.

No blast furnace or coke over battery has been closed in the current year 1998-99.

Visit of Naval Chief to Bangladesh

2950. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Naval Chief visited Bangladesh in the month of November, this year; and

(b) if so, the issues discussed there and results achieved therefrom?

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

(b) The Government of India pursues a policy of enhancing and strengthening multifaceted defence co-

operation with friendly foreign countries, particularly neighbouring countries. Goodwill visits by Chiefs of Staff of the three Services to foreign countries contributes to the further enhancement of bilateral trust and confidence

Acquisition of Plots by DDA

2951. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether plots in Erstwhile Sunlight Colony, Delhi (Now known as Bhikaji Cama Place) was acquired by DDA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether alternative plots in lieu of the acquired plots were given to the plot holders;

(d) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(e) the time by which the plots are likely to be given to them?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) Land in Village Mohammad Pur Munirka including the land known as Sunlight Estate was notified for acquisition by Delhi Admn. L & B Deptt. vide notification No. F. 15(17)/51-LSG) (I) dated 8.3.57 and F.15(17)/51-LSG) (II) dated 8.3.57 and notification No. F. 15 (17)/51-LSG) (III) dated 6.11.58.

(c) to (e) The notifications dated 8.3.57 and the subsequent Award dated 1.9.58 were quashed by the Courts upto Supreme Court, on the acquisition being challenged by 28 plot holders of the erstwhile Sunlight Estate. After the acquisition proceedings were quashed, the Government entered into a negotiated settlement with the 28 plot holders and allotted alternative sites to them. As advised by the Ministry of Law, the acquisition proceedings were treated as complete for other plot holders who had

not challenged the acquisition proceedings as the Government had already taken over the possession and the decision quashing the proceedings reached its finality more than two decades after taking over. Alternative plots were also given to four (4) other plot holders in Sunlight Estate on the basis of directions of the Court. In two other cases, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has issued directions last year for allotment of alternative plots, which have been upheld by the Supreme Court in November, 1998. The matter is under process.

Salary of Pilots of Air India

2952. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pilots that are working in Air India as on date alongwith the salary and allowances of pilots;

(b) whether the hike in pay of the pilots working in Air India is one of the reasons for its financial crisis; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to minimise the losses?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The total number of pilots in Air India as on 1.12.1996 is 440. The total expenditure on salary and allowances disbursed to pilots during the financial year 1997/98 was Rs. 94.63 crores.

The losses are due to increase in expenditure on account of interest and depreciation on new aircraft reduction in yield due to increased competition and cost of operations, increase in wage bill and other staff costs and landing, handling and navigational charges, depreciation of rupee value, etc.

The Air India is taking following steps to improve the performance :

- (i) Marketing efforts have been stepped up to generate additional revenue.
- (ii) Network rationalization and consolidation with emphasis placed on route profitability.
- (iii) Reduction in expenditure on outside repairs of aircraft by undertaking more in-house repairs.
- (iv) Several posts of India based officers abroad have been abolished.

New Trains between Delhi-Kerala

2953. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received requests for starting new trains from Delhi to Kerala; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Some representations have been received in this regard. The proposal for introduction of an additional train between Delhi and Kerala has been examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Recruitment in Defence Department, Srinagar

2954. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Defence Department called 2 FOD functioning in Srinagar Kashmir employed some people over a period of time; and

(b) if so, the details thereof since July 1, 1998, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir. Employment at 2 Field Ordnance Depot is being made from time to time as per occurrence of vacancies.

(b) The details of appointments made since 01 July 1998, in this Depot are given in the attached statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Category	No. of Vacancies filled
1.	Lower Division Clerk	03
2.	Storekeeper	07
3.	Telephone Operator	01
4.	Carpenter	01
5.	Tin Smith	01
6.	Lifter/Driver	01
7.	Tailor	03
8.	Safaiwala	01
Total		18

[Translation]

Land for Indore Airport

2955. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for allotment of additional land for development of the Indore Airport; and

(b) if so, the time by which the development work of the airport is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Converted Agriculture Land

2956. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total acres of land converted into farm houses and residential colonies in Delhi; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to stop selling the agricultural land to farm houses and residential colonies?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) Within agricultural land use farm houses are permissible in minimum plot area of 0.8 h.a. No residential colonies are allowed within agricultural land use.

Pension Cases of Civilian Defence Personnel

2957. SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 2274 on June 11, 1998 regarding pension cases of Civilian Defence personnel and state :

(a) the number of cases disposed off so far out of 355 pension cases of civilian defence personnel;

(b) the steps being taken by the Government for expeditious disposal of remaining cases; and

(c) the time by which all the cases are likely to be disposed off?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Out of 355 pending cases relating to pensionary matter, 142 cases have since been settled

(b) and (c) 213 cases are pending due to disputes regarding nominees, non-availability of required documents, court cases etc. These cases will be finalised after the requisite documents/information are made available by the individual/organisation concerned or the court cases are settled.

Slum Improvement

2958. SHRI A.C. JOS :

SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of projects in operation with foreign assistance for improvement in Urban Slums in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of projects cleared during the period; and

(c) the existing norms/criteria for distribution of foreign assistance for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) The details of projects in operation with foreign assistance for improvement of Urban Slums is given in the attached statement.

(c) Project proposals for improvement of Urban Slums seeking foreign assistance from the State Governments/UT Administrations, are examined in this Ministry. If found in order, this Ministry forward them to the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance. The DEA thereafter poses these projects to the representatives of the donor country in India for consideration, who accept or reject the proposal in accordance with their own norms and priorities.

Statement

S. No.	Name of Project	Duration of the project	Total approved cost of the project (Rs. in Crores)	Donor Govt./Agency
1	2	3	4	5
ANDHRA PRADESH				
1.	Visakhapatnam SIP	1988-89 to 31.3.95	28.59	DFID-UK
2.	*Chinagadali Phase I & II	1993-94 to 31.7.98	6.59	- do -
3.	Vijayawada SIP	1990-91 to 31.12.98	49.15	- do -

1	2	3	4	5
MADHYA PRADESH				
4.	Indore HIP	1990-91 to 30.6.98	60.50	DFID-UK
WEST BENGAL				
5.	Calcutta SIP Phase 1a, 1b&1c	1990-91 to 2000-2001	@ 46.30	- do -
ORISSA				
6.	Cuttack UPRP PH-II	1997-98 to 30.3.2002	67.91	- do -
KERALA				
7.	Cochin UPRP PH-II	1997-98 to 30.9.2001	60.48	- do -
MAHARASHTRA				
8.	Nagpur SIP (PH-I)	1.1.96 to 30.6.99	-	German Govt. (GTZ)
KARNATAKA				
9.	Bangalore UPRP (PH-I)	1994-95 to 20.8.99	1.5	Netherlands Govt.

* This is being done as an extension of Visakhapatnam SIP and a resettlement Project.

** For the Phase I only.

SIP - Slum Improvement Project.

@ - For phase 1a and 1b only.

UPRP - Urban Poverty Reduction Project.

Derailment of Mangala Express

2959. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether five bogies of 2618 New Delhi - Ernakulam Mangla Express were derailed at an unmanned level crossing near Rasayani between Panvel and Pen on Konkan Railways on November 24, 1998;

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

(c) the number of persons killed/injured in the accident; and

(d) the amount of compensation paid to the next of kin of the deceased/injured persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 24.11.1998, engine and five coaches of 2618 New Delhi-Ernakulam Mangla Express derailed after dashing a road roller at unmanned level crossing between Diva and Roha section of Mumbai Division, Central Railway. This accident occurred due to negligence and failure on the part of the driver of road roller to take

precautions as laid down under section 131 of Motor Vehicles Act, before negotiating the level crossing.

(c) Driver of road roller died on the spot. There was no casualty or injury to Train passengers or Railway staff.

(d) No compensation is payable to the kin of victims (road users) in case of unmanned level crossing accident.

Use of Aerodrome at Pondicherry

2960. SHRI S. ARUMUGHAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the aerodrome for Civil Aviation at Pondicherry is lying idle; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and how the Government propose to utilise it?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Airport is available for Civil operations and at present is being used for Flying Club activities.

[Translation]

Cleaning of Railway Stations

2961. SHRI RAMSHETHH THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have sufficient number of employees for cleaning the railway stations;

(b) whether adequate number of officers are available to supervise the work done by such employees;

(c) whether any norms have been prescribed by the department for cleanliness of the railway stations;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether sanitation work at Nizamuddin railway station is satisfactory; and

(f) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Station Managers are the overall incharge of the cleanliness of stations and at important stations, they are assisted by Health Inspectors and Safaiwalas. Adequate cleaning equipments and materials like acids, phenyles, brooms etc. are also provided at the stations. Frequent announcements are made urging the public to co-operate in keeping the station premises clean. The cleanliness of the station premises is also being regularly monitored by the officers, inspectors and supervisors.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Charges for Additions/Alterations in Government Accommodation

2962. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :
DR. BIJAY SONKAR SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ceiling charges for additions/alterations in General Pool of Government Quarters have been enhanced; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The existing and revised ceilings for different types of quarters are as under :

Type of Quarters	Existing Monetary Ceiling (Rs.)	Revised Monetary Ceiling (Rs.)
I	2,350/-	2,900/-
II	3,200/-	4,000/-
III	3,200/-	4,000/-
IV	8,500/-	10,500/-
DI, DII	17,500/-	21,700/-
CI, CII	21,000/-	26,000/-
VII & VIII	31,500/-	39,000/-

The revised monetary ceiling has come into force w.e.f. 24.6.98. However, no work-wise ceiling has been prescribed by the Central Public Works Department.

[Translation]

Survey For Pune-Nasik Rail Line

2963. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the survey for Pune-Nasik rail line is likely to be completed and the construction work commenced;

(b) whether the proposed line would pass through Manchar and Narayan Gaon; and

(c) if not, the proposed route of the said railway line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The survey for Pune-Nasik new rail line is likely to be completed during 1999-2000. Further consideration of the proposal will be possible once the results of the survey become available.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Cooperative Housing Societies in Delhi

2964. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of registered cooperative housing societies in Delhi applied to the Delhi Development Authority for plots; and

(b) the time by which these societies are likely to get plots?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) DDA and Registrar

of Cooperative Societies (RCS), Govt. of NCT of Delhi have reported that as per the procedure, the list of eligible Cooperative Group Housing Societies is supplied by the RCS. The offer of allotment of land is made by DDA strictly in accordance with the seniority. Till date DDA has offered land to the eligible societies having registration number upto 1430. Further, duly approved list of eligible societies upto registration number 1590 has been made available by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies.

(b) The allotment of land to remaining Societies will also be made based on availability of land and fulfillment of laid down criteria/rules by these societies.

[English]

Gauge Conversion of RUPSA-BANGIRIPOSHI Rail Line

2965. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target date for the completion of the conversion of Rupsa-Bangiriposhi line in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the progress as on date; and

(c) the steps taken to enhance allocation for completion of above project expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) No target date for completion of this work has been fixed. Earthwork is in progress from Km. 0 to Km. 75 on this line. This project will be progressed as per its position in the Priority List of Gauge Conversion Projects as approved by the Cabinet, subject to availability of resources.

Point Machine on High Speed Routes

2966. SHRI SHANTI LAL CHAPLOT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Points Machines presently installed on the high speed routes is compromising safety in operation of high speed trains;

(b) whether any accident report or safety committee report has specified that the cause of mishap was probably attributable to failure in positive locking of stock and switch rails; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to introduce Points Machines with improved locking features for safety on all high speed corridors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Passengers Hold up at Mumbai Airport

2967. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Mumbai airports keep you on hold" appearing in the Indian Express dated November 24, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Airports Authority of India have introduced a new technology of Computer Voice Message System in the two telephone exchanges at Mumbai Airport. This system is capable of handling more telephone calls but has a limitation of not being able to accept calls from Public Call Offices (PCO) of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) because PCOs are operated on a different mode.

(c) Airports Authority of India has sanctioned posts to man the two telephone exchanges at Mumbai and these will be filled soon. With the induction of telephone operators, it is expected that the problems faced by the general public would be reduced.

Lease Agreement of DDA Plots

2968. SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISAL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether lease agreements of DDA Plots in Motia Khan, Rani Jhansi Marg, New Delhi - 110055, were cancelled during 1981 and 1982;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any applications for permission to sell the plots have lately been received from these lessees, despite cancellation of lease;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. DDA has reported that in 22 cases lease were cancelled.

(c) and (d) A request for permission to sell was received in respect of plot No. 26, Motia Khan, but the same has not been allowed.

(e) The ex-lessee has entered into sale agreement after cancellation of lease deed. Therefore eviction proceedings have been initiated against the ex-lessee.

Reservation Quota from Mankapur and Gonda Stations

2969. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reservation quota of sleeper and 2nd AC class in Shaheed Express, Vaishali Express and Amarpali Express allotted at Mankapur and Gonda Junction railway stations;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the quota allotted to Mankapur and Gonda Junction Railway stations does not fulfil the requirement of the passengers; and

(c) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to fulfil the requirement of the passengers at the above stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) Reservation Quota of 2 IInd AC and 2 Sleeper Class berths by Saheed Express, 2 IInd AC and 3 Sleeper Class berths by Vaishali Express, and 2 IInd AC and 4 Sleeper Class berths by Amarpali Express is available at Mankapur station. Above reservation quotas are generally adequate.

Computerised Passenger Reservation System is provided at Gonda Junction Station. Passenger can seek reservation as required on first come first served basis by Shaheed Express, Vaishali Express, and Amarpali Express at Gonda Junction Station.

[Translation]

Defence Land to M/s Sahara India

2970. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the area of defence land at Gomti Nagar in Lucknow given to M/s Sahara India (Finance Company);

(b) the basis on which the land worth crores of rupees was sold to M/s Sahara India;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted to find out the truth behind the deal; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No Defence land has been given to M/s Sahara India (Finance Company) by the Ministry of Defence.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of (a).

[English]

Super Fast Trains from Bayana

2971. SHRI GANGARAM KOLI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted for providing halt/stoppage for a train;

(b) whether the Government have received representation for providing halt of Super fast trains in Bayana;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Government have also received letters regarding introduction of super fast trains from Bayana to Agra and Mumbai;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Availability of traffic, number of trains already stopping, timings of the train, operational feasibility, nature of the train etc. are the factors taken into account for stoppage of a train.

(b) and (c) Some representations including from Shri Gangaram Koli, M.P., have been received for providing stoppage of 2925/2926 Paschim Express etc. at Bayana station. The matter has been examined but not found feasible.

(d) to (f) Some representations have also been received for introduction of trains from Bayana to Agra and Mumbai. The same have been examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Extension of MRTS in Chennai

2972. DR. SAROJA V. : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received approvals from the Government of Tamil Nadu for extension of the MRTS in Chennai from Luz to Vellacheri;

(b) if so, the present status thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up their initiative in this regard; and

➤ (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The project extension from Luz to Vellacheri was sanctioned during the year 1996-97 at an approximate cost of Rs. 605.50 crore including cost of land. The land owned by Government of Tamilnadu will be provided on nominal lease to the Railways. The cost of the project is to be shared by the Railways and Government of Tamil Nadu in the ratio of 1:2 respectively. The total length of the project is 10.31 km. The work is going on in full swing and sufficient amount has been allotted for the year 1998-99.

Accident in Hyderabad-Bibinagar-Nadikudi-Guntur Line

2973. SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of accidents taken place in Hyderabad-Bibinagar-Nadikudi-Guntur line in the last six months;

(b) the reasons of frequent accidents in this line; and

(c) the steps taken for prevention of accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) There were four accidents in Hyderabad-Bibinagar-Nadikudi-Guntur line during the last six months (June, 1998 to November, 1998)

(b) The reason of accidents are as under :

Sabotage	-	1
Negligence of Road users	-	1
Track equipment failure	-	1
Failure of Railway staff	-	1

(c) Steps taken to bring down the incidence of train accidents on Indian Railways are as under :

- (i) The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and other important main lines.
- (ii) Modification of the Signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human error in causing accidents.
- (iii) Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about 'Signal at danger' to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Mumbai suburban sections.
- (iv) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.
- (v) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.
- (vi) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.
- (vii) To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, maintenance depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.
- (viii) Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.
- (ix) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.
- (x) Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.
- (xi) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for training of drivers.
- (xii) Refresher courses are regularly organised at specified intervals.
- (xiii) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.
- (xiv) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

**Construction of Under/Over
Bridges in Kerala**

2974. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of railway crossings in Kerala on National Highway;
- (b) whether the Government have taken any measures to build under/over bridges on these Highways; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) 13 Nos.

(b) and (c) At present, work of construction of a Road over bridge on link road (National Highway-47A) connecting Wellington Island and Cochin bypass on Ernakulam - Alleppey section is in progress. In addition to this, construction of 6 numbers of Road over bridges in lieu of following level crossings on National Highway of Kerala are being examined for inclusion in future Works Programme's of Railways, subject to fulfilment of all preliminary pre-requisites by State Government.

1. Level crossing No. 215 at Km. 713/10-11 between Badagara and Naddapuram road.
2. Level crossing No. 192 at Km. 673/8-9 between Westhill and Elattur Stations.
3. Level crossing No. 196 at Km. 679/1-2 between Elattur and Quilandi Stations.
4. Level crossing No. 232 at Km. 738/7-8 between Dharmadam and Ettakot Stations.
5. Level crossing No. 269 at km. 805/5-6 between Cheravattur and Nileshwar Stations.
6. Level crossing No. 272 at Km. 810/1-2 between Kanhangadi and Nileshwar Stations.

Frequency of Porbandar-Delhi Express

2975. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have received letters from various Organisation and Members of Parliament regarding rescheduling of days and increase in frequency of Porbandar-Delhi Express;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Several representations including from Dr. Vallabh Bhai Kathiria, M.P. have been received for increasing the frequency of 9263/9264 Porbandar-Delhi Sarai Rohilla Express etc.

- (c) The matter has been examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

**Attending of Complaints by Enquiry
Office, Punjabi Bagh**

2976. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the Enquiry Office functioning in the Railway Colony, Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi is not attending day-to-day complaints causing inconvenience to residents in the area;

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

- (c) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen and streamline the work of maintenance of Railway flats in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) All day-to-day complaints of residents of Punjabi Bagh, Railway Colony are being attended regularly as and when received.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

Text Books Press, Bhubaneshwar

2977. SHRI PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government of India Text Books Press, Bhubaneshwar is proposed to be transferred to Government of Orissa;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;

- (c) whether the employees of the Press are likely to lose benefits of pay structure and other facilities as they hitherto enjoy as per Central Government rules; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) The Government has not taken any decision to transfer the Government of India Text Books Press, Bhubaneshwar to the Government of Orissa.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Memorial of I.N.S. Khukari in Daman

2978. SHRI DEVJI BHAI J. TANDEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Territory Administration of Daman and Diu have sent a proposal for erection of Memorial for I.N.S. Khukari, the Indian Warship, which was drowned in the 1971 war; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) In April 1997, the Union Territory Administration proposed to erect such a memorial.

(b) All the State/Union Territory Governments including the Union Territory Administration of Daman & Diu have been requested by Raksha Mantri in July, 1997 to construct War Memorials in their Capitals in memory of those who laid down their lives for the defence of the country during the wars since independence.

"Year of the Jawan"

2979. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to observe the 1999 to be "Year of the Jawan";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have also received any proposals from some State Governments in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No such decision has been taken by the government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Flights from North Eastern States

2980. KUMARI KIM GANGTE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present air travel facilities from Manipur and other North-Eastern States to the rest of the country particularly the State capitals are insufficient; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to increase the frequency as well as to start new services?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The details of the stations in the North-East region airlinked by scheduled airlines, state-wise, are given in the attached statement.

(b) The airlines are free to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance with the route dispersal guidelines which provide for at least 10% of the operator's capacity deployed on Category-I (Trunk routes) to be made available for the North-East, Jammu & Kashmir, Lakshdweep Islands and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Government is conscious of the problem of the region and is closely monitoring the development of airlinks and infrastructure in that region.

Statement

Operations to North-East region by Scheduled Airlines (As on 14th Dec., 1998)

Airlines	Sector	Frequency (flights/ week)
1	2	3
ASSAM		
Dibrugarh		
Sahara India Airlines	Delhi-Guwahati-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Delhi	4
Indian Airlines	Calcutta-Dibrugarh-Calcutta	4
Jorhat		
Jet Airways	Calcutta-Jorhar-Calcutta	2
Alliance Air	Calcutta-Jorhat-Dimapur-Calcutta	2
Guwahati		
Indian Airlines	Calcutta-Guwahati-Calcutta	10
	Calcutta-Imphal-Guwahati-Delhi	2
	Agartala-Guwahati-Agartala	3
	Delhi-Guwahati-Imphal-Calcutta	2
	Delhi-Bagdogra-Guwahati-Delhi	3
	Guwahati-Dimapur-Guwahati	3*
	Guwahati-Lilabari-Guwahati	2*
	Calcutta-Aizwal-Guwahati	3

1	2	3
Sahara India Airlines	Delhi-Guwahati-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Delhi	4
	Delhi-Guwahati-Delhi	3
Jet Airways	Delhi-Guwahati-Bagdogra-Delhi	Daily
	Calcutta-Guwahati-Calcutta	8
	Calcutta-Guwahati-Imphal-Guwahati-Calcutta	2

Lilabari

Indian Airlines	Guwahati-Lilabari-Guwahati	2*
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Silchar

Alliance Air	Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal & return	3
	Calcutta-Silchar-Calcutta	3

Tezpur

Alliance Air	Calcutta-Tezpur-Dimapur-Calcutta	2
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ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Nil

MANIPUR**Imphal**

Indian Airlines	Calcutta-Imphal-Guwahati-Delhi	2
	Delhi-Guwahati-Imphal-Calcutta	2
Alliance Air	Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal & return	3
	Calcutta-Aizwal-Imphal-Calcutta	2
Jet Airways	Calcutta-Guwahati-Imphal-Guwahati-Calcutta	2

MIZORAM**Aizwal**

Indian Airlines	Calcutta-Aizwal-Guwahati	3
	Calcutta-Aizwal-Calcutta	3
Alliance Air	Calcutta-Aizwal-Imphal-Calcutta	2

MEGHALAYA

Nil

NAGALAND**Dimapur**

Alliance Air	Calcutta-Jorhat-Dimapur-Calcutta	2
	Calcutta-Tezpur-Dimapur-Calcutta	2
Indian Airlines	Guwahati-Dimapur-Guwahati	3*

1	2	3
TRIPURA		
Agartala		
Indian Airlines	Calcutta-Agartala-Calcutta	11
	Agartala-Guwahati-Agartala	3

*Dornier operations to Dimapur & Lilabari are temporarily suspended

Appointment of Retired Officials

2981. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry had recently appointed retired officials on daily wages;

(b) if so, the number of officials so appointed and reasons therefor;

(c) whether such reappointed retired officials are also getting pensionary benefits in addition to wages being earned;

(d) whether the Government intend to appoint fresh educated unemployed youths in place of retired persons who are available in crores; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected from Zonal Railways and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The wages payable to retired persons, re-employed on payment of daily wages, have been fixed by the Railway Board after due adjustment of pension equivalent from the mean of emoluments for each post.

(d) and (e) The re-engagement of retired persons is done only for a limited period, till the duly recruited/selected persons become available to fill the vacant posts. It follows that the retired persons re-engaged on daily rates do not come in the way of appointment of fresh educated unemployed youths.

Safety in Air Travel

2982. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any plan under consideration of the Government to make air travel safe; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) and (b) Various safety measures viz. monitoring of Flight Data Recorders, safety audit of Operators, implementation of recommendations emanating from investigation of accidents inspection of aerodromes, conducting safety seminars/meetings, issue of Civil Aviation Requirements, Air Safety Circulars etc. are taken on continuous basis for making air travel safe.

Moreover, installation of ACAS is being made mandatory w.e.f. 1.1.1999 for all aircraft flying in India with a capacity of 30 or more. More and more ATS routes are being made unidirectional. To have effective surveillance over the flights, radar coverage over the Indian space is being enhanced.

Santushti Complex

2983. SHRI K.P. NAIDU Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) the discrepancies pointed out by the Audit Team in regard to the Santushti Complex in New Delhi run by the Air Force Wives Welfare Association; and

(b) the remedial steps proposed to set right the accounts and other anomalies pointed out by the Audit?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) A special Audit Team was constituted to conduct special audit of account of the organisation running the Santushti Complex including the transfer of income from Santushti to the regimental funds, the accounts of the regimental funds and transfer of amounts from regimental funds to the Air Force Wives Welfare Association (AFWWA-C).

The Special Audit Team has submitted its report which has drawn the following main conclusions :

- (i) The Santushti Complex was set up in 1985 at New Wellington Camp, covering an area of 1.7 acres approximately. The land belongs to Ministry of Urban Development, but under occupation of Air Force since 1942. The genesis of setting up of the Santushti Complex lies in the decision taken by AFWWA-C which is a private body. It is AFWWA-C who has played primary role in the setting up/expansion of Santushti Complex by assessment of monthly rent for the shops, selection of parties for allotment of shops, regulating payment to the contractors and decision to award contracts, etc.
- (ii) Even though Approvals for construction/expansion activities of Santushti Complex were accorded by Air Officer Commanding, Air Force Station, New Delhi, these were on the basis of the proposal

initiated by Manager Administration, Santushti Complex. The said Manager Administration was an Air Force Officer from AF Stn., New Delhi, but reporting to President, AFWWA-C. The involvement of AFWWA-C for construction activities on Government land by involving the service of Air Force authorities does not seem to be proper.

- (iii) There has been no transparency in the assesment of monthly rent for shops, allotment of shops and conclusion of contracts for construction/maintenance etc.
- (iv) The Santushti Complex does not fall within the basic framework of regimental shops and does not conform with the policy of the Government for welfare activities.
- (v) While a total amount of Rs. 4.19 crores has been collected as monthly rebate from shops during the period from 1985 to 2/98, only an amount Rs. 5.80 lakh has been credited on account of rent into the Government Treasury. The remaining amount of Rs. 4.13 crores has been diverted to non-public fund, the ultimate beneficiary of which is a private body.
- (vi) Non-payment of income Tax by AFWWA(C), a private body, is in violation of the provisions of the Income Tax Act.
- (vii) The contractors employed on Santushti Complex have been given undue benefit by not recovering income tax at source from the amount of payment made to them.
- (viii) No proper record of the date of allotment of shops and date of occupation has been kept by the Air Force authorities/AFWWA(C). In the absence of this information, the exact amount recovered could not be ascertained.
- (ix) No proper account of consumption of electricity, the cost of such consumption, recovery from shop owners has been maintained.
- (x) The amount of 30,53,508/- realised on account of electricity charges has been retained/diverted by/to AFWWA(C).
- (xi) Maintenance account does not form part of the account of either AFWWA(C) or President Service Institute (PSI).
- (xii) Large amount of advance rebate in the form of security deposit has been realised from Santushti shop owners, but such security deposits have been passed on to AFWWA(C) which is not in order.

- (xiii) Proper and clear-cut procedure for according approvals for construction of shops on Santushti Complex has not been followed.
- (xiv) Execution of work through conclusion of contract agreement with the contractors, with well-defined terms and conditions were found to be absent.
- (xv) Due to non-production of vouchers and connected documents for certain periods, it was not possible for the Special Audit Team to verify the accounts of AFWWA(C)/PSI during the said period.

In the light of the above conclusions, the Special Audit Team has stated that unauthorised utilisation of Government land by a private body without authority does not seem to be proper.

An enquiry has been ordered for fixing responsibility.

[Translation]

Criteria for Hiring Aeroplanes

2984. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted by the Government in granting permission for hiring of aeroplanes by airline company;

(b) the number of planes taken on hire by various airlines operating in the country, airline-wise alongwith the reasons for taking them on hire;

(c) whether any cost appraisal regarding hiring of planes has been made;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Hiring of aeroplanes by airline company is governed by the guidelines issued by the DGCA vide CAR, section 3, Air Transport Services 'C' Part -1 Issue -II dated 30.12.1993.; AIC No. 3/1998 dated 3.7.1998; and AIC No. 4/1998 dated 17.7.1998 which, inter-alia, lay down requirements for effective surveillance, safety oversight, maintenance and safe operation of foreign aircraft leased for operation by or on behalf of Indian operators.

(b) A statement showing the details, airline-wise regarding aircraft hired/leased is attached. As the purchase price of the aircraft is prohibitive, preference of airlines to bring them on lease/hire, it being a cheaper mode is one of the reasons. Other reasons may be non-availability of slots for delivery of new aircraft by manufacturers.

(c) to (e) No, Sir, Cost benefit analysis for hiring/leasing an aircraft is decided by the airlines.

Statement

Airline-wise details of aircraft leased/hired

S. No.	Name of airlines	No. of aircraft hired/leased
A. Scheduled Operators :		
1.	Indian Airlines	17
2.	Jet Airways	21
3.	Sahara India Airlines	2
B. Non-Scheduled Operators:		
1.	Deccan Aviation	3
2.	Eastern Airways	1
3.	Great Eastern Shipping Co.	3
4.	Gujarat Airways	2
5.	Jagson Airlines	1
6.	Mesco Airlines	1
7.	Span Air	1
8.	Taneja Aerospace & Aviation	1
9.	U.B. Air	2

Dividends from National Airport Authority

2985. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has not received the dividend for the year 1993-94 from the Airports Authority of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of outstanding dividends for the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 with National Airport Authority; and

(d) the steps taken to recover the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Airports Authority of India (AAI) came into existence from 1-4-1995. Prior to this date, National Airports Authority (NAA) and International Airports Authority of India (IAAI) were separate organisations. The dividend paid by NAA and IAAI during 1993-94 and 1994-95 is under :

	1993-94	1994-95
	(Rs.in Crores)	
National Airports Authority	no dividend declared	9.08
International Airports Authority of India	14.67	15.28

The Airports Authority of India has paid Rs. 29.03 Crores in 1995-96 and Rs. 26.42 Crores in 1996-97 as Dividend. For 1997-98, the account are still under audit.

(d) Does not arise.

Subletting of Government Accommodation

2986 SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD) Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether tenants are still occupying quarters at Bangla Sahib Marg, Mandir Marg, Kalibari Marg, Sarojini Nagar and Netaji Nagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to get these flats vacated from the tenants?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALAN) : (a) Certain complaints regarding subletting of Government quarters in these areas have been received.

(b) and (c) During the year 1997 and 1998, on the basis of subletting inspections, subletting was suspected in 73 and 62 quarters respectively in DIZ, Kali Bari Marg, Sarojini Nagar, Netaji Nagar and Mandir Marg areas and allotments of 39 and 17 quarters respectively have been cancelled in proven cases of subletting. Action thereafter under the public Premises Act, 1971 has also been initiated.

Deputation Period of Inspectors in Vigilance Department

2987. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of inspectors, officers and other employees continuing in the Railway Vigilance Department beyond their deputation period in Railway Board and each zonal headquarters;

(b) whether the Government propose to repatriate such officers and employees to their substantive posts;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) 03(Three) Officers, 09(nine) Inspectors and 05(five) Railway Protection Force Sainiks are working in Vigilance Organisation beyond their deputation period.

The Railway-wise detail of such Inspectors, officers and employees is as under :

Railway	No. of Officers	No. of Inspectors	RPF Sainiks/Havildars
Rly. Board	01	-	05
Central		01	-
South Eastern	02	04	-
CORE	-	01	-
METRO	-	01	-
RCF	-	02	-
TOTAL	03	09	05

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Induction into Vigilance department involves the process of identification and selection of suitable officials. This is already in progress and these officers and Inspectors will be repatriated as soon as their replacements are available on finalisation of the selection process. This is however, a continuous on going process and due to some delays in finding suitable replacement on account of unforeseen reasons in some cases, some persons are likely to work beyond their deputation period at any given point of time.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Encroachment of Land in Mumbai

2988. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large portion of the Central Railway property at South of Ghatkopar railway station but on the West side of Track No. 1 behind a Municipal Toilet has been encroached and grabbed by a private party/encroachers in Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether some complaints against this encroachment were received by the Railway Administration during the last one decade;

(c) whether the railway officials have been protecting and helping the encroachers; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to protect this land and evict the encroachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Land has not been encroached by any private Party. However, slum

dwellers have encroached upon the land and have constructed hutments thereon.

(b) and (c) No, Sir,

(d) As per existing policy of the Govt. of Maharashtra, encroachments which have come up after 1.1.1995 are being removed. For rehabilitating hutment dwellers living prior to 1.1.1995, the Government of Maharashtra has been requested to rehabilitate them on State Government land. Government of Maharashtra has also been requested to allot tenements being constructed under various rehabilitation schemes to such encroachers.

[Translation]

Shares of BALCO

2989. SHRI PUNNULAL MOHALE :

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to sell the shares of BALCO; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, The Disinvestment Commission had recommended disinvestment of Govt. equity in BALCO in phases i.e. immediate sale of 40% equity to a strategic partner, then bringing down Government equity to 26% within two years and to zero over a period of time by offloading the same in the domestic market. This had been considered by the Government. But subsequently the Disinvestment Commission has recommended that 51% of the Government equity or more may be offered to strategic buyer alongwith transfer of management at the initial stage itself. Government has not taken final decision on the subsequent recommendation of Disinvestment Commission.

Panchayat Elections in Bihar

2990. SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHURY :

SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Panchayat elections have not been held in Bihar since 1978.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the efforts being made to persuade the Government of Bihar for complying with this statutory provision;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the funds given to Panchayat are being misused in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Panchayat elections could not be held in Bihar as several petitions including Special Leave Petitions filed by the Bihar Government are pending disposal in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The Patna High Court had earlier struck down certain provisions of the Bihar Panchayati Raj Act, 1993 relating to reservation of seats. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has ordered that as the validity of the 73th Amendment of the Constitution of India vis-a-vis the Bihar Panchayati Raj Act, 1993 is required to be considered for the purpose of disposing these Petitions, the matter should be decided by the Constitution Bench. It will not be possible to hold Panchayat elections in Bihar till a ruling on these Petitions from the Constitution Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India becomes available.

(c) and (d) In pursuance to the Order dated February 24, 1997 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Writ Petition No. 719 of 1995, members elected to Panchayat bodies in the State of Bihar in the last Panchayat elections have ceased to function and funds are not being given to Panchayats. The duties and functions normally performed by Panchayats are being performed by the Block Development Officers, Panchayat Sevaks and other Government Officials under the overall supervision of the District Collectors.

[English]

Train between Delhi and Coimbatore

2991. SHRI K.P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Starred Question No. 522 dated July 23, 1998 (Supplementaries) regarding Route diversion of Mangala Express and state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to introduce a new train from Delhi to Coimbatore; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The proposal for introduction of a train from Delhi to Coimbatore

has been included along with other such demands for introduction of new trains during the next Time Table subject to operational viability and commercial justification.

[Translation]

Expansion of Indore Airport

2992. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the air bus is likely to start landing at the runway of Indore airport from December of this year;

(b) if so, whether all the necessary facilities have been installed there besides expanding the runway for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the extent of profit likely to be earned from this flight?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Indore airport has been developed as a 'Model Airport' at a cost of Rs. 24 crores and is equipped to handle operations of Airbus 320 type of aircraft. However, India Airlines has no plans, at present, to operate Airbus 320 to/from Indore airport. Private domestic operations do not have Airbus 320 in their fleet.

Linking of Goods Train Stations with Passenger Railway Stations

2993. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to link all the goods train stations with the passenger railway stations in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Amendment in Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957

2994. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI RAMANAND SINGH :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act,

1957 to incorporate recommendations made by Tandon Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) steps proposed by the Government to increase revenue earning of the Geological Survey of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Government constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Mines, Government of India with Mining Secretaries of State Governments of Orissa, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Assam and Himachal Pradesh Secretary General, Federation of India Mineral Industries and Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines etc. as Members. The terms of reference of the Committee, inter-alia, included review of the existing laws and procedures governing regulation and development of minerals and to recommend steps to make them compatible with the policy changes and to suggest steps to reduce delays in grant/renewal of Prospecting Licences/Mining Leases. The Committee was also to consider and suggest further delegation of powers to the State Governments regarding grant/renewal of Prospecting Licences/Mining Leases and measures to be taken to prevent illegal mining. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government and further necessary action has already been initiated.

(d) Geological Survey of India has been allowed to generate internal resources by taking up work in the fields of Mineral Exploration, promotional drilling in Coal, Geotechnical Projects, Geoenvironmental studies, Marine surveys, Geophysical Airborne and Ground Surveys and by sale of maps, publications and mineral information dossiers. The Government has also permitted Geological Survey of India to take up sponsored work for other agencies on payment basis.

Gauge Conversion of Yelahanka-Bangarpet Rail Line

2995. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made regarding conversion of Yelahanka-Bangarpet metre gauge railway line into broad gauge; and

(b) the time by which the said conversion is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The sections

from Yellahanka to Chickballapur and Kolar to Bangarpet which were sanctioned for conversion have already been completed. An updating survey for conversion of Chickballapur to Kolar has been taken up. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

(b) This information can only be given as and when the work gets sanctioned.

[Translation]

Installation of ACAS in Aircrafts

2996. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have issued direction for installation of Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) in all the aircrafts having the capacity of 30 or more passengers for preventing the air crashes in the sky;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the date by which these directions are likely to be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, All aeroplanes with certified passenger seating capacity of more than 30 or a pay-load capacity of more than 3 tonnes, have been required to instal Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) - II on or before 31st December, 1998. Aeroplanes having certified passenger seating capacity of 10 to 30 or pay-load capacity of 1 to 3 tonnes, have been required to instal ACAS - I on or before 31st December, 2003.

[English]

Survey for Rail Line in Himachal Pradesh

2997. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the rail lines surveyed in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) the time by which the work on these rail lines is likely to commence, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The details of the rail lines for which the survey has been completed and their present status are given as under :

(1) KALKA-PARWANOO (NEW DELHI) :

The survey for construction of new broad gauge line between Kalka-Parwanoo (6.575 Kms.) has been completed. The work has been included in the supplementary budget 1997-98 subject to the proviso that the work would be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances. The proposal has been referred to the Planning Commission for approval which is still awaited. The work will be taken up soon after the approval is received.

(2) BHANUPALLI-BILASPUR-DERI (NEW LINE) :

The Survey for this line has been completed. The work is proposed to be carried out by the Satluj Valley Railway Corporation with participation by the Cement Factories, Himachal Pradesh Govt. and Railways. The modalities for setting up the Corporation and for taking up the work are being coordinated by Himachal Pradesh Government.

3. In addition to the above, the following surveys had also been conducted but the work of construction of lines on these projects could not be taken up as these projects were not found to be financially viable :-

(i) Jogindernagar- Mandi (48.70 Kms.)

(ii) Jagadhari-Paonta Sahib-Rajban (74.05 Kms.)

(iii) Bhanupalli -Bilaspur-Rampur Bushahr (182.33 Kms.).

Construction of Gulbarga-Bidar Railway Line

2998. SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of Gulbarga- Bidar rail line; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Bidar-Gulbarga new rail line is a sanctioned Project which will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained for which action has already been initiated.

[Translation]

Construction of Blast Furnace Plant in B.S.P.

2999. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent for the construction of Blast Furnace number five and Cast House Granulation Plant alongwith the name of company who constructed above two plants under the modernisation programme of Bokaro Steel Plant;

(b) whether any dues of the company, who constructed the above plant, is pending with the Bokaro Steel Plant;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether both the above plants are working properly; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Blast Furnace No. 5 was constructed at a total cost of Rs. 60.39 crores. Design engineering imported equipment supply and supervision was undertaken by M/s. Tyazhpromexport (TPE, Russia) and civil and erection work was done by M/s. HSCL as main contractor. Cast House Slag Granulation Plant was constructed at a total cost of Rs. 52.68 crores and M/s. Tyazhpromexport (TPE, Russia) and M/s. Simplex Engineering & Foundry Work Limited were the main contractors. These two projects are not a part of BSL modernisation programme.

(b) and (c) No contractual due is pending with Bokaro Steel Plant.

(d) and (e) After commissioning both, Blast Furnace No. 5 and Cast House Slag Granulation Plant, worked regularly. However, due to paucity of orders on account of sluggishness in demand of steel, only four blast furnaces have been kept operational and since January '97 Blast Furnace No. 5 and Cast House Slag Granulation Plant, which gets molten hot slag from Blast Furnace No. 5 are under shut down.

[English]

Gauge Conversion of Santipur - Nabadwipghat Rail Line

3000. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of gauge conversion projects taken in Eastern Railways; and

(b) the present position of gauge conversion of Santipur - Nabadwipghat rail line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) There is no gauge conversion projects on hand in Eastern Railway.

(b) Survey for gauge conversion of Santipur-Nabadwipghat rail line done sometime back has revealed that the line would be grossly unremunerative. As such it

has not been found possible to consider taking up this project at present.

Urban Local Bodies

3001. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the State Government for legal, developmental and financial aspects of Urban Local Bodies as per constitutional provisions;

(b) the names of the States received funds as recommended by Tenth Finance Commission and utilised by the Urban Local Bodies so far;

(c) whether the State Finance Commissions have also recommended the funds for Urban areas of the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) The Constitution (74th Amendment) Act authorises the State Legislature to make appropriate legislation for devolving financial and functional powers to Urban Local Bodies. All the States where the above Act is applicable, have already enacted the conformatory legislations which inter-alia contain the provisions regarding financial and functional powers of Urban Local Bodies.

(b) The details have been given in Statement-I

(c) and (d) The State Finance Commission constituted by the various State Governments which have since submitted their report to their Government, have inter-alia recommended for devolution of adequate finances to Urban Local Bodies to enable them to function as effective units of local self Government. A gist of recommendations of some of the State Finance Commissions in this regard are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Grants Released During 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99* for ULBs

S.No.	State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1848.00	1448.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.00	0.75	0.00
3.	Assam	355.00	88.75	0.00
4.	Bihar	1677.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Goa			

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Gujarat	1687.00	421.50	0.00
7.	Haryana	415.00	415.00	0.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	51.00	51.00	0.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	302.00	75.50	0.00
10.	Karnataka	1754.00	138.75	1316.25
11.	Kerala	636.00	169.00	954.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1544.00	386.00	386.00
13.	Maharashtra	3324.00	831.00	0.00
14.	Manipur	56.00	14.00	0.00
15.	Meghalaya	37.00	9.25	0.00
16.	Mizoram	9.00	2.25	0.00
17.	Nagaland	14.00	3.50	0.00
18.	Orissa	478.00	239.00	0.00
19.	Punjab	765.00	191.25	0.00
20.	Rajasthan	1080.00	810.00	0.00
21.	Sikkim	14.00	3.50	0.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	2888.00	2888.00	2084.00
23.	Tripura	26.00	26.00	0.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3029.00	2271.75	3029.00
25.	West Bengal	3008.00	752.00	2256.00
Total		25,000.00	11,525.75	10,025.25

*As on 9.12.98

Statement-II

Details of Recommendations of State Finance Commissions Regarding Devolution of Funds to Urban Local Bodies

ASSAM : The total percentage of share of State taxes, namely, Motor Vehicle Tax, Stamp & Registration, State Excise, Sales Tax, etc. for transfer to local bodies should be 2% in each year from 1996-97 to 2000-2001. The State Finance Commission has also recommended for grants to Urban Local Bodies for preparation of registers and forms out of Plan funds.

HIMACHAL PRADESH : The State Finance Commission has recommended the devolution of Rs. 75.51 crores ad Rs. 13.75 crores for delegated civic functions and Centrally sponsored schemes, respectively for ULBs from 1996-97 to 2000-2001. SFC has also recommended for grants in lieu of octroi in proportion to the population as

per 1991 census and also per capita provision of Rs. 300/- per annum for maintenance of services.

KARNATAKA : Accordingly to the recommendations of the State Finance Commission, 36% of the State non-loan gross own revenue receipt are to be transferred to urban and rural local bodies. Out of that, the share of Urban Local Bodies would be 15%. During the base year 1996-97, the share was approximately 10%. The SFC has also recommended that per capita grants for non-municipal census towns, as and when merged in the neighbouring local bodies, and grants to them will be passed to the absorbing local bodies.

KERALA : The State Finance Commission has recommended for devolution of 25% of Motor Vehicle Tax to local bodies. Besides, it has also recommended for Plan & non-Plan grants from State Government to local bodies.

PUNJAB : The State Finance Commission has recommended for transferring 20% of the net proceeds of State taxes, namely, Stamp Duty, Motor Vehicle Tax, Electricity Duty and Entertainment Tax to Urban Local Bodies. The SFC has also recommended for general purpose grants to local bodies and also per capita grants to weak municipalities and incentive grants to encourage the local bodies.

RAJASTHAN : The State Finance Commission has recommended that 2.18% of the State Tax proceeds (Sales Tax, State Excise, Stamp & Registration, Motor Vehicle Tax, Land Revenue, Entertainment Tax, Land & Building Tax, etc.) to be devolved to Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies according to their population ratio of 3.4 : 1 during the period 1996-2001. The Finance Commission has also recommended general purpose grant to municipalities on population basis.

TAMIL NADU : 8.0% of State taxes (i.e. Sales Tax, Motor Vehicle Tax, Urban Land Tax, State Excise, Tax on Luxury Hotels and Lodging Houses, Betting, etc. may be devolved to local bodies in 1996-97 to be increased gradually to 12% by 2001-2002. 85% of the transferred amount may be distributed among Urban Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj Institutions on 40 : 60 basis. The remaining 15% may be reserved as equalisation/incentive fund. The maintenance grant may be provided for maternity centres, dispensaries, street lights, water supply, dustless surfacing of local roads and reimbursement of Dearness Allowance.

UTTAR PRADESH : The State Finance Commission recommended that from 1996-97, 7 percent of net proceeds of State's total tax revenue may be earmarked for devolution of funds to the Urban Local Bodies. SFC also recommended for adoption of carpet area as the basis for

assessing the Annual Rental Value of properties. With a view to improve the resources' position of Urban Local Bodies, the Commission recommended that the levy of various taxes should be made mandatory for all the Urban Local Bodies.

WEST BENGAL : The State Finance Commission has recommended the devolution of 16% of net proceeds of State taxes namely, Stamp & Registration, Sales Tax, Motor Vehicle Tax, State Excise, etc. to local bodies. The SFC has also recommended to hand over the responsibility of collection of Entertainment Tax to Urban Local Bodies.

PONDICHERRY First six-monthly report of the Commission, i.e. an Interim Report submitted in September, 1997. The recommendation has been made to be effective from 1998-99. The Collector may arrange to refund every quarter the collected duty on transfer of property the collection charges to the concerned Local Body. The Commission has recommended that at least Rs. 5.00 crores may be paid at lump-sum compensation to local bodies due to non-revision of Property Taxes and Rs. 2.00 crores as compensation to local bodies for loss of revenue due to abolition of toll/Vehicle Tax.

Import of ABB Locos

3002. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI RAJ BANSI MAHTO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

Refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 5272 on July 23, 1998 regarding Import of ABB Locos and state :

(a) whether the Government have since sent its reply to C&AG;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken in pursuance of the Report of C&AG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes Sir. The Draft Action Taken Note in reply to C&AG's Report on Import of ABB Locos has since been sent to C&AG on 16.7.1998.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No further action is proposed/called for at this stage in view of Draft Action Taken Note already submitted to C&AG.

Sick Steel Plants

3003. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI :

SHRI AJIT JOGI :

SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some steel plants under Public Sector Undertaking are sick since long;

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

(c) the measures taken by the Government to revive these steel plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) The Indian Iron & Steel Company Ltd., (IISCO), a subsidiary of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is a sick company. The major reasons for sickness include old and out-dated plant and equipment, energy intensive and obsolete technology, and labour intensive operations, etc.

IISCO has been under reference to BIFR for determination of measures in regard to the future of the company. Any action to be taken on any proposal for modernisation of the company will have to be in accordance with the orders of BIFR.

[Translation]

Poverty Eradication Programmes

3004. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has made observations in regard to the misutilization of the amounts under Poverty Eradication Programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the new guidelines issued by the World Bank in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (c) In the Report "Reducing Poverty in India-Options for More Effective Public Services" dated May 28, 1998, some observations made by the World Bank are given below :

(i) The new finding is that the demand for education and use of public health facilities by the poor is strongly linked to the quality of service they receive.

- (ii) Targetting government spending to primary education reducing communicable diseases, improving water and sanitation, and reducing household insecurity through public works programme would do most to reduce poverty.
- (iii) Anti-Poverty programmes that either do not reach the poor or that bestow a disproportionate share of their benefits on the non-poor are programmes in urgent need of reform. The majority of India's safety-net initiatives are misusing scarce financial resources that could be best invested to increase the poor's access to health and education services that have been shown to equip the poor to help themselves.
- (iv) There is a need to eliminate most anti-poverty programmes, direct some of the savings to ensure quality education which the analysis has shown is more effective in reducing poverty over the long-term than various poverty programmes.

[English]

Doubling of Railway Line in Kerala

3005. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of on-going doubling of railway lines in Kerala;
- (b) the present position of doubling of Mangalore-Shornur Railway line and funds allocated and spent thereon so far; and
- (c) the expected time for completion of this doubling work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Doubling of Quilon-Trivandrum and Shoranur-Mangalore sections is in progress in Kerala.

(b) and (c) The work on this doubling is being progressed rapidly and four block sections (29 kms) have already been completed. This year we plan to complete another 48 kms. Rs. 47.74 crs. have been provided to this work in 1998-99 and Rs. 47.52 crs. have been spent upto 31.3.1998. This work is currently planned to be progressed and completed in about five years, subject to availability of resources.

Gauge Conversion

3006. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in gauge conversion works on the Tirupati-Katpadi and Renigunta-Gudur Sectors; and

(b) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The details are given as under :

(i) Gauge conversion of Tirupati-Katpadi Section :

Work is proceeding well on bridges, earthwork and ballast supply on the entire section. This line is expected to be converted during the 9th Plan period subject to availability of resources.

(ii) Doubling of Renigunta-Gudur Section :

The work has received the requisite clearances. Preliminary works like calling of tenders for earthwork and bridges have been taken up. The section will be completed in the 9th Plan period subject to availability of resources.

Defects in Training for Pilots

3007. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL :
SHRI R.S. GAVAI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Air Force Pilot training is defective' appeared in 'The Times of India' Bombay, dated November 4, 1998;

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

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) The News report has mentioned the lack of an Advanced Jet Trainer, lack of competence of trainers and lack of simulator training. The training in the IAF is based on time-tested and proven pattern. The training syllabi are so structured that it is ensured by the time a trainee pilot is commissioned, he attains the desired standard and level of confidence in all basic flying exercises/manoeuvres. Training includes a very extensive theoretical knowledge covering aviation related subjects, aircraft system and also PT and parades to ensure all-round development. All flying training establishments have highly qualified and experi-

enced supervisory staff. The flying and ground training of pilot is divided into various phases with well defined aims and standards to be achieved. At the end of each phase the trainee is tested to ensure that he has achieved the required standard and only then is he promoted to the next phase. During the training period each trainee is also tested for standardisation by Aircrew Examining Board (AEB), an independent body under the Inspector General Branch of Air Hqs. Hence, the media report that 'IAF Pilot Training is defective' is not correct.

(d) Flying and ground training syllabi are reviewed at regular intervals and modified if required. In order to overcome the absence of Advance Jet Trainer, as an interim remedial measure w.e.f. June 1996, the new training pattern has been approved by Ministry of Defence which entail addition of Stage IIA on Iskra/Mk II aircraft for trainees selected for fighter stream.

[Translation]

Cleanliness in Trains/Stations

3008. SHRI RAMTAHAL CHOUDHARY
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of complaints regarding unsatisfactory condition of sanitation and cleanliness in the passenger trains and at the railway stations has gone up in the recent times;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received during the last six months; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken to bring about improvement in the sanitary conditions at the railway stations and in the passenger trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Only 189 complaints were received during May to October, 1998 as against 252 during corresponding period of last year.

(c) A number of measures have been taken to improve the cleanliness at the stations and on trains which include monthly intensive cleaning of coaches, renovation of rakes, use of high pressure jet cleaning machines, mobile jet cleaning plants at platforms for enroute cleaning and travelling safaiwalas on selected trains. Besides drives are launched from time to time during which various steps, like adequate provision of safaiwalas and cleaning material, launching of media campaigns for improving awareness

about hygiene among rail users etc. are taken. However, maintenance of cleanliness is a continuous process.

[English]

Extension of Lal Dora

3009. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend Lal Dora of various villages of Union Territory of Chandigarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) As reported by Chandigarh Administration, there is no proposal to extend the Lal Dora of various villages of Union Territory of Chandigarh.

(b) Nil, in view of (a) above.

(c) The purpose of extending Lal Dora is to provide the basic civic amenities. As recommended by the Committees constituted for the purpose, the Chandigarh Administration has decided in principle to provide basic civic amenities in all 13 villages of Union Territory of Chandigarh covering 1050 houses which are constructed just out-side the Lal Dora but adjacent to main village abadis.

[Translation]

Construction of Terminal Facility at Gaya

3010. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned the construction of terminal facility at Gaya Junction; and

(b) if so, the amount to be spent thereon and the time by which the work is likely to commence and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Ban on Use of Plastic Items

3011. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS Be pleased to state :

(a) Whether his Ministry is considering to ban the polyurethane /plastics/polymer items to be used for cushions for seats;

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

(c) Whether his Ministry has any mechanism to destroy waste plastics /plastic goods/plastic bags; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Waste collected while sweeping trains is disposed alongwith municipal waste and at smaller depots, it is burnt at the depots.

[Translation]

Developmental Work in Cantonment Areas

3012. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the schemes started by the Government for the development of cantonment areas; and

(b) the expenditure incurred for the development of cantonment areas during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) In addition to undertaking development schemes from their own resources, the various deficit cantonments are provided grant-in-aid by the central Government for development purposes. The cantonment Boards have undertaken water supply, development of roads, buildings, conversion of dry-type latrines to water-borne and other miscellaneous developments.

(b) The details of the expenditure incurred on development works in the 62 Cantonments during last three years are as under :

Year	Total expenditure on development works including special grant-in-aid
1995-96	10,14,77,491.000
1996-97	18,74,09,995.000
1997-98	12,12,27,773.000

[English]

Doubling of Sambalpur-Titlagarh Railway Line

3013. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to double Sambalpur-Titlagarh railway line;

(b) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) A survey for doubling of Jhorouguda-Sambalpur-Titlagarh rail line has been taken up and the report is expected by 31-12-1998. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Haj Pilgrimage

3014. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) details of expenditure incurred by the Union Government for the Haj pilgrimage;

(b) whether Air India has also suffered losses on this accounts; and

(c) if so, the details of such losses suffered during the last three years, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) During 1998-99, a provision of Rs. 122.50 crores has been made in the budget for subsidy on Haj 1998.

(b) No, Sir. The difference in the cost of operation and Haj pilgrim fare is given as a subsidy by the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Development of Guntakal Railway Division

3015. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several Member of Parliament have urged the Government to take up the development of the neglected Guntakal Railway division; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No division of

Indian Railway is neglected. However, we have received representations from some Members of Parliament for development of Railways in Guntakal Division.

(b) Several new works involving New lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling and provision of traffic facilities have been undertaken in Guntakal Division. Apart from these, extension of cover over platforms, provision of washable aprons, extension of platforms, and rebuilding of station buildings have been undertaken at several stations in Guntakal Division. All these would result in the development of rail infrastructure in Guntakal Division.

Corruption in CAPART

3016. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bharatiya Shiksha Sanskriti Parishad Non-Government Organisation submitted a project for installation of Handpumps in Koderma, Bihar in 1995; and

(b) the reasons for not clearing the projects aiming at providing drinking water facility to the villagers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Construction of Road Over Bridge at LC 58

3017. SHRI S. GANGADHAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for construction of road over bridge in lieu of level crossing No.58 between Hindupur and Somandapalli is pending since July, 1993;

(b) if so, the difficulties/hurdles, if any, faced by the Union Government in taking up the project;

(c) whether any target date has been fixed for completion this project : and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Neither the level crossing qualifies for replacement with road over bridge on cost sharing basis due to lesser volume of traffic nor the State Government has sponsored any proposal for taking up the work on 'deposit terms'.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Development of Thar Desert

3018. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have appointed any sub-committee of the Cabinet to look into the all round development of Thar desert of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether any specific programme has been chalked out in order to bring Thar districts of Western Rajasthan at par with other parts of the State;

(c) if so, the details of programmes and the manner in which this is being implemented;

(d) the amount allocated to Rajasthan Government especially for Thar desert during each of the last three years; and

(e) the amount utilized by the State Government project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) No, sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

(d) 11 districts come under Thar desert of Rajasthan. The following amounts have been released under Desert Development Programme both for continuing old works and 807 watershed projects during last three years :

(Rs. in lakhs)	
Year	Amount
1995-96	5148.80
1996-97	1622.68
1997-98	3245.32

(e) The following amounts have been utilised by Rajasthan State Government in the last three Years for continuing old works and 807 watershed projects.

(Rs.in lakhs)	
Year	Amount
1995-96	5556.25
1996-97	2738.93
1997-98	3359.76

[Translation]

Production of Rail Lines

3019. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of railway lines produced in various Steel Plants, public and private sectors during the last three years; and

(b) the number of railway lines sold to the Railways during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[English]

PMI-UPEP

3020. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state the progress made, target fixed and achieved

under Prime Minister's integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : The Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMI UPEP) was launched in November 1995, targetting to benefit five million urban poor in 25 States and 2 UTs (Pondicherry and A&N Islands) during the five years programme period ending 1999-2000. However, a new unified programme named "Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY)" subsuming previous programmes including PMI UPEP has been launched with effect from 1.12.97. Eighteen States/UTs have reported their cumulative achievements as given under PMI UPEP in the statement attached.

Statement

Physical Achievement Under PMI UPEP Upto 30.11.1997

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Townwise Project Reports Prepared No. of Towns	House Hold Survey Conducted No. of Towns	No. of Application under Self-Employment Component		No. of Application under Shelter Upgradation Component		No. of Beneficiaries given Training for setting up Micro Enter Prises
				Forwarded to Banks/ Fls	Approved	Forwarded to Banks/ Hudco	Approved	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	34	34	9651	1368	3286	152	1121
2.	Goa	1	1	275	84	-	-	38
3.	Haryana	8	8	-	-	1090	1090	-
4.	J & K	-	-	-	-	390	390	50
5.	Karnataka	17	16	216	-	390	390	-
6.	Kerala	9	9	2951	907	1650	1650	1113
7.	Madhya Pradesh	26	26	9510	4155	1219	297	3618
8.	Maharashtra	28	28	3834	415	625	625	-
9.	Mizoram	2	2	-	-	-	-	100
10.	Orissa	10	10	1169	466	-	-	273
11.	Punjab	5	18	1855	481	899	91	208
12.	Rajasthan	20	20	7228	1304	4100	3343	1172
13.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-	225
14.	Tamil Nadu	41	41	6437	1144	1769	-	1599
15.	Tripura	-	-	253	253	139	139	-
16.	Uttar Pradesh	53	50	5134	1142	8469	8469	444
17.	West Bengal	15	16	2470	625	1318	1183	1402
18.	Pondicherry	-	1	113	39	145	25	-

**Productivity Linked Bonus to Air
India Agents/ Employees**

3021. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has decided to discontinue with the productivity linked bonus given to its ticketing agents and employees: and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Air India (AI) pays Productivity Linked Incentive (PLI) to its staff and Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) to travel agents. AI has no proposal at present to abolish PLI With a view to reduce its distribution costs AI has decided to discontinue PLB to travel agents effective December 1, 1998 in the India region provided all major airlines support this decision and do not pay PLB to agents.

Land of R.S.P.

3022. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the total land of Rourkela Steel Plant lying unutilised;

(b) whether there is any proposal to return this unutilised land to the State Government of Orissa; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) Vacant land at Rourkela Steel Plant is 3947.29 Acres. The details are as under :

(Unit in Acres)

- | | |
|---|---------|
| (i) Unbuildable Area under Hills, nullahs, lagoons etc. | 1837.06 |
| (ii) Land for future expansion of Plant, pollution control schemes, township etc. | 1730.23 |
| (iii) Proposed for transfer to State Government | 380.00 |

[Translation]

**Link Failure at Bhagalpur and
Jamalpur Station**

3023. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR BIJOY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that people are not getting the benefit of declared arrangements of reservation facilities at Bhagalpur and Jamalpur Stations in Bihar due to the link failure; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to correct the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir. There have been some cases of link failures.

(b) Railways are maintaining constant touch with Department of Telecommunication (DOT) to rectify the faults as and when they occur and to sustain high degree of efficiency.

Administrative Expenses of SAIL

3024. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the administrative expenses of the Units under Steel Authority of India are more than that of the Steel Production units of the other countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the SAIL to reduce the administrative expenses in its Steel Units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) Details of administrative expenses of steel producing units in other countries are not available. However, to reduce the administrative expenses SAIL is taking various steps on a continuous basis which, inter-alia, include trimming/ closure of Liaison Offices of various SAIL plants situated in metropolitan cities, judicious use of telecommunication facilities instead of undertaking journeys, reduction of other administrative expenses, rationalisation of manpower etc.

[English]

Fund to DRDAS Under JRY

3025. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that some of the State Government in the country are utilising a portion of JRY funds released to the DRDAS for the payment of cooks engaged in the Mid-day Meal cooking in the primary schools against the guidelines of the schemes envisaged;

(b) if so, whether these State Governments especially the Orissa Government have sought the permission of the Centre while violating the guidelines in this manner; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) As per the Guidelines, payment can be made from the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana funds to cooks, engaged for cooking under Mid-day Meal Scheme in all the rural primary schools of the country including Orissa.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Light Rail Transit System in Andhra Pradesh

3026. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be please to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have convened a high level meeting to consider Light Rail Transit System (LRTS) in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the subject discussed and the out come thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) A meeting was held on 15.6.98 with representatives of the Government of Andhra Pradesh for financing the cost of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for LRTS in Hyderabad. It was decided that the Government of Andhra Pradesh will prepare a proposal for seeking external grant for the proposed study. Any shortfall in the requirement of funds will be shared equally by the constituents of Urban Mass Transit Company (UMTC) which has been set up to implement the project. Government of India has released Rs.7 crore towards equity of UMTC. No proposal seeking external grant has yet been received from Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The investment decision and schedule for starting the project can be finalized only after the completion of the DPR including the financing plan.

[Translation]

Indo Pak Firing on Residential Areas

3027. DR. ASHOK PATEL :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Pakistan have agreed in Principle to stop firing on each other's residential areas and exchange information on cross border smuggling;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this agreement is likely to come in force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) There is no such formal agreement between the two countries. However, cooperation exists between the Narcotics Control Bureau of India and the Anti-Narcotics Force of Pakistan on sharing of information of operational nature regarding cross-border smuggling of Narcotics since 1994.

[English]

E.L.R.T.S. Project for Bangalore City

3028. SHRI K.C.KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have issued directions to the Karnataka Government that the proposed Elevated Light Rail Transit System (ELRTS) project for Bangalore City should run on a broad gauge system; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) (a) Yes Sir. Ministry of Railways have advised all the state Governments including the Government of Karnataka to follow Board gauge for Urban Transport Rail Systems. This is in view of the higher carrying capacity of the Board gauge, which will facilitate larger clearance of commuter traffic. Adoption of Board Gauge for all urban transport systems will ensure uniformity of such systems in different parts of the country as also compatibility with the suburban system of the Indian Railways. Economics of scale can be achieved by proper integration of infrastructure for intra urban and suburban rail transit systems. In the absence of uniformity of gauge, the requirement of rolling stock may be too small to sustain indigenous production through Transfer of Technology. Ancillary industries can also not develop and there will be continued dependence on imports for spares, etc. It would not be correct to adopt a gauge other than Board gauge, which is the national gauge, for Urban Rail Transit Systems.

(b) Govt. of Karnataka has taken the view that the proposed Elevated Light Rail Transit System of Bangalore is to be governed by the Tramways Act rather than Indian Railways Act as it is to be built wholly within the Municipal limits of Bangalore and is not connected with the Indian Railways System and therefore, in the view of Govt. of Karnataka, they are free to decide the gauge for the proposed system.

Houses for EWS

3029. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal for financial assistance to construct houses for Economically Weaker Sections through the National Housing Bank under Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) No proposal has been received by the National Housing Bank from the State Government of Kerala for financial assistance to construct houses for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) under Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme of 1997.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Gauge Conversion of Hospet-Hubli-Goa Rail Line

3030. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken up gauge conversion of Hospet-Hubli-Goa railway line;

(b) if so, the amount earmarked for the above work during 1998-99 and the amount spent thereon so far; and

(c) if not, the time by which conversion of said line is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir. The gauge conversion work has already been completed.

(b) Rupees 15 crores has been provided for residual works, during 1998-99. The expenditure incurred on this project upto 30.11.1998 is Rupees 523.21 crores.

(c) Does not arise.

Air Service from Pondicherry, Tuticorin in Salem

3031. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for the operation of air services through the Salem, Pondicherry, Tuticorin airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : The traffic on these sectors is not adequate for

operations with the existing Jet aircraft fleet of Indian Airlines. Private operators having smaller aircraft are being encouraged to include new stations such as Salem, Pondicherry and Tuticorin in their network, subject to viability.

[Translation]

Doubling and Electrification of Railway Tracks

3032. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to double and electrify railway line from Garhwa Road Junction Railway Station to Choupan under Eastern Railway is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) There is no proposal for doubling or electrification of this line at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The traffic on the section has not yet reached the level to justify its doubling. Due to constraint of resources and relative priority of electrification of other high density routes, there is no proposal to electrify Garhwa Road Junction to Choupan railway line for the present.

[English]

Thirty-Year Submarine Plan

3033. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL
SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI C.D. GAMIT :
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :
SHRI K.P. NAIDU :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Navy under its 'Thirty Year Submarine' Plan, has proposed a force level of 24 submarines in the coming years to beef up the country's nuclear and conventional deterrent as reported in the 'The Hindustan Times' dated October 2, 1998;

(b) if so, whether any concrete decision in this regard has been taken;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to make Mazagoan docks operational?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) A long term plan to have an additionality to the Submarine fleet has been drawn up by the Navy.

(b) to (d) Decisions for acquisition/indigenous construction of warships, including submarines, are taken keeping in view their operational and requirement and availability of resources.

Mazagoan Dock Limited (MDL) is operational and has manufactured a number of warships.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance under Employment Scheme

3034. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total financial assistance under Employment Assurance Scheme is provided by the Union Government to the States but the local Members of Parliament are denied to share in development works;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to issue orders for ensuring participation of Members of Parliament in the management meetings under the above scheme;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government are aware that the District Magistrate does not pay any attention to the works which includes financial matters; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (d) EAS is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in which the expenditure is shared between the Centre and the States in the proportion of 80:20. The District Collector/Deputy Commissioner of the district is the Implementing Authority. The DC is required to prepare a shelf of projects every year based on the suggestions made by the Gram Panchayats, Gram Sabhas, Peoples, representatives and the line departments. Peoples' representatives includes Members of Parliament.

The Annual Action Plan for each district for implementation of the anti-poverty programmes is also required to be discussed and approved in the Governing Body Meeting of the DRDA. The MPs are Members of

these Governing Bodies of the DRDAs. Instructions have been issued to fix the dates of the meetings of the Governing Body well in advance and give prior notice to the MPs to enable them to participate in the meetings. Instructions have also been issued to hold such meetings when Parliament is not in session.

Instructions have also been issued for Constitution of Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at State/District and Block levels. The membership of these Committees at district and block level include MPs and MLAs among others. These Committees are empowered to supervise, exercise vigilance and monitor the implementation of all the rural development programmes implemented by this Ministry.

The Ministry has been constantly taking up the matter of involving the MPs in the implementation of programmes of this Ministry including the EAS with the State Governments who are responsible for the implementation of the programmes of this Ministry. The latest letter on this issue by Secretary (RE&PA) is dated 26th August, 98. The Hon'ble MOS(RA&E) has also written on 30th September, 98 to all the MPs forwarding the above mentioned letter of Secretary (RE&PA).

(e) and (f) The Programmes of this Ministry including EAS are implemented through the State Governments concerned as per the guidelines of each programme. The District Magistrates are under the administrative control of the state Governments.

[English]

Production in Ordnance Factories

3035. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether almost all the Ordnance Factories are getting items of production from Private sector and rendering employees redundant;

(b) whether the Government have allowed factory administration under DGOF to suspend the process of production within factories in order to create sickness for units; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Like any manufacturing organisation. Ordnance Factories buy raw materials, components and sub-assemblies as inputs for the final products from the private sector. Care is taken that such procurement is not done for items where in house manufacturing capacity exists.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Purchase of Goods from Cottage Industries

3036. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to purchase goods produced in the cottage, small and handloom sector by Defence Ministry for armed forces;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) to (c) As per the existing Government instructions, issued by Ministry of Textiles, procurement of all Handloom items is required to be made from the Association of Corporation and Apex Societies of Handlooms (ACASH), on a single tender basis either, directly or through DGS&D. However, Barrack Blankets are required to be procured through ACASH to the extent these can be supplied by the notified agencies. Textile items specified for procurement from the Khadi sector, to the extent of their availability are required to be procured from Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). The Ministry of Defence had been procuring items, Barrack Blankets, Durries etc. from ACASH/Handloom sector.

2 The possibility of increased use and impetus in the induction of the Handlooms and Handicrafts sector items in the Defence Establishments has been explored. It has been decided to purchase some selected items, exclusively, from the KVIC, the Handloom, the Handicraft sectors or the Central Cottage Industries Corporation to which effect, suitable instructions have been issued to the concerned authorities. Identification of more items for procurement exclusively from these sectors is in progress.

Newly-Built Sleeper Coaches

3037. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the newly-built-sleeper coaches attached to Mandore Express running between Delhi and Jodhpur are very much identical to upper class coaches;

(b) if so, whether Government contemplate to introduce First Class like coaches by converting such Sleeper Coaches into such coaches as having 4-Berth cabins and 2-Berth coupes with shutters instead of introducing this proposed composite coaches;

(c) if so, by what time; and

(d) if not, the specific reasons for depriving the First Class clientele of the privacy enjoyed by them for health reasons in cabins and coupes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir. The rakes of Mandore Express were recently replaced with air-braked coaches of younger age groups. The facilities provided in the sleeper (2nd class) coaches are in accordance with the standard norms which are universally followed on Railways for such coaches.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. It is contemplated to introduce no fully First Class coaches as such coaches offer lesser accommodation and lower comfort than Air-Conditioned coaches which are being introduced for upper class travel. However, for the convenience of limited First Class clientele, it has been decided to introduce new composite First-class-cum-second class sleeper coaches. These services have already been provided on two trains and after judging passenger reaction, such coaches will be provided on more such trains where demand may exist.

(d) Does not arise.

Late Running of Trains

3038. SHRI A.F.GOLAM OSMANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that late running of train service in North East Frontier Railway is a habitual matter;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the hours and minutes of late arrival of the 5659 Kamrup Express, 4056 Brahmaputra Mail, 5622 N.E. Express, 2424 Rajdhani Express, 4055 Brahmaputra Mail, 5621 N.E. Express, 2423 Rajdhani Express and 5660 Kamrup Express trains at Guwahati, Delhi, New Delhi and Howrah respectively from 15th August to 15th October, 1998 and number of days of late arrival from 1st July to 1st November, 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Punctuality of trains in N.E. Region is largely affected due to security reasons which call for day time running and running of pilot ahead of the trains, which in turn slow down the speed of Express trains. Punctuality is also greatly affected due to agitations/bandhs, alarm-chain-pulling, miscreant activities, fog/bad weather, floods, equipment failures, Signal and Telecom failures etc.

(c) A statement is attached.

Statement

(i) The details of hours and minutes of late arrival of 5659/5660 Kamrup Express, 4055/4056 Brahmaputra Mail, 5621/5622 N.E. Express & 2423/2424 Rajdhani Express during the period from 15th August '98 to 15th October '98 is as under :-

Date	5659 Kamrup Express	5660 Kamrup Express	4055 Brahma- putra Mail	4056 Brahma- putra Mail	5421 N.E. Express	5622 N.E. Express	2324 Rajdhani Express	2424 Rajdhani Express
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15.8.98	RT	3' 30"	16' 15"	RT	10' 0"	RT	10' 40"	NR
16.8.98	RT	1' 35"	2' 0"	1' 0"	9' 20"	RT	NR	RT
17.8.98	RT	RT	5' 50"	RT	1' 0"	RT	NR	RT
18.8.98	RT	6' 0"	RT	RT	3' 0"	RT	RT	NR
19.8.98	RT	6' 50"	7' 15"	RT	3' 30"	RT	NR	RT
20.8.98	RT	1' 50"	RT	RT	RT	RT	NR	RT
21.8.98	RT	4' 20"	RT	3' 0"	RT	1' 50"	1' 55"	NR
22.8.98	5' 30"	RT	RT	RT	55"	RT	1' 55"	NR
23.8.98	RT	RT	RT	RT	2' 20"	2' 0"	NR	NR
24.8.98	RT	RT	RT	RT	RT	11' 40"	NR	RT
25.8.98	RT	6' 20"	14' 40"	RT	RT	6' 10"	4' 50"	NR
26.8.98	RT	3' 20"	6' 5"	RT	4' 30"	RT	NR	RT
27.8.98	RT	5' 10"	6' 0"	RT	RT	RT	NR	3' 0"
28.8.98	RT	3' 5"	RT	3' 0"	4' 40"	3' 30"	RT	NR
29.8.98	RT	1' 20"	2' 40"	RT	RT	RT	3' 0"	NR
30.8.98	RT	4' 0"	1' 35"	RT	1' 40"	3' 40"	NR	NR
31.8.98	5' 0"	1' 20"	RT	RT	1' 55"	1' 55"	NR	6' 0"
1.9.98	RT	4' 10"	2' 0"	RT	RT	RT	RT	NR
2.9.98	RT	3' 40"	3' 20"	RT	RT	1' 35"	NR	40"
3.9.98	RT	2' 40"	2' 0"	RT	RT	RT	RT	RT
4.9.98	RT	6' 0"	1' 0"	RT	3' 35"	2' 0"	RT	NR
5.9.98	RT	RT	2' 0"	RT	RT	2' 0"	RT	NR
6.9.98	RT	6' 30"	RT	RT	RT	1' 0"	NR	RT
7.9.98	RT	RT	RT	RT	RT	RT	NR	RT
8.9.98	RT	3' 20"	2' 50"	RT	2' 40"	RT	9' 10"	NR
9.9.98	RT	RT	2' 10"	RT	8' 10"	RT	NR	5' 05"
10.9.98	RT	RT	1' 40"	RT	3' 35"	RT	NR	RT
11.9.98	RT	RT	1' 30"	RT	2' 50"	RT	RT	NR
12.9.98	RT	RT	2' 5"	RT	2' 0"	RT	RT	NR
13.9.98	RT	RT	RT	RT	1' 30"	2' 50"	NR	NR
14.9.98	RT	RT	RT	RT	2' 45"	5' 0"	NR	RT

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15.9.98	RT	RT	1' 50"	RT	RT	1' 0"	RT	NR
16.9.98	RT	RT	1' 0"	RT	RT	1' 0"	NR	50"
17.9.98	RT	RT	RT	RT	RT	5' 0"	NR	RT
18.9.98	RT	RT	1' 45"	RT	4' 10"	RT	15' 15"	NR
19.9.98	RT	RT	5' 05"	RT	RT	RT	RT	NR
20.9.98	RT	RT	5' 50"	RT	RT	RT	NR	NR
21.9.98	1' 30"	RT	11' 40"	RT	2' 5"	RT	NR	3' 40"
22.9.98	RT	RT	3' 55"	RT	2' 20"	RT	RT	NR
23.9.98	RT	RT	RT	RT	RT	10' 50"	NR	8' 20"
24.9.98	RT	RT	24' 0"	RT	RT	7' 0"	NR	RT
25.9.98	RT	RT	RT	RT	RT	1' 15"	RT	NR
26.9.98	RT	RT	2' 10"	RT	RT	RT	RT	NR
27.9.98	RT	RT	1' 15"	RT	RT	RT	NR	NR
28.9.98	RT	RT	RT	RT	RT	RT	NR	RT
29.9.98	RT	7' 0"	RT	5' 20"	RT	RT	RT	NR
30.9.98	RT	2' 50"	1' 55"	1' 55"	RT	RT	NR	RT
1.10.98	RT	4' 10"	RT	RT	4' 30"	RT	NR	1' 0"
2.10.98	RT	RT	1' 30"	RT	RT	RT	1' 10"	NR
3.10.98	RT	3' 0"	1' 30"	RT	RT	RT	2' 10"	NR
4.10.98	RT	RT	1' 40"	1' 40"	RT	3' 0"	NR	NR
5.10.98	RT	2' 35"	RT	RT	1' 0"	RT	NR	RT
6.10.98	RT	2' 5"	1' 0"	RT	50"	RT	3' 20"	NR
7.10.98	RT	RT	1' 40"	RT	RT	RT	NR	RT
8.10.98	RT	RT	RT	RT	RT	9' 50"	NR	6' 0"
9.10.98	RT	4' 30"	1' 30"	RT	11' 0"	RT	RT	NR
10.9.98	RT	RT	6' 40"	RT	RT	RT	RT	NR
11.10.98	RT	6' 0"	RT	2' 30"	2' 50"	RT	NR	NR
12.10.98	RT	5' 40"	4' 0"	RT	1' 0"	RT	NR	RT
13.10.98	RT	4' 55"	4' 30"	2' 40"	RT	6' 40"	RT	NR
14.10.98	RT	9' 50"	1' 10"	8' 30"	12' 30"	2' 30"	NR	1' 05"
15.10.98	RT	4' 20"	14' 5"	6' 45"	RT	RT	NR	RT

(ii) The number of days of late arrival from 1st July to 1st November 1998 is as under :-

Train No.	Days Run	Lost
1	2	3
4055 Exp.	188	58
4056 Exp.	119	31
5621 Exp.	121	67
5622 Exp.	121	59

1	2	3
5659 Exp. (From August)	88	6
5660 Exp. " "	88	49
2423 Exp.	56	17
2424 Exp.	50	18

*Usual :

RT—Right time, NR—Not running, '—Hours, "—Minutes

Amount Spent on Chamarajanagar-Mettupalyam Project

3039. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on the Chamarajanagar-Mettupalyam railway project so far;

(b) the amount earmarked for the above work in 1998-99 Budget as well as the total amount required for the completion of project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Nil.

(b) and (c) The work of gauge conversion of Mysore-Chamarajanagar with extension upto Mettupalayam has been included in the Budget with the proviso that the work would be taken up after obtaining necessary clearances. A token amount of Rs. 10,000/- has been provided for this work during 1998-99, since the requisite clearances are not yet available. Anticipated cost of this work is Rs. 175 crores. The work will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained. This work will be progressed as per its priority in the priority list approved by the Cabinet, subject to availability of resources.

Railway Projects

3040. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the steps taken/proposed and present status regarding pending projects in Vidarbha region such as 260 km. Wardha-Pusad-Nanded rail line, Jalna-Khamgaon rail route with extension upto Shagaon, survey and follow up of Warora-Umred-Chimur rail line, provision of adequate funds for execution of Amraoti-Narkhed rail line, laying of 185 km. Yeotmal-Mutizapur-Achalpur line, broad gauge conversion of 120 km. Nagpur-Nagbhid rail line;

(b) whether all these projects have been lingering for a long resulting in high cost escalation; and

(c) the details of steps taken/proposed for completion of these projects on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The details are given as under :

(i) Wardha-Pusad-Nanded Rail Line.

A Survey for the above line is presently in progress. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the results of the survey become available.

(ii) Jalna-Khamgaon new line with extension upto Shegaon.

An updating of survey for Jalna-Khamgaon new line was carried out in 1994. The results of the survey revealed the cost of the 155 kms. long line as Rs. 228 crores at the then prevailing price level with a negative Rate of Return. The present day cost of the project will not be less than Rs. 325 crores. Since the line was primarily meant for the development of a backward area, the project was referred to the Planning Commission for conveying approval, who, however, deferred the proposal due to its unremunerative nature. In view of the unremunerative nature of the line and the severe resource constraints, it has not been found possible to consider taking up the project.

Regarding extension of this line to Shegaon, the suggested line will be about 20 kms. Long and will cost not less than Rs. 50 crores at current day prices, as the line traverses through difficult terrain. In view of the heavy throw forward of ongoing new line projects coupled with the severe resource constraints, consideration of the suggested line would be difficult at present. However, Shegaon can be reached from Khamgaon via Akola which is connected by a Broad gauge link.

(iii) Warora-Umred-Chimur Rail line

A survey for the above line carried out in 1995-96 has revealed the cost of the 106 kms. long line as Rs.97.3 crores, with diesel traction, with a negative rate of return and with electric traction as Rs. 184.78 crores, again with negative rate of return. In view of the unremunerative nature of the project and severe resource constraints, the project could not be taken up for consideration.

(iv) Provision of adequate funds for Amravati-Narkhed rail line :

70% of land acquisition for the project has been completed. Earthwork is in progress on 18 out of 27 sections in the entire length. Work on Amravati station building is in progress. This project will be funded and progressed as per its priority in the Priority List of the Railway Projects as approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs subject to availability of resources.

(v) Gauge conversion of Yeotmal-Murtizapur-Achalpur rail line :

The option to purchase the above line - a private line owned by the Central Provinces Railway Company Limited by the Government was examined at the time of the last ten yearly review in March, 1996 but it was decided not

to exercise the option on financial considerations. There is no proposal to take over this line at present. The justification for conversion to Broad Gauge can be examined only as and when the line is taken over by the Indian Railways.

(vi) Gauge conversion of Nagpur-Nagbhir rail line :

A survey for the above line is presently in progress. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the results of the survey become available.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Amravati - Narkhed rail line is progressing satisfactorily. For other works mentioned above, this aspect will arise only once the projects are sanctioned and taken up.

[Translation]

Pension Disbursement Office in Bihar

3041. SHRI H.P. SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for which Pension Disbursement Office for defence personnel has not been opened at Aara in Bihar even after the proposal sent by Controller of Defence Accounts, Allahabad;

(b) the norms followed in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the office is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) There are no prescribed norms for opening new Defence Pension Disbursement Offices (DPDOs.). However, a number of factors such as the population of pensioners, basic infrastructure for opening new offices, availability of other paying agencies such as banks/treasuries, requirement of additional manpower etc. have not made it possible to open new Defence Pension Disbursement Offices.

(c) The question does not arise.

[English]

Superfast Train between Chennai-Jodhpur

3042. SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations for introduction of Superfast train from Chennai to Jodhpur; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE

IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Some representations have been received in this regard. The same have been examined but not found feasible.

[Translation]

Voluntary Retirement by Commissioned Officers

3043. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Commissioned officers in defence forces who have resigned or opted for voluntary retirement during each of the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government have studied the reasons behind such huge exodus of officers from Armed forces; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken to avoid such situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The number of Commissioned officers in the Defence Forces, other than the Army Medical Corps, the Army Dental Corps, the Military Nursing Service, the Territorial Army and the Seconded Officers' cadre, who have resigned or have proceeded on voluntary retirement during the last three years is as under :

	Army	Navy	Air Force
1996	288	105	131
1997	435	134	163
1998	488	177	216
(Upto 30th November)			

The existing provisions provide that the Defence Services officers can seek voluntary retirement on the following grounds :

- (i) Supersession
- (ii) Low medical category
- (iii) Absorption in Public Sector Undertakings etc.
- (iv) On compassionate grounds.

(b) and (c) Each and every request for voluntary retirement is examined in accordance with the guidelines issued from time to time and ample precautions are taken to ensure that the interests of the services are not jeopardised or compromised while accepting the requests. Considering the overall strength of the Officers cadres of the Defence Services, the number of officers proceeding on voluntary retirement is not huge or alarming.

[English]

Suburban Rail Service in Gujarat

3044. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal from the Government of Gujarat for starting a suburban train between Sabarmati and Sarkhej and also between Sarkhej and Kalupur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Representations including from Shri Bimal Shah, Minister of State - Transport and Non-Conventional Energy Resources and Shri Harin Pathak, M.P. have been received in this regard.

(c) The proposals were examined but not found feasible.

Reservation Roaster in CPWD

3045. SHRI BAIJNATH RAWAT : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether since July 2, 1997 Reservation Roaster have been changed from 'vacancy based' to post based' in CPWD;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the number of posts earmarked at present for regular Executive Engineer (Civil) in CPWD by promotion of Assistant Engineer as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to fill up the above said regular post of EE (Civil) amongst Asst. Engineer (Civil)?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Prior to 2.7.97, there was a 40 point 'vacancy based' Roster. A separate post based roster has been drawn up but no regular promotions could be made after 31.3.94 due to various court judgments. The number of posts earmarked for regular Executive Engineer (Civil) by promotion of Assistant Engineer (C) can be indicated only after the adhoc promotions are regularised. The promotions of Assistant Engineer (Civil) to the grade of Executive Engineer (Civil) made from 1980 to 1994 are required to be reviewed in pursuance to the judgment dated 4.9.97 of CAT Chennai Bench in OA No. 295/95 filed by Shri A.S.

Anand Ram and others. Necessary proposals in this regard have been forwarded to the UPSC on 12.5.98. The review DPC has not yet been convened. Regular promotions from 1994 onwards can be made only after the promotions from 1980 to 1994 have been reviewed.

Terminal Service Charges

3046. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY :
SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Terminal Service Charge (TSC) comprising of ground duty, handling and storage charges is one of the main components of income for Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR);

(b) if so, whether there is any provision or practice for granting waiver of TSC to the customers by CONCOR;

(c) if so, the maximum limit thereof;

(d) the total number of cases and total amount of waiver of TSC by CONCOR during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively; and

(e) the name of the parties granted such waiver of TSC since 1995-96 alongwith number of waivers granted to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Reduction in Budget for Maintenance of Aircraft

3047. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the budget for maintenance of Aircraft by Indian Airlines is being curtailed;

(b) if so, the details thereof in comparison to the previous year;

(c) whether this curtailment will have an adverse effect on the safety of passengers; and

(d) if so, the precautions that have, been taken to ensure passengers' safety?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Development of Malabar Region

3048. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Malabar region of Kerala is the most neglected in the matter of railway development :

(b) if so, whether any new line has been constructed or track renewal has taken place in these northern districts of Kerala during the recent past;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have any plan to develop the railway system in these districts; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise. However during the last five years, 107 kms of track renewals have been done in this region.

(d) and (e) In the Malabar region Railways have undertaken the doubling of Shoranur-Mangalore single line track. Moreover a line from Kuttipuram to Guruvayur was earlier planned as a part of the Shoranur-Mangalore doubling work. However, with doubling extended from Kuttipuram to Shoranur, this will be a new line. Process for obtaining clearances for this work has been initiated.

[Translation]

Plan to Meet Increasing Air Traffic

3049. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India have formulated any long-term plan to cope up with the increasing demand of air traffic in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Development and Modernisation of airports to meet the increasing demand of air traffic is a continuous process. AAI has formulated its plans for this purpose during the IXth Five Year Plan which envisages a total expenditure of Rs. 3306.78 crores for development of airport infrastructure. Out of the above, Rs. 1030.47 crores has been earmarked for aerodrome

works, Rs. 526.84 crores for communication and navigation facilities, Rs. 155.77 crores for ground safety services and Rs. 1522.52 crores for development of international airports. All the above items of work are likely to be completed by the year 2001-2002.

Pending Development Projects

3050. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat have sent any rural development projects to the Union Government for approval during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of projects lying pending approval till date with the Government;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (d) Project proposals pertaining to rural water supply, Innovative Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP) have been received from Gujarat State as follows :

1. Rural Water Supply : The Government of Gujarat has submitted 12 projects under the sub-mission programme of Rural Water Supply during the last three years. The Government of India has approved only one project. Consequent upon delegation of powers to the State Governments to sanction and implement projects, with effect from 1-4-1998, the remaining projects have been returned to the State Government for necessary action.
2. Innovative Jawahar Rozgar Yojana : During the last three years, one innovative project under JRY (Illrd Stream) for increasing irrigation potential by constructing water harvesting structures in Dharampur and Vansda talukas of Valsad District of Gujarat State was received, which was approved in 1995-96.
3. Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP) : Government of Gujarat have sent 17 new Integrated Wasteland Development Project proposals. Out of these, 7 project for the districts of Kheda, Junagadh (2projects) Vadodara, Bhavnagar, Panchmahal (Project-II) and Sabarkantha have been sanctioned from 1996 till to date. Remaining 10 projects are pending

for approval. The approval of the projects, however, depends upon submission of compliance by District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs), conformity of the project proposals with guidelines and viability of the projects.

Stoppage of Palace on Wheel at Bundi

3051. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any demand has been received by his Ministry for stoppage of the royal train "Palace on Wheel" at Bundi, city; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) A suggestion to stop the train at Bundi has been made. Under the existing itinerary of the tour, this is not feasible.

Computer Reservation Counter at Chhapra Station

3052. SHRI HIRA LAL ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to State :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the reservation counters at Chhapra junction under Sonapur division; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION. (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Westland Helicopters

3053. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 2432 on June, 11 1998 and state :

(a) whether a large number of Westland Helicopters, acquired from England long back and considered unsuitable for operations are still lying undisposed:

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether these helicopters are parked on rented space; and

(d) if so, the cumulative total of rental charges paid so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The process of disposal of 19 Westland helicopters with Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) is in progress.

(c) These aircraft are parked on space belonging to the Airports Authority of India for which rent is being paid by the PHHL. The PHHL is utilising this land for several purposes such as office building, hangar, dispersal area, etc.

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| (d) 1. Parking charges and rent for store space for Westland Helicopters at Delhi from February 1991 to March, 1998 | Rs. 41.09 lacs |
| 2. Rent for land and store space for Westland Helicopters at Mumbai from February, 1991 to March, 1998. | Rs. 27.86 lacs |

Rs. 68.95 lacs
(Approx.)

Stoppage At Kokrajhar Station

3054. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations from people of Assam for providing stoppage of all express trains at Khokrajhar station in Assam :

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) Some representations were received for stoppage of additional trains at Kokrajhar These were examined, but additional stoppages at Kokrajhar have not been found feasible.

Statue of Gandhi

3055. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal of installation of a bronze statue of Gandhi has been pending for the last three decades;

(b) whether the planners are unable to suggest a place for this purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) Though the proposal for installation of a Statue of Gandhi has been under consideration of the Government for the last three decades, the statue could not be installed primarily due to the problem in selecting a suitable site acceptable to all for installing the statue. In a writ petition filed by Conservation Society of Delhi and another, Delhi High Court has granted an interim stay restricting the Government from altering/removing/demolishing the Canopy/Chhatra at the India Gate roundabout renamed as August Kranti Udyan.

(c) It is not possible to indicate the likely time for taking a decision in the matter as the matter is still sub-judice before Delhi High Court. Final decision in the matter can be taken only after the disposal of the pending writ petition by Delhi High Court.

Train Between Jalandhar and Jallian

3056. SHRI SADASHIV RAO DADOVA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether service of the local train linking Jalandhar to Jallian has been reduced to only one time a day instead of three times ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that hundreds of devotees come to Dera Sant Charan Dass and Shahtalyee in Jallian through this train; and

(d) if so, the alternative measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the benefit of hundreds of these devotees and general people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Does not arise. Existing services are considered adequate.

Water Supply Scheme

3057. SHRI VENKATARAMI ANANTHA REDDY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh had sent any proposal for taking up water supply scheme with the assistance of overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan;

(a) if so, the details therefor;

(c) the places proposed to be covered under the above schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) No, Sir. No such proposal has been received with regard to Rural Water Supply in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Tokenless System For Sonarpur-Canning Line

3058. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of the present status of tokenless system for Sonarpur-Canning line of Sealdah division and its subsequent effects on movement of passenger trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : The work for provision of tokenless block working in Sonarpur-Canning section, Sealdah division of Eastern Railway was kept pending and dropped for synchronising with other activities and the commissioning and stabilization of 18 Ghz Microwave system on this section.

Now that the 18 GHz Microwave system has stabilised on this section, arrangements are being made for introduction of tokenless block system on this section.

The introduction of tokenless block system in this section will bring improvement in train operation.

[Translation]

Transportation of Goods

3059. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of goods stolen, do not reach at their destination and reached late due to the obstructions caused in the transportation by the Railways during the last months;

(b) the number of claims submitted to the Railways during the above period alongwith the amount involved therein; and

(c) the total number of cases were under consideration by the end of March 1998 and the amount involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The number of cases of goods stolen during the last six months i.e. 1.4.1998 to 30.9.1998 are as under :-

No. of cases Reported	Value of property stolen (Rs.)
2100	1,16,28,349

No target time has been laid down for delivery therefore no separate statistics for time of delivery are being maintained.

(b) 69534 claim cases had been registered for a period of six months, from April to September 1998 and the amount claimed in these cases is Rs. 348.84 crores.

(c) The total number of claim cases under consideration at the end of March, 1998 was 18148. With regard to amount involved in those cases, no separate statistics are available as the actual amount claimed and finally payable may vary considerably.

Commercial use of Agriculture Land

3060 SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether an entertainment park situated on agricultural land in village Kapashera, Delhi violating Section 81 of Delhi Land Reforms Act, 1954;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the number of cases pending in the Court of Revenue Assistants under Section 81 of DLR Act, 1954 in Delhi, case-wise, Khasra-wise and village-wise?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has reported that an entertainment Park in the name and style of Fun and Food village is being run in Kapashera on the agricultural land as well as on the extended abadi land (non-agricultural). The Proceedings under Section 81 of DLR Act have already been instituted vide suit no. 76/RA/97 in the Court of SDM/RA which is pending for disposal.

(c) The number of cases pending in the Court of Revenue Assistant under Section 81 of DLR Act 1984 in Delhi in different districts are as follows :

District	No. of Cases
North	213
North-West	2288
North-East	57
West	451
South-West	567
South	274
East	2

Rural Water Supply

3061.DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the externally aided rural water supply schemes in Andhra Pradesh have been fully formulated, designed, executed and monitored on computers with effect from October, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission is sponsoring the project :

(d) if so, whether the project estimated at a cost of Rs. 5.40 crores would be borne by the Center and the State Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission has under taken a project on MIS which, among other things, involve computerisation of the Rural Water Supply Sector in the country. The total cost of the project in Andhra Pradesh comes to Rs. 5.44 crore, out of which 80% of the project cost would be borne by the Central Government and, the remaining 20% to be met by the State Government. The State Government has already placed orders for procurement of Hardware for this project.

Pilot Projects of Convergent Services

3062. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of districts where Pilot Projects on community based convergent services introduced during the 1996-97 and 1997-98 till now alongwith the budgetary allocation, State-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the number of districts under the project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

where pilot projects on Community Based Convergent Services (CBCS) introduced during 1996-97 and 1998 till now alongwith the budgetary allocation state-wise is attached.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) A Statement showing the names of districts

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

The names of the districts where pilot projects on Community Based Convergent Services introduced during 1996-97 and 1997-98 till now alongwith the budgetary allocation

				(Rs. in lacs)
State	1996-97 (Districts)	Budgetary Allocation	1997-98 (Districts)	Budgetary Allocation
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	Guntur	10.00	Warangal	5.00
	Nalgonda	10.00	Adailabad	5.00
	Vishakhapatnam	10.00	Vizianagaram	5.00
	West Godavari	10.00		
	Total	40.00		15.00
Arunachal Pradesh	Changlong	10.00	West Kameng	5.00
	Lohit	10.00	Tirap	5.00
			Dibang Valley	5.00
			Lower Subansiri	5.00
	Total	20.00		20.00
Assam	Goalpara	10.00	Hailakandi	5.00
	Darrang	10.00	Cachar	5.00
	Dhemaji	10.00	Sibsagar	5.00
	Nagaon	10.00	Karbi Analog	5.00
			Morigaon	5.00
			Barpeta	5.00
			Jorhat	5.00
			Kokrajhar	5.00
			Lakhempur	5.00
			Kamrup	5.00
	Total	40.00		50.00
Bihar			Nalanda	5.00
			Palamau	5.00
			Nawadah	5.00
			Bhojpur	5.00
			Deogarh	5.00
			Gumla	5.00
			Saharsa	5.00

1	2	3	4	5
			Katihar	5.00
			Madhepura	5.00
			Siwan	5.00
			Darbhanga	5.00
			Gaya	5.00
			Aurangabad	5.00
			West Singhbhum	5.00
	Total			70.00
Goa			South Goa	5.00
	Total			5.00
Gujarat	Bhavnagar	10.00	Amreli	5.00
	Vadodra	10.00	Surat	5.00
	Sabarkantha	10.00	Jamnagar	5.00
			Valsad	5.00
	Total	30.00		20.00
Haryana	Faridabad	10.00	Bhiwani	5.00
	Jind	10.00	Gurgaon	5.00
	Kaithal	10.00	Fatehabad	5.00
	Total	30.00		15.00
Himachal Pradesh	Kullu	10.00	Bilaspur	5.00
	Solan	10.00	Hamirpur	5.00
	Mandi	10.00		
	Total	30.00		10.00
Jammu & Kashmir			Kargil	5.00
			Badgaum	5.00
			Kathura	5.00
	Total			15.00
Karnataka	Hassan	10.00	Shimoga	5.00
	Chitradurga	10.00	Chickmangalore	5.00
	Bellary	10.00	Mandya	5.00
			Kolar	5.00
			Bangalore (U)	5.00
	Total	30.00		25.00
Kerala	Kottayam	10.00	Kannur	5.00
	Polakkad	10.00	Idukki	5.00
	Wayanad	10.00	Kasargod	5.00
	Total	30.00		15.00

1	2	3	4	5
Madhya Pradesh			Tikamgarh	5.00
			Betul	5.00
			Chindwara	5.00
			Raisen	5.00
			Raipur	5.00
			Ratlam	5.00
			Sagar	5.00
			Panna	5.00
			Bilapur	5.00
			Sehore	5.00
			Balaghat	5.00
	Total			55.00
Maharashtra	Amarvati	10.00	Solhapur	5.00
	Jalna	10.00	Raigarh	5.00
	Bhandra	10.00	Nanded	5.00
	Sangli	10.00	Chandrapur	5.00
	Osmanabad	10.00	Jaigaon	5.00
	Total	50.00		25.00
Manipur	Thoubal	10.00		
	Tamenglang	10.00		
	Total	20.00		
Mizoram	Chimtuipui	10.00		
	Total	10.00		
Nagaland	Tuensang	10.00		
	Phek	10.00		
	Total	20.00		
Orissa	Koraput	10.00	Sundergarh	5.00
	Nuapada	10.00	Malkangiri	5.00
	Gajapati	10.00	Bargarh	5.00
			Sambalpur	5.00
			Kalahandi	5.00
			Sonepur	5.00
	Total	30.00		30.00
Punjab	Sangrur	10.00		
	Bhatinda	10.00		
	Mansa	10.00		
	Total	30.00		

1	2	3	4	5
Rajasthan	Rajsmad	10.00	Bundi	5.00
	Pali	10.00	Jhalawar	5.00
	Sawai Madhopur	10.00	Dungarpur	5.00
			Jalore	5.00
			Nagaur	5.00
			Jaisalmer	5.00
	Total	30.00		30.00
Sikkim	South Sikkim	10.00		
	Total	10.00		
Tamil Nadu	Pudukottai	10.00	Coimbatore	5.00
	Thanjavur	10.00	Dindigul Anna	5.00
			Thiruvellor	5.00
			Vaigai-Veeran	5.00
			Trichy	5.00
			Salem	5.00
			Madurai	5.00
			Chegaiapattu	5.00
	Total	20.00		40.00
Tripura	South Tripura	10.00		
	North Tripura	10.00		
	Total	20.00		
Uttar Pradesh	Gazipur	10.00	Lalitpur	5.00
	Hamirpur	10.00	Azamgarh	5.00
	Maunath Bhanjan	10.00	Pratapgarh	5.00
	Bahraich	10.00	Balia	5.00
	Basti	10.00	Sonbhadra	5.00
			Gorakhpur	5.00
			Jaunpur	5.00
			Faizabad	5.00
			Maharajganj	5.00
			Padrona	5.00
			Ambedkamagar	5.00
			Sidharthnagar	5.00
	Total	50.00		60.00
West Bengal	Uttar Dinajpur	10.00		
	Malda	10.00		
	Murshidabad	10.00		
	Total	30.00		

Doubling of Jammu and Jalandhar Rail Line

3063. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the doubling of Jammu-Jalandhar Railway line is still pending;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the above work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The survey report is under finalisation in consultation with the Zonal Railway. Requisite clearances would be processed and obtained once the survey report is finalised. The work would be started after obtaining the clearances.

(c) The work is likely to be started in 1999-2000 and will be progressed as per availability of resources. No target date has yet been fixed for its completion.

Stoppage At Partur

3064. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether request have been received by the Government for providing stoppage of Tapovan Express at Partur Station on Mumbai-Nanded line; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Some representations were received in this regard. The same were examined but not found feasible.

Laying of Nellore-Cuddapah Rail Line

3065. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was any proposal to lay a railway line between Nellore and Cuddapah;

(b) if so, the latest position of the above railway line;

(c) whether the provision made for above purpose in the budget 1997-98 have been fully utilised; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) A survey for a new rail line between Cuddapah and Nellore has been completed recently. The Survey report received in July, 1998 has revealed the cost of the 181 kms. long line as Rs. 355 crores with a negative rate of return. Due to the unremunerative nature of the line and the severe resource constraints, it has not been found possible to consider taking up the project at present.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Train Between Solapur-Pune

3066. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received proposals for introduction of an additional train between Pune and Solapur; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The matter has been examined but not found feasible.

Gauge Conversion of Rewari-Degana Rail Line

3067. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to parts (d) and (e) of the Unstarred Question No. 417 on November 20, 1997 and state :

(a) whether the survey for gauge conversion from Rewari to Degana via Ratangarh metre gauge line has since been completed and the survey report submitted to the Government;

(b) if so, whether the conversion work of above line has been started; and

(c) if not, the time by which the gauge conversion work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The route from Rewari to Degana covers the lines from Rewari to

Sadulpur, Sadulpur to Ratangarh and Ratangarh-Degana sections. The conversion work between Rewari and Sadulpur is already included in the budget and will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained. The Survey for Hissar to Bikaner which includes Sadulpur-Ratangarh has already been completed and the report is under finalisation in consultation with the Railway. The survey for Ratangarh-Degana is in progress. Further consideration of these projects would be possible once the survey reports become available and finalised.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The sanctioned gauge conversion work from Rewari to Sadulpur will be progressed after receipt of requisite clearances and as per availability of resources. No target has yet been fixed for its completion.

V.I.P. Lounge at Calicut Airport

3068. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allotted any space at Calicut Airport for setting up of a V.I.P. lounge;

(b) if so, details thereof including the total area allotted and the rent fixed for the same;

(c) whether any organisation has been authorised to raise funds from abroad to develop Calicut Airport; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the total amount collected by that organization?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Of the four V.I.P. rooms at Calicut Airport two of dimensions 6m x 6m and 12.4m x 4.5m are in the international building while one VIP room 6m x 9m is in the domestic building. These have been provided by the Airports' Authority of India. In addition to this, the Malabar International Airport Development Society (MIADS) has been allotted a VIP room (size - 7m x 8m), free of cost. This has been furnished by MIADS who are also maintaining it.

(c) No, Sir. MIADS have been authorised by the State Government of Kerala for raising the funds for providing interest free loan to Airports Authority of India for the development of this airport.

(d) Does not arise.

Ashraya Scheme

3069. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has requested for financial assistance from HUDCO to construct houses under the Ashraya Scheme during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. HUDCO has sanctioned a loan amount of Rs. 76.05 crore for 48 housing schemes under Ashraya Housing Scheme of Karnataka during current year. On completion, these schemes will provide 48057 dwelling units.

Apart from this, HUDCO has received 51 schemes under Ashraya Housing Schemes, which are in the pipeline. The loan sought for these schemes is of the order of Rs. 111.58 crores. These projects are at various stages of processing for sanction as per HUDCO guidelines.

Construction of Foot Over Bridges in Kerala

3070. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of places where the Union Government propose to construct Foot Over bridges in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount allocated for this purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) Extension of the existing Foot over bridges at Emakulam Junction have been taken up. An allocation of Rs.18.00 lakh has been made for these works during the current year. Provision of Foot-over-bridges have also been sanctioned at Quilandi, Tellicherry, Kanhangad, Perinad and Shertalai with an allocation of Rs. 6.25 lakh during 1998-99. These works are likely to be completed by 2000-2001.

Express Way Township Project

3071. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Express way Township project called NICE (Nandi infrastructure Corridor Enterprise) has been finalised by the Government by forming a consortium in association with the United States Companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Military Exercise on Indo-Pak Border

3072. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of army personnel participated in the military exercise held recently on Indo-Pak Border and the objectives thereof alongwith the details of such military exercises held in the past;

(b) whether there was any encounter between Indo-Pak Forces during the above exercise;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred on this exercise and whether there were any casualties during the exercise and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) A corps level exercise was recently conducted in the area of Jodhpur. Such exercises were also held in 1996 and 1997. Approximately 77,000 personnel participated in the recent exercise. There was no encounter with Pakistan's Forces. There were no casualties during the exercise; 1 Officer was injured during the preparatory period and 1 Officer died due to a road accident.

It would not be in the interest of national security to divulge further details.

[English]

Builders' Conference

3073. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether in a bid to tackle the problems facing the stagnant housing sector the Government have organised a three-day interface with private builders from all parts of the country;

(b) if so, the measures suggested in the conference; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) A three-day All India Conference on Housing-The Challenges and Solutions was organised jointly by the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment, Federation of Promoters and Builders Association of Maharashtra (FPBAM) and the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd.

(HUDCO) from 28th to 30th November, 1998 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

(b) and (c) The suggestions made in the Conference are given in the attached statement. The Government is already seized of the problems facing the housing sector and action on some of suggestions has been initiated on the basis of the Government's policy perceptions. Action on the suggestions is being taken both at level of Government of India and State Governments.

Statement

Suggestions made in the Conference

1. The ULC (R&A) Act, 1976 should be repealed in toto. Further the saving provision for continuation of the Act under section 20 and 21 should be deleted as this will lead to continuation of a repealed Act on certain projects/schemes/lands.
2. The National Housing Bank Act should be amended to provide speedy foreclosure laws.
3. Ministry of Finance should consider increasing the benefit of section 80 1A of the Income Tax Act for tenements upto 1500 sq.ft. carpet area.
4. Again, the benefit of section 80 1A of the Income Tax Act may be extended for the period upto 31st March 2004 in place of 31st March 2001.
5. Government of India should take up with the State Govt. to reduce stamp duty on mortgage securitisation paper on the lines that have been done by the State of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu Karnataka and Gujarat. The Stamp duty on housing should be reduced to 1-2 per cent.
6. The RBI in its credit policy has mandated 1.5% of incremental deposits for housing finance. This percentage should be increased from 1.5% to 5% Further there should be a minimum allocation of 5% of funds for housing purposes under priority sector.
7. A housing unit of Rs. 15 lakh may be considered as priority lending, by Reserve Bank of India.
8. The benefit available under Section 43 (D) of the Income Tax Act should be extended to HFCs also.
9. The entire interest payment on housing loans for self occupied and tenanted property should be exempted from taxable income.
10. 50% of the rental income should be exempted from taxable income.
11. Government of India should allow deduction (to corporate bodies) from taxable income upto 100% of the capital cost incurred for providing new residential

units for employees, subject to a limit of 33% of the total taxable income and provided that the residential units are not alienated by the company for a period of 10 years and provided these residential units are put up within a period of 3 years. Also an accelerated rate of depreciation or a higher initial depreciation in addition to the normal depreciation that is available under Income Tax Rules, should be allowed for corporates providing residential units for its employees.

12. The Government of India should permit HFIs to have access to long term pension/provident funds.
13. To reduce cost of borrowing and housing finance more affordable the levy of interest tax on housing loans should be discontinued.
14. The Government of India should permit FDI in the housing sector subject to a minimum lock-in period of 3 years.
15. The Government of India should permit higher FSI/FAR in the cities on payment of an additional premium to the local authority, which should be ploughed back for infrastructure development.
16. There should be a self-regulatory body comprising of developers and institutions to protect the interest of buyers.
17. The Government of India and State Governments should initiate action to simplify building bye-laws so as to empower chartered architects to sanction building plans. The concept of single-window clearance for all statutory clearances required from various agencies should be put into place in all cities and for this, the State Government and local Governments should evolve appropriate mechanism for the same.

Further, keeping in view the housing needs of the weaker section and low income, the existing building bye-laws, planning standards and development control rules should be revamped to provide for the realistic housing development needs.

Further, the existing land records should be modernized, and the land revenue laws should be amended for speedy clearances for taking up housing projects.

18. The Government of India should redefine long term finance under section 10(23) G of Income Tax Act as a period of "More than one Year" as against a period of "not less than 5 years" currently indicated in the section. Alternatively, the preferred way of passing the benefit of concessional rate of funding for approved projects could be the recognition of

"Housing Finance" and "under the definition of infrastructure facility" under section 10 (23) G in respect of loans given for approved projects. This should be utilized primarily for accessing low cost finances by HFIs for the massive housing needs of rural housing and urban housing for the weaker sections and low income.

19. HUDCO lending policy to State Governments should be used to persuade the State Governments to progressively implement the provisions of the National Housing and Habitat Policy in progressive and time bound manner.
20. Permission may be granted by RBI/MOF to all HFIs, recognised by the NHB for refinance to grant housing loan to NRI's PIO's.
21. Government should promote insurance companies pension funds and provident funds trusts to invest in mortgage backed securitisation.
22. Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment should be made the nodal agency to push through the securitisation and secondary mortgage market.
23. Government should make appropriate changes to section 138 of the Negotiable instrument Act to provide parity to mandates provided under the electronic clearing system in the same manner as a current provisions relating to dishonor of cheques by borrowers.
24. Government should made amendment to the Security (Regulation) Act 1956 to include "Pass Through Certificate" as an approved security.
25. investment of unaccounted money in housing should be exempted for a period of one year by amendment of Section 69 of the income Tax Act.
26. Export earnings of real estate in foreign currency should be exempted under Section 80 HHD (on the line of exemption to earning in hard currency for Hotels).
27. A high powered committee should be set up to look into the entire housing sector to come up with the recommendations as to how to generate resources, provide incentives and simplify procedures.
28. Housing should be given the status of infrastructure for increasing access to avail assistance from the HFIs, Fls, Banks etc.
29. The Income Tax Act may be amended to provided for exclusion of interest subsidy as a taxable perquisite in the hands of the employees in connection with housing loans availed from Housing Finance Companies.

30. All tenancies, hereinafter created, should be exempted from rent control.

Closure of Sale Centre at Pondicherry

3074. SHRI S. ARUMUGHAM : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited is going to close down its sales centre at Pondicherry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that it will affect the interests of Small Scale Industries and work of building construction in Pondicherry as the rate of sales tax is 1% in Pondicherry and 4% at Chennai; and

(d) if so, the measures propose to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (d) Operation of a Consignment Agency Outlet at Pondicherry was not found to be commercial viable and as such the same has been closed down by steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) in the month of November, 1998.

The requirements of the Customers located at pondicherry are met by SAIL through its Branch Sales Office at Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Modernisation of Telecommunication System

3075. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government for the modernisation of telecommunication system in Railways so far, sector-wise;

(b) the investment made therein;

(c) the fund earmarked therefor during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) whether private sector has been participated; and

(e) if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) As a part of modernisation of Telecommunication, Railways have provided electronic exchanges, digital Microwave links and Optical Fibre cable. Sectorwise details are given in attached Statement-I

(b) Year wise investment of last 5 years is given in attached Statement-II

(c) The IX Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission. Railways expect an outlay of approximately Rs. 1600 Crores on Signal & Safety Plan Head. Telecommunication being part of same Head.

(d) Not so far. However, participation of Private Sector has been planned for provision of Optical Fibre cable under "Build, Own, Operate and Lease (BOOL)" scheme. With this scheme it will be possible to modernise Railway's Telecommunication network.

(e) Under BOOL scheme about 20,000 Kms of Optical Fibre Cable costing about Rs.1800 crores has planned for laying along the Railway track.

Statement-I

Sector/Zonal wise detail on Modernisation of Telecommunication System

Railway	Electronic Exchange (No. of lines)	Digital Microwave Links (Kms)	Optical Fibre Cable (Kms)
Central	21,550	275	784
Eastern	12,340	0	210
Northern	33,394	995	81
Northeastern	8,988	0	0
Northeast	3,252	0	0
Frontier			
Southern	5,432	629	0
South Central	12,044	502	0
South Eastern	9,544	0	335
Western	36,077	613	63
TOTAL	142,621	3,014	1,473

Statement-II

Yearwise Investment on Modernisation of Telecommunication in the last Five Years

Year	Investment (Rs. Crores)
1993-'94	64.11
1994-'95	66.90
1995-'96	71.53
1996-'97	55.47
1997-'98	70.63
TOTAL	328.64

**Wagon Makers Charged with
Excise Evasion**

3076. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Wagon makers charged with excise evasion" appearing in the Indian Express dated November, 28, 1998;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Railways is procuring wagons owned by them as well as against the scheme of "Own Your Wagons Scheme". During contracts placed in 1995 against the above, excise duty was not applicable for both the categories. Subsequently, vide notification dated 13.11.1995, the exemption of excise duty against the "Own Your Wagons Scheme" has been withdrawn.

It is understood that demand notices have been issued by excise department on wagon manufacturers totalling about Rs.20 crores against the contracts pertaining to Own Your Wagons Scheme. The wagon manufacturers have reported that even though they are willing to pay excise duty as per law, the excise authorities are not permitting Modvat relief on inputs which have been contested by the wagon manufacturers with the excise authorities. Wagon manufacturers have also intimated that they are seeking settlement of these cases through 'Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme'. The claim of excise authorities on wagon manufacturers is to be dealt as per appropriate law.

Ministry of Railways have already approached Ministry of Finance for extending the excise duty exemption on wagon manufactured under Own Your Wagon Scheme also for the reason that these wagon are utilised by Railways for transportation of public goods and ultimate liability of the expenditure devolves on railways in the form of lease rentals.

[Translation]

Quality of Catering Service In Trains

3077. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR BIJOY :
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :
SHRI K.S. RAO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the trains including Rajdhani Expresses in which catering arrangements have been assigned to private contractors;

(b) whether the standard of catering service in these trains, particularly in Rajdhani Expresses has declined and the quality of diabetic and vegetarian food is the poorest;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of complaints received in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of catering service in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) A list is attached as Statement.

(b) to (e) No, Sir. However, a few complaints have been received regarding quality of catering services on these trains in 1998. Remedial/punitive action has been taken against licensee responsible. Licence of Patna-New Delhi Rajdhani Express train was terminated on account of complaints and services are now being managed Departmentally.

There is no separate provision for specific type of food for diabetic/heart patients. However, tea/coffee etc. are served with separate sugar packets.

Food and mineral water samples are collected regularly under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and Quality Control and examined. In case of samples found adulterated, departmental and legal action is taken against the vendors/suppliers. Besides, regular checks/inspections are being conducted by the Commercial and Medical officers on static and mobile catering units.

Statement			
(a) List of trains running with pantry cars assigned to private contractors :			
S. No.	Railway	Train No.	Name of Train
1	2	3	4
1.	C.R.	1019/1020	Konark Express
2.	C.R.	1025/1026	Pragati Express
3.	C.R.	1077/1078	Jhelum Express
4.	C.R.	2027/2028	Shatabdi Express
5.	C.R.	2137/2138	Punjab Mail
6.	C.R.	1063/1064	MAS-CSTM Express
7.	C.R.	1081/1082	MCST-CAPE Express
8.	E.R.	2019/2020	Shatabdi Express
9.	E.R.	2307/2308	Howrah Jodhpur Express (S.F.)
10.	E.R.	2309/2310	Rajdhani Express
11.	E.R.	3003/3004	Howrah Bombay Mail
12.	E.R.	3005/3006	HWH-ASR Express
13.	E.R.	3151/3152	SDAH-JAT Mail
14.	N.E.	5205/5206	Lichhavi Express
15.	N.E.	5011/5012	Raptisagar Express
16.	N.E.	5045/5046	ADI-GKP Express
17.	N.E.	5047/5048	Purvanchal Express
18.	N.E.	5063/5064	Awadh Express
19.	N.E.	5087/5088	Amarnath Express
20.	N.E.	5089/5090	GKP-HYB Express
21.	N.E.	5217/5218	CLA-MFP Express
22.	N.E.	5219/5220	CLA-DBG Express
23.	N.E.	1015/1016	Kushinagar Express
24.	N.E.	2133/2134	Pushpak Express
25.	N.F.	4055/4056	Brahmaputra Mail
26.	N.F.	5602/5603	GHY-DBRT intercity Express
27.	N.F.	5609/5610	Awadh Assam Express
28.	N.F.	5621/5622	North East Express
29.	N.F.	5645/5646	GHY-DDR Express
30.	N.F.	5651/5652	Lohit Express

1	2	3	4
31.	N.F.	5657/5658	Kanchanjunga Express
32.	N.F.	5659/5660	Kamrup Express
33.	N.F.	5905/5906	Kamrup Express (M.G.)
34.	N.F.	5623/5624	Cochin-Guwahati Express
35.	N.R.	5625/5626	SBC-GHY Express
36.	N.R.	1 SB/2 SB	Samdari-Bhildi Passenger (M.G.)
37.	N.R.	2005/2006	Shatabdi Express
38.	N.R.	2011/2012	Shatabdi Express
39.	N.R.	2013/2014	Shatabdi Express
40.	N.R.	2015/2016	Shatabdi Express
41.	N.R.	2017/2018	Shatabdi Express
42.	N.R.	2311/2312	Kalka Mail (S.F.)
43.	N.R.	2401/2402	Shramjeevi Express (S.F.)
44.	N.R.	2421/2422	Rajdhani Express
45.	N.R.	2423/2424	Rajdhani Express
46.	N.R.	2425/2426	Rajdhani Express
47.	N.R.	2471/2472	Swaraj Express (S.F.)
48.	N.R.	2475/2476	Sarvodaya Express
49.	N.R.	2477/2478	Sarvodaya JAT-Hapa Express
50.	N.R.	2779/2780	Goa Express (S.F.)
51.	N.R.	4057/4058	Kashi-Vishwanath Express
52.	N.R.	4083/4084	Mahananda Express
53.	N.R.	4245/4246	Tapti Ganga Express
54.	N.R.	4659/4660	NDLS-ASR Express
55.	N.R.	4667/4668	Malwa Express
56.	N.R.	4681/4682	Ludhiana Express
57.	N.R.	4709/4710	Bikaner-Churu Link Express (M.G.)
58.	N.R.	4789/4790	Bikaner Express (M.G.)
59.	N.R.	4827/4828	Ranakpur Express (M.G.)
60.	N.R.	4893/4894	Jodhpur Mail (M.G.)
61.	N.R.	2427/2428	ADI-NDLS Rajdhani Express
62.	N.R.	2437/2438	SC-HNZM Rajdhani Express
63.	N.R.	2029/2030	Amritsar-New Delhi Shatabdi (Reverse)

1	2	3	4
64.	S.C.	2713/2714	Satavahana Express (S.F.)
65.	S.C.	2711/2712	Pinakini Express (S.F.)
66.	S.C.	7021/7022	Dakshin Express
67.	S.C.	7017/7018	SC-RJT Express Extension of Shirdi
68.	S.C.	7061/7062	Shirdi Express
69.	S.C.	7245/7246	Ratnachal Express
70.	S.C.	9769/9770	Jaipur-Purna Express
71.	S.C.	7057/7058	Cochin-Bilaspur
72.	S.C.	7081/7082	Ahilyanagri Express
73.	S.C.	7029/7030	Cochin-Hyderabad
74.	S.C.	2715/2716	Nanded-Amritsar Express
75.	S.C.	2703/2704	Faluknuma Express
76.	S.C.	7617/7618	Tapovan Express
77.	S.E.	2801/2802	Purshotam Express (S.F.)
78.	S.E.	8001/8002	Howrah-Bombay Mail
79.	S.E.	8033/8034	ADI-HWH Express
80.	S.E.	8101/8102	Muri Express
81.	S.E.	8301/8302	Hirakud Express
82.	S.E.	8401/8402	Puri-Okha Express
83.	S.E.	8601/8602	Tata-PKT Express linked with 8101/02
84.	S.E.	8689/8690	Bokaro-Alleppey Express
85.	S.E.	8543/8544	Samta Express
86.	S.E.	8603/8604	Ranchi/Hatia - Delhi Weekly
87.	S.E.	8553/8554	VSKP-HNZM (Via BZA) Bi-weekly
88.	S.E.	2021/2022	Shatabdi Express
89.	S.R.	2007/2008	Shatabdi Express
90.	S.R.	2023/2024	Shatabdi Express
91.	S.R.	2429/2430	Rajdhani Express
92.	S.R.	2431/2432	Rajdhani Express
93.	S.R.	2607/2608	Lalbagh Express (S.F.)
94.	S.R.	2617/2618	Mangala Express (S.F.)
95.	S.R.	2633/2634	Rajdhani Express
96.	S.R.	2637/2638	Kudal Nagar Express (S.F.)

1	2	3	4
97.	S.R.	2675/2676	Kovali Express (S.F.)
98.	S.R.	6045/6046	Navjivan Express
99.	S.R.	6309/6310	Cochin-Patna Express
100.	S.R.	6315/6316	Cochin-Howrah Express
101.	S.R.	6335/6336	NCJ/TVC-GIM Express
102.	S.R.	6337/6338	Cochin-Rajkot Express
103.	S.R.	6339/6340	NGC-MCST Express
104.	S.R.	6341/6342	TVC-ERN Express
105.	S.R.	6501/6502	Ahmedabad Express
106.	S.R.	6687/6688	Navyug Express
107.	S.R.	6323/6324	TVC-HWH Express
108.	S.R.	6343/6344	Kerala (ERS) - Nizamuddin
109.	S.R.	6505/6506	SBC-HNZM (Via Hubli) Weekly
110.	S.R.	2677/2678	SBC-CBE Extension of Kovai Exp.
111.	S.R.	6331/6332	Trivendrum-Kurla Express
112.	W.R.	2009/2010	Shatabdi Express
113.	W.R.	2473/2474	Sarvodaya Express
114.	W.R.	2933/2934	Karnavati Express (S.F.)
115.	W.R.	2955/2956	BCT-JP Express (S.F.)
116.	W.R.	9011/9012	Gujarat Express
117.	W.R.	9305/9306	Shipra Express
118.	W.R.	9965/9966	Bhildi Express (M.G.)

[English]

Allotment of Government Accommodation

3078. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has restrained the Union Government from allotting Government accommodation to trusts, memorials and political parties and also directed to adopt a clear policy in the matter;

(b) if so, the criteria laid down for the allotment of such accommodation; and

(c) the details of the allotments made during 1998 till date, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) The High Court of Delhi has, vide its order dated 10.11.98 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.2560/97, restrained the Union Government from allotting Government accommodation to Trusts, Memorials and Political Parties without the leave of the Court till the next date of hearing. It has also directed the Government to place on record the policy relating to the allotment of Government houses for the purposes of memorials, trusts and political parties.

(b) At present, no guidelines exist for allotment of Government accommodation to trusts and memorials. However, some allotments have been made in the past in some cases, depending on the merits of each case. The allotment of Government accommodation to the political parties has been made in terms of the policy guidelines dated 24.10.85 and 10.8.98. These guidelines are presently under review, in consultation with the Rajya Sabha/Lok Sabha Secretariat.

(c) A Statement is attached.

Statement

S.No.	Name of Political Party	Accommodation Allotted	Date of Allotment
1.	Bhartiya Janta Party	H-1, Kalibari Marg (Type-I)	28.10.98
2.	Bhartiya Janta Party	61/20, S-III DIZ Area (Type-III)	2.9.98
3.	Bhartiya Janta Party	12/461, Sec-1, DIZ Area (In lieu of K-5/12 S.II DIZ Area allotted on 2.9.98) (Type-III)	14.9.98
4.	Bhartiya Janta Party	703 B.K.S Marg (in lieu of 18/1B S.II DIZ Area, allotted on 2.9.98) (Type-III)	29.10.98
5.	Bhartiya Janta Party	A-234 Pandara Road (Type-IV)	3.9.98
6.	Bhartiya Janta Party	13 Windsor Place (Type-VI)	28.5.98
7.	Bhartiya Janta Party	AB-19 Tilak Marg (Type-VII)	20.8.98
8.	Janta Dal	AB-14, Pandara Road (in lieu of type VIII Bungalow No.9 Akbar Road) (Type-VII)	11.11.98

Closing of Concrete Sleeper Factory

3079. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) Whether the Government are aware about the closure of concrete sleeper factory at New Jalpaiguri under Northeast Frontier Railway since September, 1996; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) On completion of supply against original contract, the firm was manufacturing sleepers against ad hoc orders placed on them and production was continued upto Oct., 1997. Thereafter the production had to be stopped as the firm did not accept the counter offer made by Railways against the Open Tender invited in June, 1997. Now in Dec., 1998, in order to continue supply, another ad hoc order has been placed on the firm till finalization of fresh Tender opened on 27.10.1998.

Attachment of Coach

3080. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations from various organizations and Members of Parliament regarding (i) attachment of two additional reserved coaches under Tatkal reservations scheme in Jamnagar-Jammu tawi train, (ii) linking of Jamnagar with Delhi under the computer reservation system, and (iii) connection of Rajkot to train No. 1270/1269 and Bhopal-Rajkot with train No. 211/212;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) No representation has been received regarding attachment of two additional reserved coaches under Tatkal reservations scheme in Jamnagar-Jammu tawi train. However, some

representations including from Nawanagar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jamnagar through Shri Chandresh Patel, Member of Parliament have been received for introduction of through coaches between Porbandar and Bhopal by train Nos. 212/1269 and 1270/211.

At present, 211/212 Rajkot-Porbandar Fast Passenger provides a suitable connection to 1269/1270 Rajkot-Bhopal Express at Rajkot in both directions. Introduction of through coaches between Porbandar and Bhopal has been examined but not found feasible.

As regards linking of Jamnagar with Delhi under the Computer reservation system, a project has been undertaken for networking of the 5 computerised passenger reservation systems of Calcutta, Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi and Secunderabad, the software for which has been developed. The first phase of the project has been successfully implemented by linking Delhi, Secunderabad and Calcutta systems. Jamnagar will get linked with the remaining systems as soon as the networking project is implemented.

Construction of Flyover at Faridabad

3081. DR. RAVI MALLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction work of flyover at Bata Level crossing in Faridabad has been suspended for quite some time ago;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps the Government are taking to construct this flyover expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The work is in progress.

(c) State Government of Haryana is exploring the possibility of construction of this bridge as a four lane road over bridge on BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer) basis which is at advance stage of finalisation. Railways have already given clearance and have asked the State Govt. to deposit funds for execution of work of bridge across railway tracks as this portion of work is to be executed by Railways

[Translation]

Condition of Arambagh Government Colony

3082. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware of the pathetic condition of sewer disposal lines/seepage in type-I and II Government quarters/garrages of Arambagh Colony; and;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BHANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Maintenance of main sewerage system of the colony is with MCD. MCD have reported that some complaints regarding blockage of main sewer line were received. The damaged portion of sewer has been replaced and there is no complaint at present.

Roof treatment to Type I and II quarters against seepage has been undertaken. Seepage in garrages is due to vegetation growth on terrace which has since been removed and repairs against seepage will be taken up and completed during the current financial year.

[English]

Sale of Military Equipment by France

3083. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of France has shown inclination towards selling military equipments to India; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government of India thereto in the context of large scale military cooperation between Pakistan and France?

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

(b) To meet the requirements of the armed forces of India, Government imports defence material, equipment and technology from friendly countries including France in the context of India's overall security concerns.

Misuse of Park

3084. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Park earmarked for school in Cooperative Group House Building Society Ltd., Shivalik, New Delhi is being used for other purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the permission to use the plot has been obtained; and

(d) if not, the action taken by the Government against the management?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) As per inspection conducted by the office of Registrar Cooperative Societies, it has been revealed that the C-Block park which is actually earmarked for the purpose of a school, is being used by the society, for holding various functions/parties for its Members.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The society has been directed by the Land and Development Office to stop the misuse immediately. The local Police and Registrar, Co-operative Societies have also been advised to check further misuse, if any, by the Society.

[Translation]

Cargo Facility at Patna

3085. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for air lifting of vegetables in lowest possible time to foreign countries in view of substantial production of vegetables and fruits in Bihar;

(b) whether there is a proposal to provide air cargo facility at Patna with a view to meet domestic demand; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Bihar State Export Corporation (a Government of Bihar undertaking) has a proposal to develop an Air Cargo Complex outside the precincts of the airport and has acquired land for this purpose. The Airport Authority of India has issued the site NOC from aircraft operational point of view. Airlines are free to operate cargo services to airlift perishable cargo from Bihar keeping in view the demand and commercial viability.

[English]

Setting up of N.S.C.

3086. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED :
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Security Council (NSC) has since been formed; and

(b) if so, the composition thereof and the functions assigned to it?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) A six Member National Security

Council (NSC) has been set up with the Prime Minister as its Chairman and the Ministers for Defence, Finance, Home Affairs, External Affairs and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission as its members. The functions of the NSC would include reviewing, monitoring, making long-term prognoses and considering policy options on all aspects of national security of the country.

Construction of Air Strip at Phaltan (Maharashtra)

3087. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct an Air Strip or Airport in Phaltan in Satara District (Maharashtra); and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the site as proposed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Phaltan Air-strip in Satara belongs to the State Government of Maharashtra. The Airports Authority of India has no plan to develop this air-strip.

Srinagar Airport

3088. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Srinagar Airport, which was closed for air traffic in June has been reopened for normal air traffic in the month of November, 1998; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Srinagar Airport has been reopened for normal air-traffic from 1st December, 1998.

[Translation]

Agitation at Chaleshar Station

3089. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the daily railway commuters created a disorderly scene at the Chaleshar railway station (U.P.) in the Agra bound train coming from Shikohabad during the magistrate checking, damaged the engine and set the railway station on fire;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the Government property damaged thereby;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any probe into it; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 24.8.1998 Up STA Passenger train arrived Chaleshar Station at 9.00 hrs. from Shikohabad. The train was checked for ticketless travellers by Asstt. Commercial Manager and other Staff. During the checking one passenger jumped off the train and fell on the track. His leg got amputated under the moving train. After the checking staff had left the station, the passengers got agitated and the Station Master along with other railway staff was manhandled. Window panes and telephones were broken and the Station Records were set on fire.

(c) and (d) On intimation a case vide No. 235/98 under section 146,151 of Railway Act and Section 147,436,427 of Indian Penal Code was registered at Government Railway Police Station, Tundla against unknown passengers. The case was investigated by GRP authorities. However, the accused could not be identified and therefore, the case was closed vide final report No. 27 dated 12.10.1998.

[English]

Public Utility Services at Ahmedabad Airport

3090. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ahmedabad Airport lacks public utility services for the passengers and for those accompanying them;

(b) if so, whether there is no seating arrangements for the passengers and the charges for refreshments are also very high;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to provide the seating arrangements there and the charges for the refreshment be charged at par that are being charged at other airports of the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. The seating arrangements are provided inside the terminal building. However, at the time of bunching of flights, there is over crowding in the Departure Hall. The prices charged for refreshments are reasonable. The Airports Authority of India has initiated action for extending the holding lounge and provide a hall for visitors in front of both domestic departure hall and arrival hall of the international terminal building.

Expenditure Incurred on Maintenance of MP Flats

3091. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred on the maintenance of M.P. flats in South Avenue and North Avenue during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the maintenance staff has been reduced during the above period;

(c) if not, the reason for awarding contract to contractors to carry out petty work therein; and

(d) the number of complaints received against the works carried out by contractors and the action taken by the Government on each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Details of expenditure on the maintenance of MP flats in South Avenue and North Avenue during the last three years is given as under :-

Year	Expenditure (in lakhs)
1995-96	Rs.372.32
1996-97	Rs.491.93
1997-98	Rs.558.12

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Availability of Departmental labour is sufficient to attend only day to day complaints. Other works like periodical repairs and minor works are got done through contractors.

(d) No complaints has been received against the works carried out by the contractors.

Case Against Stainless Steel Bright Bars

3092. SHRI S.S. OWAISI :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have lost the case against Stainless Steel Bright Bars in European Union;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether some Indian companies have been exempted from countervailing duty;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which export of steel bars are likely to be affected by this decision of EU; and

- (e) steps taken to improve the export of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) On the basis of complaints filed by the European industry the European Commission had initiated Anti-Subsidy proceedings in October 1997 against the Stainless Steel Bright Bars (SSBBs) originating from India, alleging that the Indian Government provides subsidies to its exporters through its export promotional schemes under Exim Policy viz. EPZ Scheme, Pass Book Scheme/Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme, EPCG Scheme and the Income Tax exemption provided to the exporters. As no unit/company was located in the Export processing Zones, the EC dropped this from the purview of subsidy.

However, the EC concluded their investigations saying that the benefits accrued under these schemes amounted to countervailable subsidies causing injury to the domestic industry.

(c) and (d) No countervailing duty has been imposed by the Commission on two units, viz. M/s Panchmahal Steel Ltd., Baroda and M/s Parekh Bright Bars Private Ltd. The imposition of countervailing duties is expected to have an adverse impact on the export of Indian Stainless Steel Bars to EU. It is however, difficult to make an accurate assessment of the extent of the impact.

(e) Government has taken several steps to boost exports of steel. One of these is, a Steel Exporters' Forum under the chairmanship of Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel has been set up with major steel producers/associations as its members. The main objectives of the Forum inter-alia include :

- (a) To support, protect, maintain, increase and promote export of iron and steel by such methods as may be necessary or expedient.
- (b) Identify potential export markets through intensive market research and develop products to meet specific demands in the international markets.

Some of the other measures taken by the Government to facilitate exports include :

- (i) Full convertibility of export earnings at market rate of exchange;
- (ii) Facility available to Exporters to import their requirement of raw materials duty free under the Advance Licensing Scheme;
- (iii) Refund of the duty paid on any imported or excisable material used in the manufacture of export goods;

- (iv) Exemption of export earning from income tax under Section 80 HHC; and
- (v) Enhancement of duty credit rates under Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme on most of the iron and steel items to encourage export of iron and steel.

Cheating in MES

3093. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned, "Five Former MES officials chargesheeted" appearing in the Times of India dated October 2, 1998;

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

(c) the steps taken to cleanse the MES of the rampant corruption?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Five officers of the MES were chargesheeted for awarding a contract at highly exorbitant rates for supply, installation and commissioning of a mechanical laundry plant at R and R Hospital, Delhi Cantt. Prosecution against all the officers and trial are being undertaken by the Special CBI Court.

(c) While regular vigilance is being kept to prevent malpractices in the functioning of the MES, additional steps like streamlining of selection of contractors by a committee of senior officers, increasing frequency of vigilance checks, expediting disciplinary proceedings and other steps are being undertaken.

Increase of Coaches

3094. SHRI DINSHAW PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any demands were received by the Government to increase the number of coaches in EMU train between Baroda-Godhara-Baroda;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) At present, EMU trains are not running between Vadodara and Godhra. However, requests including from Smt. Urmilaben Chimanbhai Patel, MP have been received for increasing the coaches in MEMU trains on Vadodara-Godhra section.

(c) MEMU trains on Vadodara-Godhra-Ratlam sections have been augmented by 4 coaches w.e.f. 1.6.1998. Further, augmentation of these MEMU trains is not feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

New Railway Lines

3095. SHRI VITHAL TUPE :
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to include new railway lines of Maharashtra during 1999-2000 for which survey has already been completed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The information will be known when the Railway Budget for 1999-2000 is presented in Parliament sometime in February, 1999.

Wage Agreement by Indian Airlines

3096. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY :
SHRI SUNIL KHAN

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether wage settlements have been arrived at by Indian Airlines with the Air Corporations' Employees Union for the period of five years from September, 1990;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase in wages and allowances granted to them;

(c) whether wage settlement has also been arrived at by Indian Airlines with the Indian Aircrafts Technicians Association for the period of five years from September 1, 1990;

(d) if so, the percentage of wage increase granted to the employees covered by the Indian Aircrafts Technicians Association;

(e) whether wage settlement are now due to be arrived at by Indian Airlines with the Recognised Trade Unions; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Wage Settlement with Air Corporations Employees Union categories of employees for the period 1.9.1990 to 31.8.1995 has been arrived at and

the same was settled in two time frames i.e. September, 1990 to December, 1991 and January, 1992 to August, 1995. The increase given in September, 1990 works out in the range of 9% to 12% at various stages and between 14% and 23% as on January, 1992.

(c) and (d) Wage Settlement with Indian Aircraft Technicians Association for the period 1.9.1990 to 31.12.1996 has been signed and the same has also been signed in two time-frames i.e. September, 1990 to December, 1991 and January, 1992 to December, 1996. The percentage increase given as on September, 1990 works out between 9% and 19% for various stages and between 25% and 30% as on January, 1992.

(e) and (f) Discussions are on with the recognised Unions/Associations.

Illegal Mines

3097. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :
SHRI SOM MARANDI :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any list of illegal mines under operation in various parts of the country;

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

(c) The steps being taken by the Government to close down the illegal mines in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Central Government does not maintain any such list.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Action is taken as per law on detection of cases of illegal mining.

[Translation]

Rock Sliding on Railway Line

3098. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to incessant rains a big rock fell down and totally blocked the railway line between Multtai and Maiyakata stations in Nagpur railway division on September 14, 1998; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not conducting any survey of railway lines during rainy season to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Every year, pre-monsoon survey is conducted and loose boulders or earth in cutting which are likely to fall and obstruct Railway line are removed before onset of monsoon. In addition stationary watchmen/patrolmen are posted at vulnerable locations where such problems are anticipated. However this rainfall in this section has been unprecedented as this has been quite greater than normal/average rainfall in this area. However, efforts are made to prevent blockage of traffic due to such incident by keeping vigil and patrolling the track constantly during the rainy season.

[English]

Disruption of Rail Traffic due to Derailment

3099. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been frequent disruption of rail traffic due to derailment of passenger and goods trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of trains cancelled due to such traffic disruption during the last two years. Zone-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir. Disruption of rail traffic due to accidents (including derailments) during last three years are given below :-

1995-96	-	6661 hrs.
1996-97	-	5289 hrs.
1997-98	-	4526 hrs.

(b) Indian Railways do not maintain statistics of location-wise train cancellations due to derailments.

Utilisation of Area in BGML

3100. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than 12,000 acres of land is available in Kolar Gold Field which belongs to Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML);

(b) whether the Government have any plan to rehabilitate the former employees on this land; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) With a view to helping rehabilitation of its former employees, Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) has taken the following action :-

- (i) Taken up the matter with the Govt. of Karnataka to develop Kolar Gold Field area as an industrial area to create employment opportunities for the disengaged employees/their dependants.
- (ii) The employees disengaged under Voluntary Retirement Scheme have been asked to form co-operative society to develop sericulture in BGML area. The company has contacted Silk Board Under Ministry of Textiles, Bangalore to provide technical assistance to train them.
- (iii) a reference has been made to the Govt. of Karnataka for the transfer of about 1000 acres of land along with the houses of employees/ex-employees to the ad-joining municipal area on mutually agreed terms.

[Translation]

Losses Suffered by Railways

3101. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total losses occurred since 1995 due to the detaining of railway wagons in marshalling yards beyond the stipulated time, zone-wise;

(b) the extent of loss suffered due to late departure of goods trains for their destinations during the said period;

(c) whether any accountability has been fixed for these losses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

Marshalling yard detentions and late departure of goods trains form only part of the total freight operations. It may not be correct to draw conclusions by studying certain pockets of operation in isolation of the entire gamut of operations. The two best indices of wagon utilisation and goods train mobility are the wagon kilometre/wagon day and net tonnes kilometre/wagon day. Details for the period 1990-91 to 1996-97 are as under :

Year	Net Tonne Kilometre/ wagon day (Broad Gauge)	Wagon Kilometre/ wagon day (Broad Gauge)
1990-91	1407	110.5
1991-92	1439	113.2
1992-93	1457	116.4
1993-94	1506	125.0
1994-95	1591	138.0
1995-96	1792	151.2
1996-97	1840	157.8

Net tonne kilometre/wagon day has increased by 30.7% between 1990-91 and 1996-97 while wagon kilometre/wagon day has gone up by 43% during the same period indicating significant improvement in wagon utilisation and wagon mobility. Therefore, the question of loss does not arise.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Gauge Conversion of Khagaria-Samastipur Rail Line

3102: PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA
SHRI BIJOY KUMAR BIJOY
SHRI HIRA LAL ROY

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 2293 on June 11, 1998 regarding Gauge Conversion of Khagaria-Samastipur Rail line and state

(a) whether the necessary clearance has been obtained;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay alongwith other formalities required by the Government for expeditious undertaking of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The survey had not been completed when the work was included in the Budget. Subsequently, the survey report has been received, finalised and is being sent to the Planning Commission for their appraisal. Once this has been done by them then further consideration of the project

by the Expanded Board and thereafter by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs will become possible.

Additions to Fleet

3103. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to phase out old aircraft and inoperative Helicopters and add new aircraft to meet growing traffic load on various routes both domestic and international; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of new aircrafts added by Indian Airlines and Air India during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Expansion/renewal of fleet by the airlines is a continuing exercise and depends on various factors, the more important ones being the resources of the airlines, traffic requirements, suitability of the aircraft type and viability of operations of various sectors/routes.

Air India has inducted two B747-400 aircraft into its fleet during the last three years.

Indian Airlines has not inducted any new aircraft into its fleet during the last three years.

Derailments

3104. SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY :
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether two incident of derailments were occurred one of Hyderabad-Narsapur Express near Sattenapalli of Guntur District on October 8, 1988 and another of Intercity Express between Hyderabad and Guntur on October 15, 1998;

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

(c) the number of persons killed/injured therein;

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of two derailments are as under :-

(1) There was a derailment of 7056 Hyderabad-Narsapur Express on 8.10.1998 between Sattenapalli-Pedakurapadu stations on Vijayawada Division of South Central Railway.

As per preliminary finding of Commissioner of Railway Safety, the cause of accident is "Sabotage".

- (2) On 15 October, 1998 there was another derailment of 7006 Intercity Express between Srirampuram-Nalgonda stations on Secunderabad Division of South Central Railway. This accident occurred due to human failure.

(c) (1) Number of persons killed/injured in derailment of 7056 Express which occurred on October 8, 1998

Killed = 11 Injured = 37

(2) Number of persons killed/injured in derailment of 7006 Intercity Express which occurred on October 15, 1998 :

Killed = Nil Injured = 12

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. (i) In the accident of 7056 Express dated 8.10.1998, the enquiry is being conducted by Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Central Circle. (ii) In the accident of 7006 Intercity Express, the inquiry is being conducted by a group of Senior Administrative Grade Officers of the Indian Railways.

National Rent Control Legislation

3105. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to enact National Rent Control Legislation to stimulate investment in rental housing in the country as proposed in its National Housing Policy, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such legislation is likely to come?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting up of Wagon Repair Centre

3106. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government consider to set up a Wagon Repair Centre at Kantabangi as the locoshed has been shifted from Kantabangi to Tittagarh;

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

(c) if not, whether the Government consider for returning the land to the donor, as per the agreement between the donor and the railways; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The land has been utilised for an Engineering Training Centre which is already functional and an Operating Training Centre is proposed to be set up there.

[Translation]

Audit of National Airport Authority of India

3107 SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the accounts of the National Airport Authority of India have not been audited for more than last four years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken for auditing the accounts of all the departments of the above authority and laying the conclusions thereof on the floor of the House?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Audited Accounts of National Airports Authority, upto 1994-95 have been laid before Parliament.

Airports Authority of India (AAI) has been formed by the merger of erstwhile National Airports Authority and International Airports Authority of India from 1-4-1995 and Audited Accounts of AAI upto 1996-97 have been laid before Parliament.

[English]

Diversion of Flights to Ahmedabad

3108. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines has decided to divert some more flights to Ahmedabad Airport; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has already airlinked Ahmedabad to Pune by thrice weekly B-737 services, operating on Calcutta/Ahmedabad/Pune/Bangalore/Chennai route

Telecommunication Network

3109. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunication has served a notice to Indian Railways that it would not be maintaining the railway telecommunication line in future;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any appeal is pending with Telecom Regulatory Authority of India to sort out the differences;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Railways has made an alternative arrangements to maintain its telecommunication network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

(c) and (d) Some of the Railways had approached Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) seeking their assistance in getting better services from the Department of Telecommunication (DOT). A tripartite meeting between DOT, Railways and TRAI was arranged by the TRAI in which the need for improved maintenance and difficulties in maintenance of circuits were discussed. DOT agreed to make efforts to improve the maintenance of circuits.

(e) - Does not arise.

[Translation]

Curtailment of Expenditure

3110. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
DR. SUSHIL INDORA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has received instructions from the Ministry of Finance in regard to cut-short the number of employees and the salary emoluments including other expenditure; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has received instructions from Ministry of Finance regarding economy in Government expenditure, which interalia, contain the direction that the vacancies arising may be filled in such a manner that while the promotional avenues of the existing employees are not adversely affected, the vacant posts of the lower level in the hierarchy are abolished to the maximum possible extent. These instructions also call for a 10% mandatory cut on non-salary secretariat expenditure i.e. on Travelling Allowance, Office Expenses, Petroleum Oil Lubricants, Over Time Allowance/ Honorarium etc.

(b) This Ministry has conveyed these instructions to the concerned units for compliance.

[English]

Sale of Land by DDA.

3111. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD) : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Development Authority has sold land to the cultural, social, commercial and educational institutions during the last the three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the price of the land sold has been reckoned less than its market value;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the procedures followed to keep the price less?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) The DDA has reported that details of land allotted to cultural, social and educational institutions by DDA during the last 3 years is as follows :

1995-96	-	131 nos. (Approx.)
1996-97	-	130 nos. (")
1997-98	-	136 nos. (")

Similarly, DDA has sold out 147 nos. of commercial plots through public auction out of which possession of 7 plots has not been handed over due to Court case.

(c) to (e) The rate of institutional land is fixed by the Government keeping in view the objectives of the institutions. So far as commercial properties are concerned, reserve price for the property is fixed and property sold through auction

Late Running of Trains

3112. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there has been considerable adverse effect on the punctuality of trains and the security of the passengers during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details of the trains which have not been able to follow the time schedule alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for providing the safe journey to the passengers and for running of trains in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A statement is attached.

Statement

The following steps have been taken to provide safe journey to the commuters and punctuality of trains :

- (i) Safety drivers are launched at regular intervals to guard against the unsafe practices as well as to create the sense of alertness amongst the field staff engaged in train operation.
- (ii) Counselling of the running and Station staff to improve Safety awareness through publication of Safety posters, hand books and Safety bulletins in conducting Safety Seminars.
- (iii) Public awareness campaign prohibiting carriage of inflammable articles in compartments is also being launched.
- (iv) Improvement in track circuiting on running lines especially at stations in 'A' & 'B' routes.
- (v) Quality C & W examination of the coaches at C and W depot.

To maintain punctuality of trains point to point monitoring as well as foot-plate inspections are done in divisional level and Head Quarters level in regular basis. Punctuality conferences are daily conducted by DRM of the Division and GMs of Zonal Railways. Punctuality Cell is working round the clock in Railway Board, to monitor punctuality of certain nominated trains.

Detention of Wagons

3113. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have lost Rs. 500 crores on account of detention of wagons in yards beyond the targets as pointed out by the CAG in its report; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to utilise the wagons fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

Marshalling yard operations form only a small part of train operations. It will be incorrect to draw conclusions by studying certain pockets of operation in isolation of the entire gamut of operations. The two best indices of wagon utilisation and mobility are the wagon kilometre/wagon day and net tonnes kilometre/wagon day. Details for the period 1990-91 to 1996-97 are as under :

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1994-95	1591	138.0
1995-96	1792	151.2
1996-97	1840	157.8

Net tonne kilometre/wagon day has increased by 30.7% between 1990-91 and 1996-97 while wagon kilometre/wagon day has gone up by 43% during the same period indicating significant improvement in wagon utilisation and wagon mobility.

Upgradation Work of Planes at H.A.L.

3114. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :

SHRI H.G. RAMULU :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken up upgradation work at the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Airport at Bangalore;

(b) if so, whether the work on Airport's International terminal has been completed;

(c) if so, the estimated amount for the above work;

(d) the time by which International Terminal will be dedicated to the nation; and

(e) the international flights that are proposed to be operated from Bangalore?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) to (d) Airports Authority of India has undertaken the upgradation work of International Terminal at Bangalore airport at a cost of Rs. 21.83 crores. This work is expected to be completed by December, 1998 and the terminal would be commissioned by January, 1999. Central air conditioning and installation and commissioning of aerobridges will be done by June, 1999.

(e) It is proposed to operate more international flights from Bangalore, details of which are being worked out. At present, Indian Airlines is operating the following international flights from Bangalore

Bangalore - Muscat	Thrice a week;
Bangalore - Sharjah	Thrice a week;
Bangalore - Singapore	Thrice a week;

[Translation]

Selling of Steel at Cheap Rate in B.S.P.

3115 SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether in league with a private agency officers of Bokaro Steel Plant sold steel at cheap rate due to which the plant incurred a loss of Rs. 2.45 crore;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard, and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof alongwith the action taken against the person found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[English]

Shifting of Zonal Office

3116. SHRI H.G. RAMULU :
SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the South Western Zone was established in Bangalore;

(b) - whether there is any proposal to shift the above zone to Hubli;

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be shifted;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up Railway Recruitment Board in Hubli; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The South Western Zone was established on 16.9.1996 and inaugural function was held on 1.11.1996.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Upgradation of Thiruvananthapuram Airport

3117. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the detail of the proposals that are under consideration of the Government to expand and modernise the Thiruvananthapuram Airport;

(b) whether the facilities at the Airport will be expanded to facilitate the operation of night flight services of both Air India and Indian Airlines there; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The following development works have been undertaken at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport :-

(1) Extension of apron is likely to be completed in December, 1998;

(2) Air-conditioning of the international terminal building is likely to be completed in December, 1998; and

(3) Interim modification to the Terminal Building is likely to be completed in March, 1999.

(b) and (c) Night landing facilities already exist at Thiruvananthapuram airport.

[Translation]

Opening of Computerised Reservation Counters

3118. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received demands for opening of more computerised reservation counters under the Eastern Zone particularly at Daltonganj;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and
- (c) the details of the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Computerised Passenger Reservation System being very popular among the travelling public, demands from local/public representatives from every parts of the country are received. Provision of such facilities is an on-going process and these are provided at stations/locations keeping in view the justification, feasibility subject to availability of resources/funds. At present such facilities are being provided at stations/locations where the work load of reservation related transactions per day is 200 and above. Daltonganj at present does not fall in this category. The position will be reviewed whenever the work load increases adequately.

Performance of Duties

3119. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a group of railway employees in Allahabad Division of Northern Railways do not work themselves and force other employees to work on their behalf and get the full salary;

(b) if so, the number of railway ticket checking staff against whom evidence of not performing their duties and force other employees to do their duties on their behalves has been found; and

(c) the action taken against such corrupt railway employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) An allegation to this effect has been made in one of the complaints against four railway employees of Allahabad Division. An enquiry has been initiated against them and suitable action will be taken after enquiry is over.

[English]

Periodical Overhauling of Airconditioned Coaches at Mysore Railway Workshop

3120. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present capacity of periodical overhauling (POH) of coaches at Mysore Railway Workshop;

(b) whether there is any proposal to enhance the POH capacity of above workshop;

(c) whether there is any proposal for POH facility of airconditioned coaches at above workshop;

(d) if so, the estimated cost of the above proposal;

(e) whether the above proposal has been approved by the Railway Board; and

(f) if not, the time by which the above proposal is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The present capacity is 40 Broad Gauge (BG) coaches per month.

(b) There is a plan to enhance the POH capacity from the present level of 40 coaches per month to 57 coaches per months by the end of IX Plan.

(c) There is a plan to create facilities for POH of 6 Air Conditioned coaches per month by the end of IX Plan.

(d) Does not arise as the investment proposal has not yet been formulated.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Gauge Conversion of Ankleshwar-Rajpipla Rail Line

3121. SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey was conducted by Railways for conversion of Ankleshwar-Rajpipla Line into broad gauge line;

(b) if so, whether as per survey report it revealed inadequate traffic prospects;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct a fresh survey on the said line keeping in view the importance of the place; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Withdrawal of Government Accommodation

3122. SHRI H.P. SINGH : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to withdraw the Government accommodation from the employees having their own houses in Delhi ;

(b) whether a number of employees having not their own houses are not getting the Government accommodation in time; and

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

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) As per provisions of the Allotment of Government Residences (General Pool in Delhi) Rules, 1963, an officer owning a house either in his name or in the name of his family at the place of duty, is eligible for allotment of Government accommodation on payment of licence fee at such rates as may be determined by the Government from time to time. At present no proposal is under consideration to debar the house owning employees for allotment of Government accommodation.

(b) Yes, Sir. On the basis of restricted number of applications invited for the current allotment year, 31,774 Central Government employees are waiting for allotment of various types of accommodation in Delhi.

(c) To provide general pool residential accommodation expeditiously, the Government is taking necessary steps to augment the existing housing stock within the constraints of resources. During the Ninth Five Year Plan period it is proposed to construct 1178 residential units of various categories in Delhi.

[Translation]

Stoppage of Trains

3123. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the existing rules for providing stoppages for Mail/Express trains;

(b) whether recently, stoppages of some Mail Express trains have been provided in various Railway-zones;

(c) if so, the details thereof, train-station-wise;

(d) whether the Government have received letters from Members of Parliament in connection with providing stoppages of trains during the last one year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Availability of traffic, number of trains already stopping, timings of the train, operational feasibility, nature of the train etc. are the factors taken into account for stoppage of a train.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details thereof are given in the attached statement.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. Representations received for providing stoppages were examined and those found feasible were provided.

Statement**Stoppages provided on Indian Railways from January 98 onwards**

S.No.	Train	Station
1	2	3
1	8237/8238	Chhatisgarh Express
2	1061/1062	Lashkar Express
3	1451/1452	Dikshabhumi Express
4	1181/1182/1159/1160	Chambal Expresses
5	1029/1030	Pune-Howrah Azad Hind Express
6	2407/2408/2409/2410	Gondwana Expresses
7	8183/8184	Danapur-Tata Express
		Babina
		Devlali
		Ghoradongri
		Datia
		Belapur
		Hoshangabad
		Barh

1	2	3	
8	8183/8184	Danapur-Tata Express	Bakhtiyarpur
9	2801/2802	Purshottam Express	Dehri-on-Sone
10	2801/2802	Purshottam Express	Anugrahnarayan Road
11	3039/3040	Howrah-Delhi Janta Express	Athmalgola
12	3401/3402	Bhagalpur-Patna Intercity Express	Luckeesarai
13	5027/5028	Maurya Express	Luckeesarai
14	3231/3232	Howrah-Danapur Express	Jamui
15	3413/3414	Farakka Express	Gahmar
16	3483/3484	Farakka Express	Gahmar
17	3348/3349	Palamau Express	Punpun
18	8625/8626	Patna-Hatia Express	Taregna
19	3401/3402	Bhagalpur-Patna Intercity Express	Fatuha
20	3401/3402	Bhagalpur-Patna Intercity Express	Patna Sahib
21	3111/3112	Lalquila Express	Fatuha
22	3347/3348	Dadar-Bhagalpur Express	Dumraon
23	3413/3414	Farakka Express	Dumraon
24	3483/3484	Farakka Express	Dumraon
25	3413/3414	Farakka Express	Bihiya
26	3483/3484	Farakka Express	Bihiya
27	3413/3414	Farakka Express	Bihta
28	3483/3484	Farakka Express	Bihta
29	2859/2860	Geetanjali Express	Chakardharpur
30	2625/2626	Kerala Express	Kayankulam
31	2607/2608	Lalbagh Express	Kuppam
32	6340	Kurla-Nagercoil Express	Satur
33	1017/1018	Bangalore-Mumbai Express	Haveri
34	6307/6308	Alleppey-Cannanore Express	Tanur
35	6317/6318	Himsagar Express	Ottapalam
36	6011/6012	Mumbai-Chennai Express	Tadipatr
37	9769/9770	Purna-Jaipur Express	Barsi Takli
38	2780	Goa Express	Ghatprabha
39	2625/2626	Kerala Express	Nellore
40	7315/7316	Kolhapur-Tirupati Express	Raybag
41	7405/7406	Krishna Express	Vetapalam
42	7085/7086	Secunderabad-Bangalore Express	Jadcherla

1	2	3
43	7085/7086	Secunderabad-Bangalore Express
44	7615/7616	Visakha Express
45	9707/9708	Bandra-Jaipur Express
46	9707/9708	Bandra-Jaipur Express
47	9707/9708	Bandra-Jaipur Express
48	9911/9912	Ahmedabad-Patan Express
49	9915/9916	Ahmedabad-Mehesana Express
50	4005/4006	Indore-Nizamuddin Express
51	9769/9770	Jaipur-Purna Express
52	2961/2962	Avantika Express
53	9105/9106	Ahmedabad-Delhi Mail
54	9707/9708	Bandra-Jaipur Express
55	9707/9708	Bandra-Jaipur Express
56	9707/9708	Bandra-Jaipur Express
57	9707/9708	Bandra-Jaipur Express
58	9943	Delhi-Ahmedabad Express
59	9651/9652	Ajmer-Jaipur Express
60	6635/6636	Netravati Express
61	4707/4708	Bandra-Bikaner Express
62	4707/4708	Bandra-Bikaner Express
63	9303/9304	Bhopal-Indore Intercity Express
64	5063/5064	Avadh Express
65	9021/9022	Flying Ranee Express
66	4707/4708	Bandra-Bikaner Express
67	9303/9304	Indore-Bhopal Express
68	4055/4056	Brahmaputra Mail
69	4055/4056	Brahmaputra Mail
70	5603/5604	Guwhati-Tinsukia Express
71	5603/5604	Guwhati-Tinsukia Express
72	5603/5604	Guwhati-Tinsukia Express
73	5603/5604	Guwhati-Tinsukia Express
74	5603/5604	Guwhati-Tinsukia Express
75	5603/5604	Guwhati-Tinsukia Express
76	5603/5604	Guwhati-Tinsukia Express
77	5603/5604	Guwhati-Tinsukia Express
		Gadwal
		Akividu
		Swarupganj
		Nana
		Muribera
		Ambliyan
		Ambliyan
		Mahidpur
		Fatehabad Chandrawati Ganj
		Navsari
		Haripur
		Nadiad
		Anand
		Navsari
		Somesar
		Hamirgarh
		Tiloniya
		Roha
		Nadiad
		Anand
		Perchha
		Boisar
		Palghar
		Somesar
		Sehore
		Bhojo
		Bokajan
		Jagi Road
		Furkating
		Naharkatia
		Kampur
		Sarupathar
		Amgiro
		Bhoja
		Namrup

1	2	3	
78	5959/5960	Kamrup Express	Chaparmukh
79	5959/5960	Kamrup Express	Sarupathar
80	5959/5960	Kamrup Express	Namrup
81	5959/5960	Kamrup Express	Duliajan
82	5103/5104	Gorakhpur-Manduadih Intercity Express	Nunkhar
83	5027/5028	Gorakhpur-Hatia Maurya Express	Karpoorigram
84	3021/3022	Howrah-Raxaul Mithila Express	Karpoongram
85	5323/5324	Gandak Express	Harinagar
86	2423A/2424A	A New Delhi-Guwahati-Dibrugarh Rajdhani Link Express	Diphu
87	5003/5004	Chauri Chaura Express	Dullahpur
88	5213/5214	Swatantrata Sainani Express	Madhosingh
89	4015/4016	Sadbhavna Express	Motipur
90	5217/5218	Kurla-Muzaffarpur Express	Bhulanpur
91	5219/5220	Kurla-Darbhanga Express	Bhulanpur
92	3021	Howrah-Raxaul Mithila Express	Siho
93	5205/5206	Lichchavi Express	Bhagwanpur
94	4590	Bathinda-New Delhi Express	Gannaur
95	5206	Lichchavi Express	Tundla
96	5209/5210	Amritsar-Barauni Jansewa Express	Bareilly
97	2497/2498	Shan-E-Punjab Express	Rajpura
98	4517/4518	Unchahar Express	Shahabad Markanda
99	4023/4024	Kalindi Express	Bhogaon
100	4647/4648	Flying Mail	Mandi Gobind Garh
101	2029/2030	Swarn Shatabdi Express	Ambala Cantt
102	2013	New Delhi-Amritsar Shatabdi Express	Beas
103	2030	Amritsar-New Delhi Swarn Shatabdi Express	Beas
104	4589/4590	New Delhi-Bathinda Express	Narela
105	2017/2018	New Delhi-Dehradun Shatabdi Express	Roorkee
106	2431/2432	Trivandrum Rajdhani Express	Kota
107	2421/2422	Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express	Gaya
108	2431/2432	Trivandrum Rajdhani Express	Cannanore
109	2431/2432	Trivandrum Rajdhani Express	Sawantwadi Road
110	2431/2432	Trivandrum Rajdhani Express	Calicut
111	6321/6322	Guwahati-Trivandrum Express	Jaipur Keonjhar Road

[English]

Development of Sabarmati River Front

3124 SHRI HARIN PATHAK Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to assist the Gujarat Government for the development of 9 kms. Sabarmati River Front stretch; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) No specific proposal has been received as yet. A view on provision of assistance to the State Government will be taken as and when a proposal is received from them.

Penalty Imposed on CONCOR

3125 SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY :
SHRI SUNIL KHAN

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of times penalty has been imposed on the Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) by the Customs Authority for contravention of the provisions of Customs Act 1962 by the CONCOR official at Inland container Depot and Container Freight Station in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof during 1996, 1997 and 1998, and

(c) the action taken by the CONCOR management against the officials responsible for such penalty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two times, as per details below:-

1996	One
1997	Nil
1998	One

(c) (i) In case of penalty imposed in 1996, CONCOR has not accepted it and an appeal has been filed against the order in Central Excise and Gold Control Appellate Tribunal. As such the question of taking action against any CONCOR Official does not arise.

(ii) In case of penalty imposed in 1998, action has been taken against the persons responsible.

[Translation]

Aircraft Security

3126 SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted or propose to constitute a committee to review the air safety arrangements of all the airports located in Bihar and Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Mining in Western Ghat

3127 SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are taking steps to minimise the impact of mining in the Western Ghats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to ban the mining in the Western Ghats forest areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Yes, the Government is taking steps to minimise the impact of mining in the Western Ghats. Besides the action being taken by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Central and State Pollution Control Board/s and concerned State Governments, Indian Bureau of Mines is ensuring compliance of statutory provisions for cleaner environment. An approved mining plan is a pre-requisite condition for fresh grant/renewal of mining leases and also existing mining leases. IBM has been empowered to approve the mining plan. Environment Impact Assessment and Environment Management Plan is an integral part of the mining plan. Before approving mining plan it is ensured that for land degradation, waste management, air pollution, water pollution and noise pollution effective measures have been incorporated so that the environment pollution is least.

(c) As per the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 'no non forest' activity including 'mining' can take place in forest areas including Western Ghat forest areas.

(d) Does not arise.

Private Airlines

3128. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of private airlines alongwith their capital investments made by each of them;

(b) the number of aircrafts pressed into service by each of them; and

(c) the air-routes on which they are operating at presently?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) At present there are a private scheduled airlines : M/s Archana Airways; M/s Jet Airways; and M/s Sahara India Airlines. Their capital investment and aircraft fleet are as follows :-

	Capital Investment (Rs. in crore)	Aircraft Fleet
M/s Archana Airways	15.00	2 L-410
M/s Jet Airways	664.62	21 B-737
M/s Sahara India	95.50	6 B-737

(c) The details of routes operated by the private scheduled airlines are given in statement attached. M/s Archana Airways has suspended its operations since November 1998 due to non-availability of aircraft which are under maintenance.

Statement

*Routes operated by Jet Airways
(As on 14.12.1998)*

No.	Routes
1	2
1	Bangalore-Delhi
2	Bangalore-Mumbai
3	Calcutta-Delhi
4	Calcutta-Mumbai
5	Chennai-Delhi
6	Chennai-Mumbai
7	Delhi-Bangalore
8	Delhi-Calcutta
9	Delhi-Chennai
10	Delhi-Hyderabad
11	Delhi-Mumbai
12	Hyderabad-Delhi

1	2
13	Hyderabad-Mumbai
14	Mumbai-Bangalore
15	Mumbai-Calcutta
16	Mumbai-Chennai
17	Mumbai-Delhi
18	Mumbai-Hyderabad
19	Bagdogra-Calcutta
20	Bagdogra-Delhi
21	Calcutta-Bagdogra
22	Calcutta-Guwahati
23	Calcutta-Jorhat
24	Delhi-Guwahati
25	Delhi-Jammu
26	Delhi-Srinagar
27	Guwahati-Calcutta
28	Jammu-Delhi
29	Jorhat-Calcutta
30	Srinagar-Delhi
31	Guwahati-Bagdogra
32	Jammu-Srinagar
33	Srinagar-Jammu
34	Guwahati-Imphal
35	Imphal-Guwahati
36	Ahmedabad-Mumbai
37	Ahmedabad-Delhi
38	Aurangabad-Mumbai
39	Bangalore-Chennai
40	Bangalore-Hyderabad
41	Bangalore-Mangalore
42	Bangalore-Pune
43	Bhuj-Mumbai
44	Calcutta-Hyderabad
45	Calicut-Mumbai
46	Chennai-Bangalore

1	2
47	Chennai-Coimbatore
48	Chennai-Trivandrum
49	Cochin-Mumbai
50	Coimbatore-Chennai
51	Coimbatore-Mumbai
52	Delhi-Ahmedabad
53	Delhi-Jaipur
54	Delhi-Lucknow
55	Delhi-Pune
56	Delhi-Varanasi
57	Goa-Mumbai
58	Hyderabad-Bangalore
59	Hyderabad-Calcutta
60	Indore-Mumbai
61	Jaipur-Delhi
62	Jaipur-Mumbai
63	Khajuraho-Varanasi
64	Lucknow-Delhi
65	Lucknow-Mumbai
66	Mangalore-Bangalore
67	Mangalore-Mumbai
68	Mumbai-Ahmedabad
69	Mumbai-Aurangabad
70	Mumbai-Bhuj
71	Mumbai-Calicut
72	Mumbai-Cochin
73	Mumbai-Coimbatore
74	Mumbai-Goa
75	Mumbai-Indore
76	Mumbai-Jaipur
77	Mumbai-Lucknow
78	Mumbai-Mangalore
79	Mumbai-Pune
80	Mumbai-Rajkot
81	Mumbai-Vadodara
82	Pune-Mumbai

1	2
83	Pune-Bangalore
84	Pune-Delhi
85	Rajkot-Mumbai
86	Trivandrum-Chennai
87	Vadodara-Mumbai
88	Varanasi-Khajuraho
89	Varanasi-Delhi

*Routes Operated by Sahara India Airlines
(As on 14.12.1998)*

No.	Routes
1	Bangalore-Delhi
2	Bangalore-Mumbai
3	Chennai-Delhi
4	Delhi-Bangalore
5	Delhi-Chennai
6	Delhi-Mumbai
7	Mumbai-Bangalore
8	Mumbai-Delhi
9	Delhi-Guwahati
10	Guwahati-Delhi
11	Dibrugarh-Guwahati
12	Guwahati-Dibrugarh
13	Delhi-Goa
14	Delhi-Lucknow
15	Delhi-Patna
16	Goa-Delhi
17	Goa-Mumbai
18	Lucknow-Delhi
19	Lucknow-Mumbai
20	Mumbai-Goa
21	Mumbai-Patna
22	Mumbai-Varanasi
23	Patna-Lucknow
24	Patna-Varanasi
25	Varanasi-Delhi
26	Varanasi-Lucknow

*[Translation]***Gauge Conversion of Naghbhir-Nagpur Rail Line**

3129. SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Naghbhir-Nagpur metre gauge line into broad gauge; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) A survey for conversion of Naghbhir-Nagpur narrow gauge line into broad gauge has been taken up, which is expected to be completed by 31-10-1999. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Purchase of Railway Tracks

3130 SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the rail tracks purchased from the Steel Authority of India and other agencies;

(b) whether there is any differences in the tracks purchased from the SAIL and other agencies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Rail tracks ordered for purchase from the Steel Authority of India and other agencies during the current year is as under :

Firm's Name	Qty. in MTs		
	52Kg.	60Kg.	Total
M/s Steel Authority of India (Bhilai Steel Plant)	3,07,211	64,036	3,71,247
M/s British Steel Track Products, United Kingdom	Nil	42,000	42,000
M/s Stalexport, S.A. Poland	Nil	70,000	70,000
M/s Pangang Group International Economic and Trading Corpn.China	Nil	58,000	58,000

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The rails purchased from Steel Authority of India is as per specification T-12/96 with the dispensation in respect of Hydrogen in liquid steel, end-straightness, on line ultrasonic testing and checking of surface quality whereas rails purchased from British, Poland and China are as per User International Conference (UIC) specification.

Utilisation of Steam Loco Shed

3131. SHRI HIRA LAL ROY Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the steam loco sheds are not being used after withdrawal of steam locos;

(b) if so, the details of such steam loco sheds;

(c) the details of the schemes by which these loco-sheds are to be utilised in a profitable manner;

(d) whether there is any scheme to convert the remaining loco-sheds into diesel/electric sheds; and

(e) if so, the time by which the Sonpur Steam Loco Shed is likely to be converted into diesel/electric shed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

*[English]***Housing Construction Schemes for Assam**

3132. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the state Government of Assam has submitted any housing construction schemes to the Union Government for its approval and financial assistance; and

(b) if so, the details alongwith the amount of financial assistance likely to be provided by the Government, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) Housing being a State subject, State Governments are free to formulate and implement various social housing schemes as per plan priorities and their requirements for which financial assistance is available from HUDCO.

Since its inception and as on 31.10.98, HUDCO has sanctioned 84 urban housing schemes with loan assistance of Rs.134.58 crore in the State of Assam. On completion, these schemes would provide 42636 residential units.

In addition 14 housing projects envisaging loan assistance of Rs. 70.78 crore are in the pipeline. These projects are at various stages of processing for sanction as per HUDCO's guidelines. Details of these projects are given in the attached statement.

Statement

Housing Schemes in Pipeline State/Agencywise for the month ending 31.10.98

S. No.	State/Agency	Scheme Name	Dwelling Units	Loan Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Assam State Housing Board	MIG II HSG. Scheme at Borsojai	35	175.00
2.	B&CPT	Staff HSG.SCH. at Guwahati	15	34.74
3.	BHCHSLT	Plotted DEV.Scheme	0	65.00
4.	FDGOA	FWS Cash Loan HSG SCH	2000	1000.00
5.	FDGOA	LIG CL HBA HSG SCH	1500	2250.00
6.	FDGOA	MIG CL HBA HSG SCH	566	1750.00
7.	H.Broth	Const. of multi stor.build. at Hazarika complex Ganeshguri	1	15.00
8.	Housefe	HIG HSG Scheme Ph-II	56	280.00
9.	Housefe	Rental HSG SCH at Sibsagar	1	148.27
10.	Housefe	Const. of Rental HSG SCH at ABH	1	74.13
11.	Housefe	Const. of Dent Block in Housefed complex	1	400.00
12.	Housefe	MIG HSG scheme at Natbama	128	384.00
13.	Housefe	Plotted Dev. Sch at Boragaon	0	461.56
14.	MP LTD	Const. of Flat as Silpukhuri	16	40.00
Total			4320	7077.70

Installation of Radars

3133 PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a proposal to install a sophisticated radar system at major airports to avoid mid-air collisions and loss of life;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ATC staff has opposed the installation of such a system;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Primary Surveillance Radar of 60NM (Nautical Miles) coverage and Monopulse Secondary Surveillance

Radar (MSSR) with Mode 'S' of 250 NM coverage have already been installed and commissioned at Thiruvananthapuram, Hyderabad, Guwahati,Ahmedabad, Calcutta and Chennai airports. Similar radars be put into operation shortly. The radars at Mumbai are in an advanced stage of installation and will be commissioned along with other automation systems. It is also proposed to instal MSSRs at Nagpur, Varanasi, Berhampur and Mangalore. Upon installation of all these radars, the major air-routes will come under radar surveillance.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Doubling of Guntur-Nadikudi Rail Line

3134 SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Guntur Railway Division was inaugurated on July 5, 1997;

(b) whether the Railways had sanctioned doubling work of Guntur-Nadikudi Railway line;

(c) if so, whether the results of the survey are available;

(d) if so, the time by which the process of doubling is likely to start;

(e) whether the Government had issued any directions to carry out a cost-cum-feasibility survey for electrification of the Guntur-Nadikudi Railway line;

(f) if so, the details thereof, and

(g) the reasons for delay in implementing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (g) A survey for doubling of Nallapadu (5 Kms. from Guntur) - Nadikudi Bibinagar single line section has been recently completed. The results of the survey have revealed the cost of doubling of the 243 Kms. long line as Rs.340 crores with a rate of return of 0.973%. The report is presently under examination. Further consideration of the project will be possible once this examination gets completed

A cost-cum-feasibility survey for electrification of the above section has been carried out. The rate of return found in the survey report being quite low, the section does not qualify for electrification as yet.

Rural Development Scheme

3135. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :
SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has suspended few Rural Development Programmes/Schemes due to indifferent attitude of the Government of Gujarat and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details and names of the schemes;

(c) the financial allocation made for these schemes and the present status thereof;

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to re-start these schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) No Programme/Scheme has been deferred on account of the indifferent attitude of Gujarat and Maharashtra Governments.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Administrative Tribunal for Armed Forces

3136. SHRI K.P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up an administrative tribunal exclusively for the armed forces; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard and the nature of cases proposed to be disposed of therein?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Government had earlier agreed in principle to set up an Armed Forces Administrative and Court Martial Tribunal in respect of the Armed Forces personnel. Thereafter, certain legal and administrative issues have been posed while processing the matter further. A view will be taken after a detailed consideration of these issues.

Salem Steel Rolling Mills

3137. SHRI T.R. BAALU : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have any proposals to upgrade Salem Steel Rolling Mills as a comprehensive Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) There is no concrete proposal, at present, to upgrade Salem Steel Rolling Mills as a comprehensive Steel Plant.

Repair of Damaged Tracks

3138. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tracks and sleepers of the Barang Railway bridge have sustained extensive damage following a derailment during October, 1998;

(b) whether the tracks on the bridge are dated back to late 40s;

(c) whether CBI is investigating the maintenance of the Barang railway line for improper ballast and tracking; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir. There was a derailment on the approach of the bridge resulting in damage to bridge timbers and sleepers. Rails were not damaged.

(b) No, Sir. Rails on the bridge are of 1987 and the age of bridge timber ranges from 1968 to 1997.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There is no enquiry for this particular stretch of the track. However, CBI is investigating regarding supply of ballast in nearby stretch.

Accident of Patna-Gaya Passenger and Rajdhani Express

3139. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Patna-Gaya Passenger train rammed into the Delhi bound Rajdhani Express at Patna Junction on 18.9.1998;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of passengers killed and injured and value of Government property damaged therein;

(d) the amount of compensation paid to the victims;

(e) whether any inquiry has since been made in this regard; and

(f) if so, the outcome therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, on 17.9.1998, 10PG train arrived on Platform No.6 of Patna Junction at 22.03 hrs. The empty rake of 10PG train had a head on collision at about 22.52 hrs. with 2423 Up Guwahati-New Delhi Rajdhani Express standing on Platform No.4 of Patna Junction. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

(c) 1 person (outsider) was killed and 5 passengers of 2423 Up Rajdhani Express sustained simple injuries. The value of Government property damaged is Rs 4 lakhs approximately.

(d) No compensation claim has been paid so far. Compensation will be paid soon after the claims are decreed by Railway Claims Tribunal.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(f) The outcome of the enquiry committee is awaited.

Augmentation of Fleet of I.A.

3140. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state ;

(a) the steps taken to boost Indian Airlines and Air India fleet in view of its requirement;

(b) the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(c) the type and time by which the new arrivals are likely to be inducted in the fleet of Indian Airlines and Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Expansion/renewal of fleet by the two airlines is a continuing exercise and depends on various factors, the more important ones being the resources of the airlines, traffic requirements, suitability of the aircraft type and viability of operations of various sectors/routes.

Powers to Alumina, Aluminium and Bauxite Mines

3141. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the total annual Requirement of the Power for Alumina, Aluminium Plants and also for bauxite mines of the National Aluminium Company (NALCO) at Angul and Damanjodi;

(b) the total MW of power generated by NALCO from its captive power plants annually;

(c) whether the captive power plants are being modernised by NALCO; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Annual requirement of power in Alumina Refinery, Bauxite Mines at Damanjodi and Aluminium Smelter at Angul of National Aluminium Company is as under :-

Plant/Unit	In million units (MU)
Bauxite Mines, Damanjodi	28.47
Alumina Refinery Damanjodi	293.46
Aluminium Plant Angul	3614
Total requirement	3935.93

(b) The total power generated by NALCO in Captive Power Plant (CPP) and Steam and Power Plant (SPP) during the last 3 years is as follows:-

(Net Generation in million units)

Years	CPP(Angul)	SPP(Damanjodi)	Total
1995-96	4147	248	4395
1996-97	4187	250	4437
1997-98	3902	262	4164

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does no arise.

Poverty Alleviation Scheme

3142. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of poverty alleviation schemes formulated by the Government for Rural and Backward desert areas of Western Rajasthan;

(b) the funds allocated to state Government during the last three years and percentage utilisation of fund;

(c) the reasons of non-utilisation of remaining funds; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to establish and strengthen the infrastructural and monitoring system in the Desert areas of Western Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) The schemes implemented by the Government in rural and desert areas of Rajasthan for poverty alleviation are Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Million Wells Scheme (MWS), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) and Supply of Improved Tool-Kits to Rural Artisans (SITRA). As a special measure Desert Development Programme (DDP) is also being implemented.

(b) The funds released for implementation of these schemes in Rajasthan and the extent of utilisation during the last three years are given below :-

Year	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)	%age Utilisation to release
1995-96	46176.96	106.55
1996-97	32333.96	101.40
1997-98	36242.36	114.83

(c) The funds released for implementation of the schemes have been utilised.

(d) The State Government reviews the progress of implementation of all the rural development and poverty alleviation/employment generation schemes at regular intervals. The implementation of the schemes in the State is also monitored at Central level.

Promotion of Air Travel in Andhra Pradesh

3143. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had agreed for introduction of 50 seater helicopter services between Hyderabad and destinations like Warangal, Rajamundry, Vijayawada and Cuddapah;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in addition the Union Minister had also agreed for making the flight services between Hyderabad and Singapore a daily service; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) At present, the government has no plan to introduce 50 seater helicopter services between Hyderabad and destinations like Warangal, Rajamundry, Vijayawada and Cuddapah.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Computerised Reservation Counter at Katra

3144. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations for opening of a Computerised Reservation Counter at Katra in view of the large numbers of pilgrims visiting Mata Vashno;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION. (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, from Hon'ble Members of Parliament and Administrative Authorities of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board. The provision of Computerised Reservation facilities at Katra has been sanctioned on out-of-turn basis in the current financial year.

Bigger Aircraft on Delhi-Aurangabad Sector

3145. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any request has been received by the Government for replacement of Boeing Aircrafts on Delhi-Aurangabad Sector by bigger aircraft by the Alliance Air;
- (b) if so the details thereof; and
- (c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A request has been received to replace the Boeing Aircraft by Airbus on the sector Delhi-Aurangabad. Due to low passengers demand, Indian Airlines has no immediate plans to operate services on Delhi-Aurangabad route with bigger aircraft.

Flights Diverted from Calicut

3146 SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any aircrafts had been diverted from Calicut Airport during the last monsoon;
- (b) if so, the reasons of such diversion;
- (c) whether the instrumental landing system at Calicut Airport is fully operational; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The flights have been diverted during the monsoon because of poor visibility.

(c) and (d) Instrumental Landing System (Category I) is operational at Calicut airport. However, flights have to be diverted if the visibility minima conditions for ILS are not met.

Routes of Air India

3147. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the places from where Air India have stopped its operation due to various reasons during the last three years alongwith the reasons therefore; and
- (b) the loss incurred due to cancellation of such flights?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) During the years 1995-1997, Air India has withdrawn its operations to Entebbe Perth, Johannesburg, Durban, Zurich, Amsterdam, Toronto, Tel Aviv, Geneva and Seoul. In addition terminator services

to London have also been withdrawn. Operations to above destinations were not economically viable. Total operating losses on these routes are as under :-

Year	Loss (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	362.87
1996-97	376.80
1997-98	156.76

Gauge Conversion of Barsoi-Radhikapur Rail Line

3148. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal for gauge conversion of Barsoi to Radhikapur metre gauge line into broad gauge upto Bangladesh Border has been approved by the Government;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Constraint of resources.

Extension of Train

3149. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have received demands from various organisations and Members of Parliament for extension of 40 Up and 39 Dn Mumbai-Ahmedabad passenger train upto Abu Road Junction;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) Some representations have been received for extension of 39/40 Bandra-Ahmedabad Passenger upto Abu Road. The same have been examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Mini Air Services for Tourist Places

3150. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :
SHRI N DENNIS :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government for the operation of Mini Air Services touching the tourist places in the country; and

(b) the important tourist places to be linked?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) With a view to achieving better regulation of air transport services and taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country, route dispersal guidelines have been framed. These guidelines stipulate all scheduled operators to deploy in the North Eastern Region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshdweep (category-II routes) at least 10% of their deployed capacity on trunk routes (category-I routes) 1% capacity deployed on category-II routes is to be deployed exclusively within category-II stations; and 50% of the capacity provided on category-I routes is to be provided on routes other than category-II routes (category-III).

With a view to make services viable on short/unremunerative sectors, a proposal to provide incentive/concession to operators of small aircraft (upto 55 seats) is under consideration.

(b) Routes are not fixed. Airlines are free to operate on any routes based on their commercial judgement subject to compliance with the route dispersal guidelines.

Wasteland Development

3151. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of ROURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount released by the Department of Wastelands Development for implementation of its schemes during the Eighth Plan, State-wise.

(b) the projects implemented by the Agricultural University, ICAR Institute, State Forest Department, NGOs (with names) with amount so far released specially for Gujarat; and

(c) whether the Government contemplate to evolve the local Member of Parliament to monitor the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) The information is given in the attached statement-I

(b) The information is given in the attached statement-II

(c) Hon'ble Members of Parliament are members of the Governing body of DRDAs which are implementing IWDP Scheme. Hence they are very much associated in implementation and monitoring of Wastershed Development Programmes.

Statement-I

Details of the amount released by the Department of Wastelands Development for implementation of its schemes during Eighth Plan, State-wise

(Rs in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Integrated Wastelands Development Project Schemes (IWDP)	Support to NGOs/VAs (Grants in Aid)	Technology Development Extension and Training Scheme (TDE&T)	Investment Promotional Schemes (IPS)	Wastelands Development Task Force (WDTF)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2653.15	143.23	115.58	—	—
2.	Assam			2.62	—	—
3.	Bihar	1213.59	247.45	33.51	—	—
4.	Gujarat	2308.05	8.12	12.52	—	—
5.	Haryana	1146.53	29.52	64.80	—	—
6.	Himachal Pradesh	863.79	6.41	13.70	—	—
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	111.79	107.59	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Karnataka	709.58	60.07	14.59	—	—
9.	Kerala	943.70	51.05	40.43	—	—
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1207.54	53.83	34.48	—	176.00
11.	Maharashtra	190.50	322.29	25.57	—	—
12.	Manipur	166.32	52.46	—	—	—
13.	Meghalaya	57.42	—	2.15	—	—
14.	Mizoram	351.95	2.69	—	—	—
15.	Nagaland	1028.71	9.36	1.90	—	—
16.	Orissa	1244.25	10.76	4.74	—	—
17.	Punjab	773.01	—	8.81	—	—
18.	Rajasthan	2132.12	28.94	252.57	—	—
19.	Sikkim	762.27	4.27	8.27	—	—
20.	Tamil Nadu	641.42	74.83	96.60	21.849	—
21.	Tripura	64.58	—	—	—	—
22.	Uttar Pradesh	2018.92	112.23	48.54	—	—
23.	West Bengal	811.68	43.73	40.03	—	—
24.	Delhi	15.00	5.88	6.07	—	—
Total		21615.87	1374.71	827.48	21.849	176.00
		or	or	or	or	or
		216.16 crores	13.75 Crores	8.28 Crores	0.22 Crores	1.76 Crores

Statement-II

The details of Projects implemented during the 8th Plan by the Agricultural University, ICAR Institute, State Forest Department and NGOs in Gujarat with details of Funds Released in Gujarat State

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Implementing Agency (Agricultural University/ICAR Institute/State Forest Department/NGOs)	Funds Released
1	2	3	4
1.	Neem-based Agro-Forestry	Gujarat Agril. University, Ahmedabad	3.64
2.	ORP on Agro-Forestry	Gujarat Agril. University, Banaskantha	6.722
3.	Antisar Watershed Research Project	Central Soil & Water Conservation Research & Training Institute, Vasad, Gujarat	2.16
4.	Wastelands Development Project in Ahmedabad	Vikaram Sarabhai Centre for Development Interaction	0.77
5.	Wastelands Development Project in Rajkot	Centre for Environment Education Nehru Foundation for Development	2.01
6.	Wastelands Development Project in Ahmedabad	Institute for studies and Transformation	1.12

1	2	3	4
7.	Wastelands Development Project in Valsad	Shri Adivasi Majur & Kharigar Kamdar Vikas Mandal	0.77
8.	Wastelands Development Project in Ahmedabad	Sarvodaya Pasu Vikas Sahakari Mandali	1.63
9.	Wastelands Development Project in Ahmedabad	Self Employed Women Association	1.03
10.	Wastelands Development Project in Ahmedabad	Agha Khan Rural Support Programme	0.78
Total			20.632

Railway Reservation on Phone

3152. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have under consideration any pilot scheme to provide reservations on phone to customers who are holders of rail credit cards sponsored by Commercial Bank; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) (a) Yes., Sir.

(b) A pilot scheme to provide reservation through telephone to customers who are holders of Rail Credit cards sponsored by Commercial Banks is under process on Southern Railway. The Interactive Voice Response Systems (IVRS) of the Bank and the Railway will be linked and after ascertaining from the Bank through IVRS, the railway reservation ticket sought by the customer will be issued.

New Airport at Navi Mumbai

3153. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct a new Airport at Navi Mumbai or the surrounding area or specifically Revasdanda;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to construct a new International Airport near Mumbai also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The Government of Maharashtra had

sent a proposal for developing a domestic airport near Panvel in Navi Mumbai. It had also earlier forwarded a proposal for construction of a new second international airport in the Mandwa-Rewas area near Mumbai. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has constituted a Committee to examine the need and to suggest a suitable location for the second international airport at Mumbai. The proposal of the Govt. of Maharashtra for a domestic airport has also been referred to this Committee for examination.

[Translation]

Fire in Gomati Express

3154. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether fire broke out in Gomati Express near Dankaur station on August 17, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into this incident;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) It has been intimated that there was Hot Axle in Coach No.18113 NR SCR which necessitated its detachment at Railway Station Dankaur. It was not a case of fire.

[English]

Gauge Conversion of Dharangadhara-Kuda Rail Line

3155. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the conversion of Dharangadhara-Kuda siding into broad gauge is delayed due to non funding of shares by co-sharers;

(b) if so, whether the co-sharers have been approached by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The State Government of Gujarat and the Ministry of Industry (Salt Department) each have to contribute one third of the cost of the project. The Ministry of Railways have provided their one third amount in the budget. As soon as they provide their shares, gauge conversion work on Dharangadhara-Kuda siding would be taken up.

(d) The work is likely to take one year after it is started.

Completion of Gauge Conversion

3156. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the sections of Delhi-Jaipur, Khandwa-Akola and Nanded-Hyderabad metre gauge rail lines have been converted into broad gauge; and

(b) if not, the time by which the remaining sections of these lines are likely to be converted into broad gauge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Delhi-Jaipur section has already been converted to broad gauge. Khandwa-Akola is not yet sanctioned for conversion. Nanded to Mudkhed and Bolarum to Hyderabad have already been converted to broad gauge and conversion work from Mudkhed to Bolarum is in progress. This work will be progressed as per its priority in the Priority List

approved by the Cabinet, as per availability of resources and is expected to be completed in the 10th Five Year Plan period.

Rural Management Institute

3157. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Institute of Rural Management in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open some rural management institutes in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of such institutes working in these States at present and estimated people benefitted by these institutes; and

(e) the employment opportunities generated in rural areas of these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) The number of Institutes of Rural Management State-wise as approved by All India Council for Technical Education is as follows :-

State	No. of Institutes
U.P.	1
Rajasthan	1
Gujarat	1
Maharashtra	6
	<hr/> 9 <hr/>

(b) As of now, there is no proposal with the All India Council for Technical Education from the States of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra for opening Rural Management Institutes.

(c) The question does not arise.

(d) The number of such institutes working in Andhra Pradesh is Nil and in Maharashtra is 6. The information regarding number of estimated people benefitted by these institutes in Maharashtra is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Gaya Airport

3158. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Gaya Airport has not been functioning for some time past.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) to (c) Gaya airport is an operational airport. The airport Authority of India (AAI) had, on the occasion of Buddha Mahotsav, renovated the infrastructural facilities at the Gaya Airport. However, since no airline has shown any interest in operating the scheduled flights to Gaya airport, AAI, at present, has no plans to further develop this airport

[English]

Appointment on Compassionate Ground

3159 SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA .

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of railway employees died in harness during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the number of dependents of deceased appointed on compassionate ground during each of the last three years zone-division-wise; and

(c) the time by which the remaining cases are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Instructions have been issued and reiterated from time to time to make all out efforts to provide compassionate appointments to the eligible candidates as early as possible within the guidelines laid down for the purpose. It is however, difficult to fix any time limit for the appointment on compassionate grounds as there are many factors not attributable to the Railway administration which may cause delays.

[Translation]

Railway Property Damaged by Rock Sliding

3160. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state .

(a) whether power engine and several bogies of 2724 A.P. Express bound for Hyderabad from New Delhi were damaged due to heavy rock sliding and excessive

rains blocking the railway track in Satpura range of hills near Dharakhoh Station at Ghat region of Baitul-Ghodadongri section;

(b) if so, the extent of railway property damaged; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir. However, the landslide had occurred at Km.834/21-24 due to heavy rains but the train was stopped at Km.833/9 between Dharakhoh and Maramjhiri and no damage was caused to the power or bogies of the train.

(b) Due to heavy rains from 13.9.1998 to 15.9.1998 land slide, erosion and wash-outs of formation took place at several locations in Itarsi-Amla section is as under :

- i. Landslides at 11 locations-approx quantity-1994 Cu.Metres.
- ii Erosion/Wash-out of Bank formation-at 10 locations-approx. quantity-1670 Cu.Metres.

(c) Patrolling of Railway track is conducted during full monsoon period and it is further intensified on receipt of forecast of heavy rainfall or cloudburst etc. from Meteorological Department. Stationary watchmen are also deployed at vulnerable locations to stop the trains in case of occurrence of any land-slides etc. affecting railway track.

[English]

Fifth pay Commission Report

3161. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CPWD Engineers Association have raised their objection over the implementation of Fifth pay Commission Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof' and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) The CPWD Engineers' Association has objected to the grant of two pay scales of Rs. 6500-10500 and 7500-12000 for Assistant Engineers as recommended by the Fifth pay Commission on the ground that a single pay scale of Rs 7500-12000 has been

granted to the Assistant Architects, another equivalent Gr.'B' post in the Department.

(c) Request of the C.P.W.D. Engineers' Association has been sent to the Ministry of Finance for appropriate action.

Extraction of Invaluable Mineral in Gujarat

3162. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any efforts have been made to extract invaluable minerals from the mines in the districts of Kutch, Panchmahal in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the quantum of invaluable minerals extracted annually from this area for the last three years; and

(c) the details of the programmes being implemented during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) There is no mineral which may be classified as high value mineral which is under production in Gujarat. Mineral-wise quantum of mineral production in Kutch and Panchmahal districts of Gujarat during 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98(provisional) is given in the attached statement.

(c) The activities relating to exploration and mining under the mining sector are conducted by agencies like Geological Survey of India, Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd., Central and State Government Public Sector undertakings, Directorate of Mining and Geology of Government of Gujarat and private prospecting licence/mining lease holders. Comprehensive information regarding programmes implemented by them, is not maintained centrally.

Statement

Mineral-Wise Production in Kutch and Panchmahal Districts of Gujarat during 1995-96 to 1997-98 (Provisional)

Quantum in Tonnes

District/State Minerals	1995-96 Quantum	1996-97 Quantum	1997-98 (Provisional) Quantum
1	2	3	4
Kutch			
Bauxite	53212	75008	11226
Ball Clay	30	15	15
Fire Clay	7130	12830	8350
Gypsum	348	41	100

1	2	3	4
Kaolin	59007	63427	20664
Limestone*	0	++	++
Ochre	30	-	5
Silica Sand	-	23	80
Panchmahal			
Limestone	11	2	-
Quartz	328	1998	3740

* Quantum in 'ooot, ++ less than one unit.

Training in Foreign Country

3163. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of officials sent to foreign countries for training by the Steel Authority of India Limited during the last three years, grade-wise;

(b) the fields of training for which they were sent to the foreign countries for training;

(c) the total expenditure incurred on their training grade-wise;

(d) the number of employees of Steel Authority of India Limited who have resigned from the company to join elsewhere after foreign training;

(e) whether any bond was signed by such SAIL employees to serve the company for a specific period who were sent to foreign countries for training; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Flight on Hyderabad-Los Angeles Sector

3164. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether code-share flight from Hyderabad to Los Angeles has been introduced from the month of October; and

(b) if so, the extent to which these flights have reduced the travel time, alongwith the details of the time schedule of each flights from Hyderabad to Los Angeles and back?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) With the commencement of code-share/Block space arrangements with Singapore Airlines on

sector Singapore-Los Angeles. Air India and Singapore Airlines have established direct connections between Hyderabad and Los Angeles with effect from 1.10.98. The schedules are as under :-

Tuesday	Dep./Hyderabad 0800 hrs. Ar./Los Angeles 1825 hrs.
Thursday	Dep./Los Angeles 2315 hrs. Arr./Hyderabad 0050 hrs.(Sunday)
Sunday	Dep./Los Angeles 2315 hrs. Arr./Hyderabad 2200 hrs. (Tuesday)

Dues from Private Airlines

3165. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY :
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government dues from private airlines are mounting and have reached serious proportions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to recover it?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The details are attached as Statement.

(c) The Oil Companies are taking legal action to recover the dues from the private airlines. With effect from 1.4.1997 no credit facility for supply of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) is being allowed.

All efforts are being made by Airports Authority of India (AAI) to recover the dues. The defaulting airlines are regularly reminded to clear the dues, failing which their security deposit is adjusted against the dues. Credit facility has also been withdrawn in some cases.

For recovery of Inland Air Travel Tax (IATT), action is taken as per law against the airlines defaulting in payment of IATT. Even aircraft have been detained in the past for recovery of IATT dues.

Statement

Outstanding dues (Rs. in crores) of Oil Companies, Inland Air Travel Tax (IATT) and Airports Authority of India (AAI)

Sl.No.	Name of Airlines	Dues of Oil Companies (As on 31.3.98)	IATT (Customs) (as on 30.11.98)	Dues AAI (as on 31.10.98)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Modiluft	18.16	00.38	00.581*
2.	Jet Airways	-	-	03.526
3.	Archana Airways	-	-	00.112
4.	Skyline-NEPC	21.00	14.99	01.955
5.	NEPC Airlines	-	4.81	01.085
6.	Sahara India	-	-	04.270
7.	UP Airways	-	00.88	00.091
8.	East West Airlines	02.62	06.82	17.870
9.	VIF Airways	0.06	00.48	00.244
10.	Aerial Services	-	-	00.003
11.	Blue Dart	-	-	00.161
12.	Elbee Airlines	-	-	00.257
13.	Gujarat Airways	-	01.30	00.037
14.	Megapode Airlines	-	-	00.006
15.	Span Aviation	-	-	00.264
16.	Citilink Airlines	00.51	01.35	00.015

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Raj Aviation	0.34	01.04	00.013
18.	Continental Aviation	00.13	01.71	00.277
19.	India International Airways	-	-	00.009
20.	Trans Bharat Aviation	-	-	00.192
21.	Jagon Airlines	-	00.05	00.399
22.	KCV Airlines	-	-	00.046
23.	Eastern Airways	-	-	00.010
24.	MESCO	-	-	00.033
25.	Ace Airways	-	-	00.105
26.	Bengal Airways	-	-	00.029
27.	East India Hotels	-	-	00.002
28.	Air Asiatic Ltd.	-	01.63	-
29.	U.B. Air	-	-	-
30.	United India Airways	-	-	00.018
31.	Saraya Aviation	-	-	00.018
Total		42.82	34.09	31.628

* Rs. 2.669 crore has been received (from M/s Air U.K. : Rs. 130 lakhs and M/s Lufthansa : Rs. 136.94 lakhs) on behalf of M/s Modiluft Ltd. M/s Air U.K. has filed a petition in Delhi High Court for refund of money from AAI.

[Translation]

Sensitive Highways

3166. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the national highways which are sensitive from the security point of view;

(b) the scheme formulated for a permanent solution to remove the obstacles in movement of traffic due to natural or other reasons on such national highways;

(c) whether the Ministry of Defence has received a communication dated 28-9-98 from the Government of Sikkim in regard thereto; and

(d) if so, the action taken to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) BRO is engaged in the improvement/Maintenance of number of NHs, which are sensitive from security point of view. It will not be in the National Interest to disclose the names of such National Highways and the scheme formulated therefor.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Special work had already been undertaken. Government of Sikkim has also been informed about these measures on 23-11-1998.

Funds for Defence Projects

3167. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount provided for the development of defence projects during Eighth Five Year Plan to each of the three services;

(b) whether any disparity has been noticed in the financial disbursement resulting in suspension of some important projects; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the time by which these projects are expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The total amount provided for the development of defence projects under Capital during Eighth Five Year Plan to each of the three Services was as under :

	Rs. in crores
Army	9486.72
Navy	7559.57
Air Force	13277.58
Total	30323.87

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Encroachment in Delhi

3168. SHRI SADASHIV RAO DADOBHA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether encroachments are being made in West Patel Nagar Market; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Construction of Flyover

3169. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the railway passengers at Audiar railway station have to cross the tracks to reach the other platform in the absence of a flyover;

(b) whether the level of the platform is low causing inconveniences to the passengers particularly the old and infirm ones to climb up or get down the compartments;

(c) whether in the absence of a telephone inquiry at Audiar railway station, the people are put to lot of inconvenience in getting details about the arrivals/departures of the train etc.;

(d) whether Saidpur railway station is the only Town Area railway station between Ghazipur and Varanasi and there is no railway yard for loading and unloading the goods; and

(e) if so, by which date these matters will be attended to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) There is

no railway station by name Audiar. However, there is a station by name Aunrihar and no foot-over-bridge is available at that station. A pathway is available for crossing tracks.

(b) Aunrihar is a Class 'B' Railway Station and the low level platform provided is as per the existing norms.

(c) No, complaint about the working of enquiry office at Aunrihar station has been received.

(d) There is no station by name Saidpur between Varanasi and Ghazipur. However there is a station named Saidpur Bhitri between Varanasi and Gazipur. There is no loading/unloading facility available at this station at present.

(e) All the basic amenities are provided at Aunrihar Station. The facilities demanded above would be considered when so warranted by the growth of traffic.

Vacancy of Khalasi

3170. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts of Khalasi lying vacant for the last two years, at Gonda, Mankapur, Lucknow and Kanpur Junctions; and

(b) the time by which the above vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid down on the table of the Sabha.

Rural Water Supply

3171. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a limit of norms of 40 lpcd under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and also there is no provision of private water connections;

(b) if so, whether the state Government has requested the Government to revise the existing norms of 40 lpcd to 55 lpcd and to allow 30 per cent private water connections;

(c) whether the request was principally agreed to in the meeting of Chief Ministers on 5th July, 1996 at New Delhi; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not implementing the revise norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Chief Minister's Conference held on 4-5 July 1996 had recommended for relaxing the norm of Rural Water Supply, from the present 40 lpcd to 55 lpcd. This recommendation can be implemented after all the not covered and partially covered habitations in the country are provided with safe drinking water, as per the existing norm of 40 lpcd.

Production of Documentary Films

3172. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the arrangements made for the production of documentary films for creating awareness regarding rural development programme;

(b) the number of proposals received during the last year alongwith the number of proposals cleared and the number of documentary films produced State-wise;

(c) the proposals and scripts lying pending with the Government for the last five months alongwith the reasons for delay in the production of documentary films; and

(d) the steps taken/ to be taken for immediate production and screening of the documentary films by removing the hindrances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Documentary films for creating awareness regarding rural development programmes are generally made through the media Units of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

(b) and (c) During the last one year the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment received 15 proposals for production of documentaries serials, telefilms etc. from various producers. Out of this two documentary films on Sanitation in West Bengal were approved. The remaining proposals were not considered in view of the software already available with the Ministry.

(d) The Standing Committee on Media in the Ministry periodically reviews the need for production and telecast of films for creating awareness about rural programmes.

12.00 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

[English]

Air Strikes on Iraq by United Kingdom and United States of America

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been closely following the developments relating to Iraq.

India has close historical ties and strong affinities with the countries and the peoples of the region. We have been deeply concerned about the sufferings of the people of Iraq and have called for the lifting of sanctions in tandem with Iraq's compliance with the UN Security Council Resolution. We have consistently counselled restraint and moderation in resolving the differences that have emerged from time to time in the interaction of the UN Special Commission with Iraq.

The Government of India is gravely concerned at and deplore these air strikes being carried out on Iraq by the UK and the US. It is particularly regrettable that this unilateral step has been undertaken at the very time when the UN Security Council was in session to discuss developments arising from the report of the Head of the United Nations Special Commission to Iraq, with the UN SG had forwarded to the Council with his recommendations proposing alternative courses of action.

This attack raises serious questions regarding the functioning of the collective and consultative procedures of the UN Security Council. It also undermines the ability of the Council to verify Iraq's compliance with the relevant Council Resolutions. It has been our considered view that use of force in this situation would be counter-productive. The issue needs to be resolved diplomatically through peaceful means and dialogue. We have supported efforts by the United Nations in this direction.

We have noted the statement of the UN Secretary-General expressing deep regret at the latest development. We call for an immediate halt to the military action and the resumption of diplomatic efforts under the auspices of the United Nations.

The Indian Community in Iraq, numbering about fifty persons, is safe. We have been in touch with our Embassy and are taking all measures to ensure their welfare.

12.05 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Review by the Government of the working of the Air India Limited, New Delhi and its Annual Report for 1996-97 under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956; etc.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English Versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Air India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Air India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1913/98]

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Airline Allied Service Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Airline Allied Services Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1914/98]

Notification under sub-section (2) of section 9 of the Navy Act, 1957 etc.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy of the Notification No. S.R.O. 153 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th November, 1998 specifying the eligibility of women appointment as officers in the Indian Navy in certain branches mentioned

in the Notification issued under sub-section (2) of section 9 of the Navy Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1915/98]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1916/98]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Aeronautical Development Agency, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Aeronautical Development Agency, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1917/98]

Notification re: Amendment Rules Under sub-section (3) of section 46 of the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy of the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Amendment Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 91 in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 1998, under sub-section (3) of section 46 of the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976, together with an Explanatory Memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1918/98]

(2) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Urban Art Commission, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, under section 19 of the Delhi Urban Art Commission Act, 1973.

(3) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Urban Art Commission, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, together with Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of

section 20 of the Delhi Urban Art Commission Act, 1973.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1919/98]

Annual Report of the Centre for Railway Information System, New Delhi for 1996-97 and review of its working by the Government of India.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Railway Information System, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Railway Information System, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1920/98]

Review by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 1997-98 under sub section (1) of section 619A of the companies Act, 1956 and its Annual Report

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :
 - (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 1997-98.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1921/98]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Zinc Limited, Udaipur, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Zinc Limited, Udaipur, for the year 1997-98,

alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1922/98]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Aluminium Company Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Aluminium Company Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1923/98]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Aluminium Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Aluminium Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1924/98]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Oorgaum, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Oorgaum, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1925/98]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Manganese Ore (India) Limited, Nagpur, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Manganese Ore (India) Limited, Nagpur, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1926/98]

- (g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1927/98]

- (h) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the MSTC Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.

- (ii) Annual Report of the MSTC Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1928/98]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre, Nagpur, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre, Nagpur, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1929/98]

Review by the Government of the working of the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, Nagpur for the year 1997-98 under sub-section (1) of section 619(A) of the Companies Act, 1956 and its Annual Report

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, Nagpur, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, Nagpur, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1930/98]

Review by the Government of the working of the National Informatics Centre Service Inc., New Delhi for the year 1997-98 under sub-section (1) of section 619(A) of the Companies Act, 1956; etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Informatics Centre Service Inc., New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Informatics Centre Services Inc., New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1931/98]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Computer Centre, Chandigarh, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Computer Centre, Chandigarh, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1932/98]

12.05 hrs.

[English]

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Action Taken Statements

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : I beg to lay on the Table Statements (Hindi and English versions) of action taken or proposed to be taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the following Action Taken Reports :

- (1) Fifth Report of the Estimates Committee (Eleventh Lok Sabha) regarding action taken by Government on their Fifty-Second Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs-Banking Division) - Credit Facilities to Weaker Sections of the Society.

[Shri Madhukar Sirpoddar]

- (2) Sixth Report of the Estimates Committee (Eleventh Lok Sabha) regarding action taken by Government on their Forty-Eighth Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Home Affairs-Modernisation of Police and Para-Military Forces.
- (3) Seventh Report of the Estimates Committee (Eleventh Lok Sabha) regarding action taken by Government on their Fifty-Seventh Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Coal-Production and Distribution of Coal.
- (4) Ninth Report of the Estimates Committee (Eleventh Lok Sabha) regarding action taken by Government on their Forty-Sixth Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Surface Transport-Coastal Shipping.

12.05 1/2 hrs.

[English]

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

First Report

SHRI MANBENDRA SHAH (Tehri Garhwal) : I beg to present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Eleventh Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on "Sickness in Public Undertakings".

12.06 hrs.

[English]

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

Second and Third Reports

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : I beg to present the Second and Third Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

12.06 1/2 hrs.

[English]

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

First, Second and Third Reports and Minutes

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadra) : I beg to present the First, Second and Third Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (1998-99) and Minutes relating thereto.

12.06 3/4 hrs.

[English]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

Forty-Ninth Report

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon) : I beg to lay the Forty-Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1997.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram) : Sir, I have given a notice. It is a very important matter . . . (Interruptions)

12.07 hrs.

[English]

ELECTION OF DEPUTY-SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER : Item No. 14 can be taken up after the election of Deputy-Speaker, with the consent of the House.

Now, we take up the motions for election of Deputy-Speaker. I call upon the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to move the motion.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I beg to move :

"That Shri P.M. Sayeed, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Sir, I second the motion.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Solapur) : I beg to move :

"That Shri P.M. Sayeed, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Paras Ram Bhardwaj - not present.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That Shri P.M. Sayeed, a member of this House, be chosen as Deputy-Speaker of this House."

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Aandaman and Nicobar Islands) : I second the motion.

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA (Tura) : I beg to move :

"That Shri P.M. Sayeed, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (Narasaraopet) : I second the motion.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED (Anantnag) : I beg to move :

"That Shri P.M. Sayeed, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon) : I second the motion.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Guwahati) : I beg to move

"That Shri P.M. Sayeed, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

SHRI MADENDLA BHASKARA RAO (Khammam) : I second the motion

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : I beg to move :

"That Shri P.M. Sayeed, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Murli Deora - not present.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : I beg to move :

"That Shri P.M. Sayeed, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq - not present.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : I beg to move :

"That Shri P.M. Sayeed, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P.C. Thomas - not present.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That Shri P.M. Sayeed, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : Sir, I second the motion.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That Shri P.M. Sayeed, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

SHRI K. VIJAYABHASKARA REDDY (Kurnool) : Sir, I second the motion.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadaupur) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That Shri P.M. Sayeed, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : Sir, I second the motion.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That Shri P.M. Sayeed, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, I second the motion.

DR. BALRAM JAKHAR (Bikaner) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That Shri P.M. Sayeed, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bhajan Lal - not present.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH (Periyakulam) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri P.M. Sayeed, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI (Bhadrak) Sir, I second the motion.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That Shri P.M. Sayeed, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (Bapatla) : Sir, I second the motion.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) Sir, I beg to move :

"That Shri P.M. Sayeed, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I strongly support the motion moved by Shri T. Subbaramy. Reddy to choose Shri P.M. Sayeed as Deputy Speaker.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move :

"That Shri P.M. Sayeed, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

SHRI SHAKUNI CHAUDHERY (Khagaria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the motion of choosing P.M. Sayeed as Deputy Speaker.

[English]

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That Shri P.M. Sayeed, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

SHRI SURENDER SINGH (Bhiwani) : Sir, I second the motion.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (Madras Central) : Sir, I beg to move

"That Shri P.M. Sayeed, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Sir, I second the motion.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri R.S. Gavai - not present.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : Sir, I beg to move

"That Shri P.M. Sayeed, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH (Shillong) : Sir, I second the motion.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal - not present

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That Shri P.M. Sayeed, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Francisco Sardinha - not present.

Now the motion moved by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and seconded by Shri Sharad Pawar is before the House for consideration; and I am putting this motion to the vote of the House

The question is

"That Shri P.M. Sayeed, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : I declare that Shri P.M. Sayeed has been chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House.

(Shri P.M. Sayeed, was conducted to his seat by the Leader of the House Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Sharad Pawar, and Leaders of some other Parties and Groups)

12.15 hrs.

[Translation]

FELICITATIONS TO DEPUTY SPEAKER

PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I very much congratulate and welcome Shri Sayeed on his being elected as Deputy Speaker. It is never too late to mend. But late was not due to any question related with the personality of Sayeed Saheb. Delay was caused because there was a difference of opinion on how to follow the tradition. I got the opportunity to establish relations with Sayeed Saheb inside and outside the House. He is very humorous, introvert and sweet spoken. He knows when to be firm and when to be flexible. The beautiful island to which he belongs, he has brought beauty of that main land also. He has been elected ninth time. I was elected in 1957 for the first time after which he came to the scene. He shouldered many responsibilities, he had been Minister, discharged responsibilities as members and chairman of committees and attempted to take all alongwith himself in which he got success. Now a new responsibility has come to him. I wish him a success. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you would also be relieved of some burden. I once again, congratulate Sayeed Saheb.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on my legs here to welcome Sayeed Saheb. Shri P.M. Sayeed has achieved many rewards as Prime Minister said that he had been a Member of the House nine times. Once he also got an opportunity to come to the House unopposed. At the age of twenty-six he came to this House and since then as a member of the House he has been doing excellent works. Perhaps it may be an another record to his credit that the number of voters in his constituency is 34 thousand. This may be yet another record of the House. I do not know, he has got an another speciality and that is that he has been elected continuously since 1967 and since then only one candidate has been contesting against him.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : That too from Janta Dal.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : From different parties, the strength of whichever party get better, he stands from that party. Therefore, after reviewing the present situation, one has to take all alongwith one. His whole political career in his constituency is based on taking all into confidence.

I am confident that he will get success on this post. I am personally happy because from 1967 he started his political career and in the same year I also started my career from that year we both came to the Parliamentary field and till today we have been able to continue it. I feel happy because he started with Lok Sabha while I started with Legislative Assembly. Today I got the opportunity to

sit near him. He has worked in various committees and Central Government and represented twice the Government of India in the United Nation. He has also shown this House that how the House can be run by the panel of Chairman. I believe that the House will get his guidance and the House would get help in carrying its proceedings. We will get his experience.

I thank the Prime Minister that he has accepted the tradition of giving, one post to opposition. All political parties have co-operated in bringing unanimity on it. I specially mention the names of leader of Trinmull congress, Mamata Banerjee and the leader of AIADMK Jayalalita who helped very much in bringing this unanimity inside and outside the House. I believe that he will succeed in this new responsibility which has fallen on Sayeed Saheb and from the opposition side, we shall fully co-operate. This is what I want to assure him.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : Sir, ever since I have been in this House. I have watched my friend, Shri P.M. Sayeed, with great appreciation, respect and admiration the way he has always conducted himself whether as an ordinary Member, a Minister or Chairman of various Committees. What has been said here about him, only proves that he is eminently suitable for the choice which the House has made today in electing him as the Deputy Speaker of this House. He has never shown anger, impatience or any tendency to be subjective in his judgment or finding. He is eminently a person who can always be relied upon to show the utmost impartiality and to treat the House and all the Members here with utmost respect.

I, on behalf of my Party, extend our warmest felicitations to him and assure him of our utmost cooperation in helping him to discharge his duties in a way which will bring him further credit in addition to whatever credit he has already accumulated in these many years. I have nothing further to say. I am extremely happy and all members here, I am sure, are happy with the choice of the House that has fallen unanimously on Shri P.M. Sayeed. That is also a record in the sense that there was some apprehension of some controversies being aroused over the choice. But ultimately, Sir, as you know, the matter has been settled unanimously. This is a no small measure due to Shri Sayeed's own personality, his reputation and his great standing in the House.

So, I join with all the other leaders in once again expressing our felicitations and congratulations to him for his election.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) (U.P.) : Mr. speaker, Sir, I am first time congratulating somebody in

the House. I know P.M. Sayeed since the very first day, at that time I was also in Congress Party. The new Members of Congress Party raised points on some fundamental issues and at that time P.M. Sayeed was the youngest Member who participated in it. He was born in a tribal area of Lakshadweep which is situated in the mid of sea. He has closely seen helplessness and agony. He has also seen the form of nature and struggled against it. He has a desire to take humanity to heights and that desire brought him to politics and he has always expressed his desire. He has profundity by which he has always been trying to take humanity to heights. Once upon a time Vivekanandji had said that human being has divided himself into small categories. They have not recognised the sea of humanity. He has not only born and brought up in the lap of sea but has recognised the big sea of humanity and that's why he had again and again tried to set up such type of society, the society of equality. He always won the hearts of people with his nature, behaviour and culture. He bears an innocent face and sometimes his smile deceives people. People think that he is carefree and innocent but his intentions are strong and with these intentions he has always been struggling to change the society.

Sir, I am happy that he has begun a new era when there is darkness all around in democracy, especially in Parliament, we are seeing that every body is against each other. The entire House has elected him unanimously due to his virtues which is a new beginning not only in Parliament but also in the politics of this country. I feel that he has enlightened a light in this darkness and will always remain enlightened. He always did justice to the offices which he held. I hope that this light will always remain enlightened and it will enlighten the place wherever it goes because light is not self centered.

[English]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL (Jalandhar) : Sir, I consider it a privilege to get up to felicitate my dear old friend who has been chosen to this high office. He came to the Parliament in 1967 when I was already there. I have been watching him since he has come here. It has been my privilege to work with him in various capacities. I have always found him a man of great intellect and also a man of great values. I know of his faith in the Parliamentary democracy. I am conscious of the fact that in whichever bench he has sat - opposition or the Government - he has always upheld the democratic values.

Since I have known him from the day he came here, as I said, I was present there when he came. I am certain that when he adorns this Chair, he will continue to uphold those values for which we all stand for. And we all see to it that democratic values, democratic procedures, democratic attitudes prevail under all circumstances.

[Shri I.K. Gujral]

I wish him good luck and I wish our House good wishes because I think, we have chosen the right person for this post

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA (Tura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the world is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of adoption of the UN Charter on Human Rights. According to the Charter, amongst other things, social origin shall not be a ground for discrimination. Shri Sayeed hails from distant, sea-bound, small region of Lakshadweep. Today, by electing him as the Deputy Speaker, the House has signalled that in our sub-continent-size democracy, people with origin in distant, small regions will not be forgotten. For us, there could not have been a better way of celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the Human Rights Charter, than this

Shri Sayeed is a linguist. He is proficient in Hindi, English Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil and Tulu. In a sense, he represents the composite culture of our country and is hence eminently suited to hold the high office of the Deputy Speaker

It was 1996. I went to Lakshadweep to attend a reception that Shri Sayeed had organised in connection with the marriage of his daughters. It was then that I realised the place that Shri Sayeed has in the hearts of his people. His entire village had turned up in his humble house. Virtually, all the islanders in the village and nearby places attended the reception. They sat inside his house, in his courtyard, in the sea-front and under coconut trees and helped themselves to the very same simple lunch in congregational style. There was no distinction between the rich and the poor, high and the lowly, close relatives and others.

No wonder, Shri Sayeed has returned to this House nine times over consecutively. In fact, Shri Sayeed and Shri Khagpati Pradhani are the two Members of this august House whose names have been entered in the Guinness Book of World Record for having elected to Parliament eight consecutive times.

For him, maturing in our parliamentary democracy through the terms of 11 out of 12 Presidents and 11 out of 14 Prime Ministers should have been a ground experience. This house has already seen this experience in display in the performance of Shri Sayeed as a member of the panel of Chairman.

Shri Sayeed is a senior politician, senior to me in politics. Nonetheless in 1995-96, when both of us were working in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, I was the Cabinet Minister and he was the Minister of State. The gentleman that Shri Sayeed is, he never brought our relative political seniority positions to affect our hierarchical

relationship in the Ministry. We had excellent working relationship. I found that God has gifted Shri Sayeed with a mind and heart which are as serene as the blue lagoons of Lakshadweep.

Thomas Gray, the famous British poet of the romantic period, in his elegy written on a country churchyard sang :

"Full many a gem of purest rays serene,
The dark unfathomed caves of ocean bear.
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness in the desert air."

Shri Sayeed is a coral gem; is a lilly of lagoons; we have fathomed this gem out of the Arabic Sea for us to wear; presented this flower to adorn our House Chair. We have proved the poet wrong. I am sure, he will shine. He will spread fragrance.

Hon. Shri P.M. Sayeed, I wish you all the bounties of God and success in your new assignment.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to congratulate Shri P.M. Sayeed on being elected unanimously as the Deputy-Speaker.

This day will be remembered because today we have elected a person who is the most popular leader of the most beautiful island of our country. Shri P.M. Sayeed has been elected continuously as a Member of this House since 1967. Since the time I was elected in 1980, I have seen him as a Member, as a Parliamentarian, as a Minister and as a Member of the panel of Chairman in this House. I have seen his capabilities and efficiency. It would have been better if he was elected earlier also. We wanted to keep up the traditions of this House in electing the Deputy-Speaker from the Opposition. I am extremely happy that Shri P.M. Sayeed, a person of stature, personality, capability, efficiency, democratic approach, impartiality and a Parliamentarian with a long tenure, has been elected unanimously today. We sincerely hope that as the Deputy-Speaker of Lok Sabha, he will be able to maintain the dignity and decorum of the House. What is needed today is that the voice of all sections of this House should be reflected and also protected. We sincerely hope that this can be done under his Deputy-Speakership.

On behalf of my party, I extend our sincere cooperation to Shri P.M. Sayeed in conducting the business of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member Shri P.M. Sayeed has been elected unanimously and unopposed for the post of Deputy-Speaker of this August House. Therefore, I express my hearty congratulations to him. We know that two virtues

are necessary for the post of chairperson - one is ability and another is impartiality. The business of the House cannot function properly without ability and impartiality. I am happy that he possess not two but three virtues. He is able, impartial and experienced too. Therefore, it is a matter of happiness for this House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are happy that the leader of Rashtriya Janta Dal had suggested the name of Shri P.M. Sayeed for the office of Deputy Speaker. The biggest democratic country India is honoured that this great tradition of electing Deputy-Speaker from the opposition Party was started in the year 1977 when we were in ruling party. Since then this tradition is being followed by various states but just now a conspiracy has been hatched to discontinue this tradition. I would like to thank Kumari Mamata, Jai Lalita of allied parties of ruling party and the member of the Samata Party who have strongly tried to follow this great tradition. I am happy that this great tradition of this House has been restored.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this election is completed impartially and unanimously under your great responsibility and direction. So far that distant, sea bound area would have felt neglected but election of a scheduled tribe member to this dignified office is an unanimous election against regionalism and communalism. Therefore, we express heartiest thanks to you.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I promise before you to extend cooperation in upholding the high conventions of the House and every type of assistance in running the House peacefully. I, once again express thanks and we will extend full cooperation to newly elected hon'ble Deputy-Speaker in running the House impartially, protection to rights of the hon'ble Members and in solving questions raised about poor people so that he may be able to fulfil the aspirations of the poor people.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has promised to run the House peacefully.

SHRI RAGHUANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have promised but he should also promise that he will not create unwanted and ugly scenes while holding the office of Minister.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on my behalf and on behalf of my Telugu Desam Party, I am congratulating and felicitating Shri P.M. Sayeed for being elected unanimously as the Deputy-Speaker of the Lok Sabha. He is a distinguished personality, a senior Member of this House. He was elected to Lok Sabha for

nine times. When he was first elected to Lok Sabha in 1957, I was studying in 5th class. So, I am very happy today that a distinguished personality is elected unanimously by this House. I am also very happy that in spite of differences, we are unanimous on some democratic values. I am sure, he would give more chances to the new Members and also each and every Member is allowed to speak in this House.

Once again, my heartiest congratulations and best wishes for his new assignment.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the leader of our party, Kumari Mamata Banerjee, who would have been the happiest person today, is not present in this House. On behalf of Kumari Mamata Banerjee and on behalf of all my colleagues, I offer our heartiest felicitations to Shri P.M. Sayeed. We look forward to having a very competent and very impartial Deputy-Speaker in the Chair. May I also take this opportunity to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister. It was his statesmanship which made it possible to reach a consensus and to conform to the tradition of the House that the Opposition should get the post of the Deputy-Speaker. Again our heartiest felicitations to Shri P.M. Sayeed. I hope he would invite us all to Lakshadweep.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH (Periyakulam) : At the outset, I wish to convey my happiness and congratulations to Shri P.M. Sayeed for being elected unanimously as the Deputy-Speaker of this House. I also convey my congratulations to Shri P.M. Sayeed on behalf of our party, AIADMK and on behalf of my leader, *Puratchi Thalaivi*, Dr. Jayalalitha.

By the election of this experienced and eminent politician, we have once again been upholding the highest tradition and convention of this House by giving the post of Deputy-Speakership to the main Opposition. At this juncture, I wish to thank all our ruling coalition for accepting this conventional tradition to give the post of Deputy-Speaker to the Opposition. It is our leader, *Puratchi Thalaivi*, Dr. Jayalalitha, who had aired this appeal to all the political parties and to the hon. Prime Minister to uphold this convention in this House. Hence, I thank all the leaders of our ruling coalition as well as our hon. Prime Minister for getting together in upholding this tradition and convention.

Sir, moreover I am so happy that we are having both the presiding officers, the Speaker and the Deputy-Speaker, from our South. Again, we are proud enough to note that we are having an eminent person, who is well-versed in our Tamil language to hold the post of Deputy-Speakership after our hon. Minister, Shri Thambi Durai. Will all this happiness, I once again felicitate Shri P.M. Sayeed for being elected unanimously as the Deputy-Speaker of this House by upholding our highest tradition and convention.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (Madras Central) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very happy to join my colleagues in offering my ecomiums to my great friend an brother, Thiru P.M. Sayeed, for having been elected as the Deputy-Speaker. Sir, the eight-month old controversy, which generated unusual heat and interest, is over today. As the saying goes, 'All is well that ends well', it has ended in choosing a right person for the Deputy-Speakership.

Thiru Sayeed has many records, many achievements. Everybody has stated that he has been elected for nine times to the House. It is not a joke to be elected from the same constituency for nine times. That is why I used to call him as 'Sultan of Lakshadweep'. Sir, incidentally, he and I entered the Lok Sabha sometime in 1967. He has been elected for nine times along with Shri Pradhan. I think, he can be compared only to Thiru Indrajit Babu who has been elected to the Lok Sabha for ten times, with one break. Therefore, if you want to say in cricket terms, you can call Thiru Indrajit Babu, as Don Bradman, the dayen of cricket, and I would call Thiru Sayeed, as Sachin Tendulkar.

So, I offer my congratulations to him. Sir, Shri Sayeed did not listen. I compared him with Sachin Tendulkar.

Sir, he has got another achievement which has not been mentioned by anybody. He has got one son - it is very good - and he has got seven daughters. It is probably because he was in the far-flung area that he forget about family planning.

He has done a lot for his constituency. When he was elected to the Lok Sabha for the first time in 1967, the rate of literacy in Lakshadweep was 15 per cent. Now it is 100 per cent. It is a great achievement.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Maran, he is also an expert in handling the 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Yes, Sir.

Sir, Lakshadweep was an isolated island earlier. But it is no more an isolated island now. There is a daily flight to Lakshadweep and he has created telephone connections to all the places over there. As our former Speaker said, it is a great tribute that he has been chosen form a far-fung island in the Arabian Sea. Not only that ; he belongs to a minority community. He is elected not because of that, but because of his talent.

Sir, this 12th Lok Sabha will go down in history because as my friend from the AIADMK has said, both the Presiding Officers are from the South. Not only that; another credit is that the Speaker belongs to the Scheduled Caste and the Deputy-Speaker belongs to the Scheduled Tribe. I think, this custom will continue and will become a tradition just like the post of Deputy-Speaker belonging

to the Opposition Party. I think, both the positions should go to persons from the South and both should be from the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe.

Sir, it is said that the parliamentary form of government is a government by speaking. When the post of Deputy-Speaker was once offered to my Party, at that time I asked the Presiding Officer as to what should be the criterion and whom should I select for that post. He said that the primary criterion is that our candidate for the post of Deputy-Speaker should have a stentorian voice, a voice which will prevail over the voices of all other Members. He has not only the stentorian voice, but also, what is called, the Lok Sabha tact. In the House of Commons, they used to say that the Presiding Officer should have the House of Commons tact. He has got the Lok Sabha tact, because he has been in the Panel of Chairman for five years.

Sir, it used to be said that the House of Common is that most effective rostrum in the world. Likewise, our Lok Sabha is the most effective forum in India. Not only that; recently it has become the beet television broadcasting station in the world. Naturally some of us will raise our voices. But he is an experienced parliamentarian as a Member of the Ruling Party, as a Minister of state and also as a Member of the opposition Party. So he has got all the talent to became the Deputy Speaker of this House and I am very happy about it.

Sir, on behalf of my party and on my own behalf; I, once again, congratulate him, congratulate the people of Lakshadweep and offer my cooperation to him.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY (Khagaria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you do not take care of Samata Party.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I was just calling your name. You are not hearing anything said from the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY : On my own behalf and on behalf of Samata Party today, I heartely congratulate Shri P.M. Sayeed for being elected as Deputy Speaker. You are aware that the largest Panchayat of the world has maintained secularism in the country and the election of a Dalit to the position of Deputy Speaker has shown to the world that how the members of this Panchayat are capable in electing.

Therefore, Shri P.M. Sayeed has got a great responsibility. We would like to express our special thanks to hon'ble Prime Minister who proposed his unopposed election and there was no protest on this issue.

[English]

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK (Aska) : Sir, on behalf of the Biju Janata Dal, I congratulate Shri P.M. Sayeed on being elected unanimously as the Deputy Speaker of this august House. I am sure, with his vast and rich experience of over three decades, he will conduct this House more effectively. Thank you.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on my own behalf of and on behalf of my party i.e. Shiromani Akali Dal I congratulate Shri P.M. Sayeed for being elected as Deputy Speaker. I think that today is day is a great day in the history of India when a person from minority and Dalits has been elected as Deputy Speaker of the largest Panchayat of India and today a person from these classes is adorning this post. While all the parties are praise-worthy and congratulation for this, I would like to congratulate hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee also who has tried to maintain the tradition of this country. At last I once again congratulate Shri P.M. Sayeed.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. On my own behalf and that of my party, Shiv Sena, I congratulate Shri P.M. Sayeed for having been elected to the position of Deputy-Speaker.

First of all, I am proud that he has been a student of the same College where I studies in Mumbai. He is an ex-Sidharathian.

Secondly, he is representing the culture of our country. It is very important. Because of that, he is occupying such a position by which the controversy will be minimised.

Thirdly, he has been given a very nice message because the Leader of the Opposition says that now he is sitting very close to him. I wish this position continues for the next four years so that the entire controversy is minimised in this House. Otherwise, every MP of this House is very much doubtful. There is an apprehension that they have to go back to fight the elections. But because of his election, I feel, that apprehension will be removed and the people will have a very stable mind, a stable Government and a stable Parliament.

There is one more point. Culturewise also, he has a capacity to tackle the situation. While congratulating him, most of the leaders, who actually create problems in this House, have assured him to extend their full cooperation for smooth running of the House. That is also an additional qualification that he possesses.

Shri Sayeed being a proper representative of our Indian culture, my only wish is that he succeeds in all spheres of activities. He is one of my best friends. Ever since I came to this House, I got his friendship. I consider myself lucky for this. The entire credit goes to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the hon. Leader of our Government.

13.00 hrs

It is only because people talk about the convention. But, I would say that the convention is to be honoured by each and every Member of this Parliament. Whenever we talk about convention, it should be strictly adhered to in all respects. That is my only expectation. If this would have been done earlier, I think, this election would not have been delayed so much.

Once again, I wish all the best to my friend and the hon. Deputy-Speaker, Shri P.M. Sayeed. Thank you Sir.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : Sir, on behalf of my party, RSP, I warmly congratulate hon. Shri P.M. Sayeed on his election as the Deputy-Speaker.

Sir, he knows the composition of the Twelfth Lok Sabha. The ruling coalition and the opposition are more or less evenly balanced. There are a number of smaller parties and I firmly believe that he will give good time to them to air their views on various burning issues.

I hope that along with you, he will safeguard the rights of the hon. Members and the dignity of this august House. I once again assure Shri P.M. Sayeed my party's fullest cooperation in conducting the proceedings of the House in an orderly impartial manner and wish him very very successful tenure. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN (Bahraich) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on my behalf of and on behalf of my party, I through you congratulate Shri P.M. Sayeed, it has been repeatedly said that Shri P.M. Sayeed has been elected to Lok Sabha for the ninth time. Those, who have not seen Shri P.M. Sayeed, may think that this august House has chosen a very old and aged person as its Deputy Speaker but one glance at Sayeed Sahib removes all misgivings.

Sir, A proverb has been used for India- "Ever ages never old." It is appropriate to apply this proverb to Sayeed Sahib because he has come with more and more freshness and smile after every election. His age is, of course, increasing but it is, in no way, telling upon his personality.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate you also very much because you have got an able and efficient Deputy Speaker in the form of Shri P.M. Sayeed in order to perform your responsibilities. At last, while congratulating, I would like to read a couplets -

"Nigah Berk nahin, Chehra aftar nahin
woh admi hai magar, dekhne ki tab nahin"

[English]

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Amravati) : Hon Speaker Sir, I rise to extend my sincere congratulations to hon. Shri P.M. Sayeed, who has been unanimously elected as the Deputy-Speaker of this august House.

Sir, this House is supreme and sovereign. In parliamentary language this House is designated as the temple of democracy. We achieved democracy and parliamentary democracy but at the same time, the reasons are best known to all of us, we are far away from the social and economic democracy. Unless and until, we achieve the social and economic democracies, there is no value of political democracy. Therefore, this being the temple of democracy and there are crores of Gods and Goddesses, we are the devotees here. Whatever the parliamentary devices we have been using for the cause of greater democracy, I hope, through you and through the hon. Deputy-Speaker, Shri Sayeed, we may be in a position to achieve political democracies, and as well social and economic. democracy also.

Once again, I extend my sincere congratulations to Shri P.M. Sayeed and assure him every cooperation in his tenure. Thank you very much.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Hon. Speaker Sir, on my own behalf and on behalf of my party, Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, I rise to congratulate the hon. Member of this House, who has now become the Deputy-Speaker of this House.

Sir, over a long period of time, since this House came into being, prominent men and women brought dignity to this House. Shri Sayeed belongs to only that category, who brought dignity and grace to this House.

In English poetry perhaps Robert Herrick said that 'Small is Beautiful'. Lakshadweep is beautiful and Shri Sayeed reflects that beauty in an ample measure. It is harmony here and this has been brought about by the unanimous election of Shri Sayeed. That harmony is welcome because occasionally this House gets divided to my great disappointment. But today, I feel happy to see this harmony and for this harmony I appreciate the role of BJP, which came finally to understand and appreciate in ample measure that democracy and harmony in this House would get strengthened by Shyheed's election to this exalted Office because he is very popular and his popularity cuts across all sections of this House.

I must congratulate you also because you would not get a better colleague than Shri P.M. Sayeed.

Now, finally I must say that the culture which Shri Sayeed has reflected here has made him popular here.

He is a man of high culture and high magnanimity towards his colleagues and he got it i.e. this office on merit. Evidently, he brought credit not only to Lakshadweep, the small island known for Lagoons, but he brought credit to his community, the Muslim Community, also.

He is the first Muslim to adorn that Chair, Among the Speakers and the Deputy-Speakers, he would be the first Muslim adorning the Chair.

Now that Shri Arif Mohd. Khan had recited a couplet, I remember a little better than that, but the credit goes to Shri Arif Mohd. Khan. The House will appreciate it.

"Nigah buland Sukhan dilnawaj wa Jan pursose
Yahi Hai Rikhte-Safar Mere Karawan Ke Liye"

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt congratulations and also to offer the felicitations to Shri P.M. Sayeed Sahab on my own behalf and on behalf of my party, the Indian Muslim League, on his unanimous election as the Deputy-Speaker of this House?

Sir, this election demonstrates one thing. Despite the differences of opinion on various issues, we are able to come together in upholding the highest democratic tradition of this House by electing a Member of the main Opposition party as the Deputy Speaker of this House though it has been delayed for some time.

Sir, I am personally ecstatic that a very close friend of mine has been elected as the Deputy-Speaker of this House. When he was elected in 1967, I was elected to Kerala Legislative Assembly and whenever we, the young MLAs come here, it was Shri Sayeed who took us to the Visitors' Gallery of this august House and his scooter was the only vehicle for us to travel. I am very happy that an old colleague of mine has assumed the Office. His one quality which I have seen in him is this. Not only he has been elected from Lakshadweep nine times since 1967 but also he was perhaps the only one Member in this House who have got elected unanimously, uncontested, in 1971 to this House.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : In 1967, he was elected to this House at the age of 26 years.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Yes. I was also elected to Kerala Legislative Assembly like that.

One of the most important qualities of Shri Sayeed is that he is sober; soft-spoken and unassuming and that has endeared him to one and all and he eminently deserve this position.

I am very happy that a member of the Muslim community has been given the first occasion to assume the Office of the Deputy-Speakership though the Muslim community deserves much more than this in this country.

Sir, I am sure that the manner in which Shri Sayeed has been conducting the House will also follow the example set by yourself and your distinguished predecessor giving more consideration to the small parties in this House. I am sure that Shri Sayeed will definitely maintain his sober and level-headed quality in conducting the Business of this house.

Sir, for our brothers in Lakshadweep, it is a day of happiness. They will be just watching each and every word spoken by the Prime Minister, Shri Chandra Shekhar, Shri Gujral, Shri Sharad Pawar and all other Members here. It will be a great day for the people of Lakshadweep and it will also be a great day for this house for having elected a popular Member as the Deputy-Speaker of this House.

Sir, he is a man who knows Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, Hindi and what not, all the languages. It will not be very difficult for any Member of the House to interact with him. Sir, I take this opportunity once again to felicitate him on behalf of my Party, the Indian Union Muslim League and on my own behalf and wish him good luck and God speed.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the hon. Members of this House are very happy that a Member from Lakshadweep has become the Deputy-Speaker of this House. He is not only from Lakshadweep but also the fact that Shri P.M. Sayeed is known to me very closely for the last 22 years. I saw a patriotism in him. I saw a perfect gentleman. I saw a good Parliamentarian. So, through you, Sir, I would like to congratulate him for having been elected as the Deputy-Speaker of this House.

Sir, I appeal to yourself and also to the Deputy-Speaker that we are the smaller group in this House. But what about the smallest baby? The former Speaker Shri Balram Jakhar is here. The former Deputy-Speaker, Dr. M. Thambi Durai is also here.

In 1984 when the BJP was having two Members, Shri Balram Jakhar was the Speaker and Shri M. Thambi Durai was the Deputy-Speaker. They used to give chances to the smaller parties. Now, the BJP has grown from 2 to 182.

We may be small in number, but we have got a rational view and we have got a say on different issues which should be reflected here so that the nation could know about it.

Sir, through you, I would again like to congratulate Shri P.M. Sayeed, as the new Deputy-Speaker.

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDER SINGH (Bhiwani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very happy that the entire house has unanimously

elected Shri P.M. Sayeed as Deputy Speaker. I feel very happy because I started my political career under his guidance. He was president of All India Youth congress and when I became lawyer in 1970, he nominated me and Sh. P.C. Chacks as General Secretary of India Youth Congress.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : The follower also proved to be good.

SHRI SURENDER SINGH : It is impossible to add to his personality after the speech of Prime Minister, Chander Shakhari ji and Sangma ji. When Shri Sharad Pawar ji was saying something about his election, he mentioned about the voters of his constituency that there are 38000 voters in his constituency. The Circle of the voters may be too small, they elect great personality. I would like to say one thing, as Shri Soz Sahib has said that much opportunity which has been given to a member of Minorities in this House will boost our morale provided the parties of Minorities which represent the minorities in the House, take care of them.

With these words, I on my own behalf and on behalf of my party, congratulate Shri Sayeed Sahab and express my thanks to you.

[English]

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai) : Sir, the weather outside today is foggy, cloudy and gloomy, but inside the House there is sunshine. This has been made possible by the unanimous election of Shri P.M. Sayeed for which we have to, first of all, thank the Congress Party for selecting such an able and experienced person to be the candidate, to Kumari Mamata Banerjee for suggesting that he should be supported, to my senior ally, Dr. Jayalalitha, for crystallising the picture and making his election inevitable and, of course, to the hon. Prime Minister for gracefully accepting the arithmetic and making a virtue of the whole thing.

Sir, I think, this election also makes me proud that the whole world can see that there has been a social transformation that two powerful officials of Parliament, the Presiding Officers, are not only highly educated, but also represent the deprived communities of this country. I think, this message to the world will be a great message, this empowerment that is taking place gradually, the unity of the country that is coming about.

I would urge Shri P.M. Sayeed to give me some special consideration because I proposed his name. I wish him well and we are all very very happy and proud of this day and his election.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I on my behalf and on behalf of my party, Haryana Lok Dal (Rashtriya), congratulate Sayeed Saheb for his being elected to the post of Deputy Speaker. So far as his introduction is concerned, all senior leaders have given his introduction. I am sure that Sayeed Saheb is very experienced and able person. I believe that like Hon'ble Speaker he will provide more opportunity to new members to speak. I would like to request Sayeed Saheb to make arrangements for one visit of new members of this House to Lakshadweep. There was some controversy before this election but I would like to congratulate Shri Vajpayee ji who maintained the parliamentary tradition. On my behalf and on behalf of my party, I once again congratulate Sayeed Saheb.

SHRI S.S. OWAISI (Hyderabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate Shri P.M. Sayeed Saheb with great happiness. His name is Sageed and today he is Sayeed. I am happy that a representative of minority community has been elected as Deputy Speaker. I hope that during his tenure, he will struggle for all those problems for which we are fighting. With his smiling face and radiant eyes I hope that he will go ahead while maintaining the dignity of this House and solving all the problems. I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity.

*SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI (Palani) : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, on behalf of our party Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, I would like to congratulate and felicitate Thiru P.M. Sayeed who has been elected as the new Deputy Speaker of this House. I am a first-time member in this august House. Now I am getting an opportunity to greet a senior member who made it to this House nine times consecutively. I do not have age and experience but still with great admiration for his rich accomplishments I am bestowing my warm greetings on my personal behalf and on behalf of my party Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. We wish him success.

[Translation]

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : Honourable Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the happiness and pleasure expressed in the House and congratulate Shri P.M. Sayeed. Today our P.M. has been made Deputy Speaker. In his friends circle we call him P.M., not now but since the day when we started parliamentary business here. I was elected to the Parliament at the same age exactly five years ago at which Shri Sayeed was elected to the Lok Sabha. Shri P.M. Sayeed has been elected unanimously for this office. So not only the people of Lakshadweep are rejoicing but also the people from Kanyakumari to

Kashmir and from Kamakhya to Kathiawad, who have faith in democracy, are feeling happiness.

Sir, I would like say one thing today when Shri Sayeed is going to assume this office that the provisions for the Dalit and Tribals made in our constitution have been violated one by one. On behalf of the Union Government I hope that Shri Sayeed Saheb and Mr. Speaker, together will assist us in providing the poor classes particularly Dalits and Tribals their constitutional rights. I, on behalf of all promise him to extend our full cooperation and again congratulate him.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P.M. Sayeed has got a lot of affection. That is why, every Member wants to speak.

*SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH (Inner Manipur) : Mr. Speaker Sir, today in this august House I express my happiness for electing Shri P.M. Sayeed ji as the Deputy Speaker. Sir, in a democracy suppression of small by big is unwanted and undesirable, but this election clearly shows that the hegemony of the big States is no more. I would like to appreciate the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition for such a democratic pursuit. Sir, we belong to smaller States and P.M. Sayeed ji is also one of us. Once again I appreciate the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Hon'ble Opposition Leader and the Hon'ble Members of the House for unanimously electing P.M. Sayeed ji as the Deputy Speaker. Let this tradition of encouraging and protecting the small and weak by the big and mighty live long. We all are happy for electing P.M. Sayeed ji.

*SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI (Dharwar South) : Mr. Chairman Sir, today I am supremely happy. Shri P.M. Sayeed a great lover of Kannada language and Kannada culture, has been elected as the Deputy Speaker of this august House. There are three hon. Members from our party Lok Shakti and from the State of Karnataka totally there are 28 members. All of us are being given chances by Shri P.M. Sayeed to speak and to ventilate our grievances in this House.

Shri P.M. Sayeed is an eminent and experienced parliamentarian. He is an impartial leader and possesses all good virtues. I, on behalf of my party express my heartiest congratulations to him. I also assure him that we will give him our full cooperation in conducting the business of Lok Sabha. Sir, I request to please put him in the Chair during zero hour. He knows the knack of handling zero hour in a more scientific and systematic manner. All the members of this House are happy about his elevation to the post of the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker and I am sure

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Manipuri.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

that all of us will cooperate with him. I wish him long life, great strength and all success and with these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR (Bikaner) : Honourable Speaker, Sir, there is a small island in the lap of Arab Sagar in which the tides always sing melodious songs, there the air passes whistling in the cluster of coconut trees and there is a sweet heart man to whom the P.M. name was given by his family. Here the P.M. are elected and leave but he has always been P.M., therefore, we call him P.M. He is a sweetheart man, his tongue is also sweet. Such a person came who fascinated all of us and became friends of all. These are the faculties of a human being. Where there is a good notured person lives, there humanity also exists and he consists an ideal for himself and the people.

I have enjoyed his company. He has extended a good hand while sitting on this very chair. The style of his working and his efficiency, I know all that very well and he will be successful to run the House smoothly by taking all of us with him. We respect him. He has become friend of people by showing interest in them. Today, in the real sense, to be a human being is great requirement of the country. Somebody has rightly said that "When there is a human being then love to human being and only this path goes to the heaven". This path has been accepted by this great man. I don't want to say more because everything has been said about him. Only one thing I want to say that he is as rigid as flexible. Onething has been said about Rama in the Ramayna "Kumlangi Kusumadabi, Kathorani Vajradapi." He is as delicate as petals of rose but when he determines them he becomes as rigid as stone. These two things prove that he is eligible for this office. While holding this office, by following philosophy of Lord Rama he will treat all the people impartially and will prepare such an atmosphere which would be good for all. I use say one thing about him. "Tu Sain Hai, Kam Hai Parwaj Tera, Tere Liye Asman Our Bhi Hain". Come forward, take this responsibility and run it properly. By this our name and the name of this House will touch the heights of the sky. You have been elected with love and consensus and it should have to be done because any other thing do not behave you. You are a person of such type for whom election should not be held and it has not been held. Therefore, I congratulate the whole House and you and also congratulate the time to come when you will hold this office.

[English]

MR SPEAKER : Hon. Members, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate Shri P.M. Sayeed on his election as the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha. His unanimous election is a testimony of the collective wisdom of the House and a triumph of our democratic tradition of achieving consensus through dialogue.

Shri P.M. Sayeed is an embodiment of the virtues that make an effective parliamentarian. Conscientious, sharp, knowledgeable and affable, Shri Sayeed has abiding faith in the efficacy of the parliamentary institutions and respect for opposing viewpoints. He has been representing Lakshadweep in the Parliament for over 30 years. To be precise, this is his ninth term as a Member of Lok Sabha. This speaks of his popularity in his constituency.

Shri Sayeed has judiciously blended his roles as a representative of the constituency and as a member of the national Parliament. His contributions as a member of the House and as member of various House Committees and Joint Committees, have been highly appreciated. His in-depth knowledge of rules and conventions and understanding of our parliamentary traditions have helped him to run the House smoothly as a member of the Panel of Chairmen.

His two tenures as a Central Minister during 1979-80 and 1993-96, have also enabled him to have first-hand experience of the working of our Executive.

I compliment the hon. Members for electing a person of such long experience, high stature and integrity as the Deputy Speaker

I wish Shri P.M. Sayeed all the best in his new role as the Deputy Speaker of the House.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : Hon. Mr. Speaker Sir, hon. Leader of the House, Shri Atalji, hon. Leader of the Opposition, Sharadji, hon. ex-Prime Minister, *gurudev* Chandra Shekharji, former Prime Minister, hon. Gujralji, hon. senior leaders and my esteemed colleagues, I am indeed overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude to this august House, and I thank the hon. Members for their profuse compliments to me on my election as the Deputy-Speaker of the House. I do not see in my election victory or defeat for any party or group in political terms. I only see the victory of the hallowed conventions of this House.

People who come to see P.M. Sayeed, Member of Parliament elected nine times over, often visualise him as an old person of snow-white hair and flowing beard. They get jolted by surprise on seeing only a person past the middle age, thus, their imagination not squaring up with reality. What can I do? My island people caught me young. They returned me to this House for the first time when I was just 26 years of age. Now, at 57 years, age has not necessarily withered me nor has custom staled me to my people. They have remained steadily with me and unfailingly returned me to this House since 1967, with an average voter turnout of 85 percent highest in the country.

[Shri P.M. Sayeed]

Indeed, the relationship between my islanders and me is one of abiding romance. My election is a tribute to my people. I thank with immense gratitude my people who are ultimately responsible for where I am today.

I represent Lakshadweep, the smallest constituency in our country of nearly one billion. The size of my electorate is only about 40,000 as against the country's total electorate of nearly 500 million and average electorate size per constituency of around one million. My election, in this background, has a significant message that the forces of national integration which are neutral to the magnitude of geographical regions have triumphed.

It was the Late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi who held the concerns of the island people driven to geographical isolation dear to his heart. To take them on board the mainstream of our political, social and economic life, he created the Island Development Authority. On this occasion of my election as the Deputy-Speaker, let me pay homage to his soul and spirit.

Lakshadweep is not the only island region of our country. We have the Andaman and Nicobar Islands also. In the discharge of my duties, I shall be a man of all islands.

I am aware that in my election, I have had the support of the growing women power of our country. I salute our women power.

In these days of fractious political life and consequent hung Houses, more than ever before, unanimity in election to the Offices of the Presiding Officers is getting to be increasingly desirable. I would assure the House that the unanimity of my election would always condition my reflexes in the conduct of the House. I shall sincerely endeavour to bring the discharge of my functions and responsibilities as Presiding Officer in conformity with the spirit of this unanimity. I hope that the Members would also demonstrate the same spirit of unanimity in cooperating with me on a day-to-day basis in facilitating the peaceful and efficient transaction of the business of the House.

In the large House that ours is, hon. Members are, more often, not able to catch the eye of the Presiding Officer. Indeed, the eye of the Presiding Officer has been described as the most elusive organ that nature has ever created. But I would request the Members to appreciate that the elusiveness of my eyes would necessarily have to be inversely proportionate to their throats. In the appreciation of this factor as well, I seek the cooperation of the Members, without which I cannot succeed in my office.

The media, the Fourth Estate, is an essential part of our democracy. A role for the media in Parliament has even been envisaged in our Constitution. Our media has always vigilantly invited our attention to the traditions of this House.

In the context of today's election to the Office of the Deputy-Speaker as well, the media had reminded us of our conventions and had contributed, I believe, to creating an environment of unanimity about which I made a reference earlier. It deserves compliments for its role.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Shri Balayogi, for me growing as a Parliamentarian in this House over three decades, even as our parliamentary culture, traditions and conventions evolved, has been a fabulous experience. May I assure you, Sir, that I shall bring this experience to bear on my role as your lieutenant worthy of your trust and confidence. Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we shall take up matters pertaining to 'Zero Hour.'

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you later Shri Mallikarjuniah to speak.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (Tumkur) : Sir, I wish to raise a very important matter in this House. The National Highway No. 4 is running from Bangalore to Tumkur. Now, after 20 years, 30 kilometres of road has been made into a double route, and the remaining 40 kilometres is yet to be converted into double route.

The second point is that, everyday two to three accidents take place in the stretch of road between Nellmangala and Tumkur. Very prominent people of the Legislature and the Zila Parishad have met with accidents and have succumbed to their injuries in this stretch of road. It is because the road is narrow and the traffic is very very heavy.

Sir, I have been urging the Government of Karnataka as well as the Central Government for the past 15 to 20 years for construction of a double road from Nellmangala and Tumkur but my efforts have not met with success so far. Time and again the Government has been announcing one day that Rs. 3 crore would be released for acquisition of land and subsequently on another day they announce that Rs. 10 crore would be released for the purpose, but till now not even an inch of land has been acquired. I urge upon the Government of India as well as the State Government of Karnataka to cooperate in constructing the double road from Nellmangala to Tumkur.

Sir, this is my humble submission.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : Honourable Speaker, Sir, I wish to raise a very important matter in this House. I have very wrongly been quoted in a news item (cover story) published in English edition of India Today of 21 December, 1998 and Hindi edition of 23 December, 1998 under the caption "Haar Nahin Manoonga"

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Virendra Singh, you have given notice about it. It is under my consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Honourable Speaker, Sir, it is the question of my dignity and what is published in India Today that I have tendered apology on the matter of indigenious..

13.47 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Virendra Singh ji, I have got 56 names.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I met to Speaker Sahab in regard to this question. This question is related to my dignity and credibility (Interruptions) where I will talk about this. . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am not stopping you. I have said that now we are starting 'Zero Hour' and the time is 1.45. You please tell briefly. Everybody should get the chance.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : I will tell in brief.

I have been quoted very wrongly in the news item (cover story) published in India Today English edition of 21 December, 1998 and Hindi edition of 23 December, 1998 under the caption "Haar Nahin Manoonga" it has been mentioned in that that on the question of indigenious. I have tendered apology before Prime Minister. How the thing which has been said before the Parliamentary Committee on the question of indigenious, has been published in press. Second question is that we are political workers on the basis of indigenious concept and the subject which is published that I have tendered apology before Prime Minister, nor I have been asked to tender apology and neither I have tendered apology on the subject of indigenious. On the basis of concept of indigenious we have accepted political programme. Due to this people of my constituency and people of other parts of country are questioning my credibility. . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What do you want to say to the Government?

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : It is the question of my credibility. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the place of my birth a battle was fought against imperialism in 1857, and in 1942 a battle was fought against imperialism and Britishers. It is my place of birth and Shri Chandra Shekhar ji lead that place and he knows that on the question of indigenious we have accepted sacrifice instead of bending. Martyr

memorial of Ballia is the live example of it. I would like to tell you that what is published in India Today Magazine that I have tendered apology and Prime Minister has asked none to tender apology, neither I have tendered apology nor I will tender apology on the question of indigenious.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request you that it is the question of my credibility, you please defend my dignity.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please tell me what action you would like to be taken on the part of the Government.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : To defend my dignity I . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Balia) (UP) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when such questions are raised here everytime then it is said on the part of honourable speaker (or the person on the chair) that he is considering that question. If it is said in case of any Member that he is traitor and if he has tendered apology on the question of his fundamental recognition why do you not sent it to committee of privileges immediately. What enquiry is being conducted in this regard? When a Member is saying that he has not tendered apology and it has been published in some newspaper then it should immediately be referred to committee of privileges.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a clearent a matter of Privilege. No press has the right to publish derogatory and untrue things about a person and tarnish his image. Therefore, to defend dignity and prestige of Members is your responsibility. Therefore, we request you that this matter should be referred to committee of privileges.

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, question does arise that anybody tender apology in this matter.

SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi) : Sir, this matter should be referred to Committee of Privileges and such type of wrong things should not happen.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This matter is with speaker Sahab.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Sir, Mr. Speaker, Sir, has told me that he is referring it to Committee of Privileges. I have talked to him personally.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN (Bahraich) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I request you and I would like to say you only one sentence that you apprise the honourable Speaker of the feeling of the House. This is a serious matter. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This matter is pending with the Speaker Sahab, whatever action has to be taken, he will take that

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given the notice of adjournment motion. (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice, this is a very serious matter. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I have given a notice for adjournment motion, you should take up that first.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your matter is also pending with the Speaker Sahab

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I would like to bring a very serious issue to the attention of the House. There is a tussle between the Navy and the Government. The Cabinet Committee on Appointments. . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, let me say about the matter. I have given the notice of adjournment motion. At least dozens of tribals have been killed in Purnea of Bihar. They have been burnt, their children and women have been burnt, their houses have been set on fire and a Muslim has also been burnt. The situation is very tense there, very serious. Either the Home Minister should make a statement in the House or we should adopt some other motion-calling attention or by some other way we must discuss it here so that tension may not aggravated and normal situation may be restored. The way in which the situation has become tense there and leaders of every political party are going there, it is very terrifying and it is the responsibility of Government of India and state Government to restore normalcy there. The situation is very explosive there, this is what I want to request you.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of Bihar have taken all the measures there. There (Interruptions)

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : On this issue discussion should be held on dismissing the Government of Bihar.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) (Bihar) : There is no alternative except to dismiss the Government of Bihar.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the police has made the complete arrangements there. The injured are being medically

attended to. An announcement has been made to give Rs. one lakh to the kith and kin of the deceased. Cases have been noted, arrests are being made. They are raising useless questions here. This issue should have been raised in Bihar Legislative Assembly. They are raising it here. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You sit down.

SHRI MOHAMMED ALI ASHRAF FATMI : The action is being taken against the guilty. Arrests are being made there. The Government of Bihar is taking all steps. They are hatching the conspiracy to dismiss the Government of Bihar. This is not good. The Government of Bihar is doing well.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am on my legs. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, let the hon. Minister of Communications make a Statement regarding Postal Extra Departmental Agents.

(Interruptions)

13.55 hrs.

[English]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : Sir, the Postal Service in the rural areas is provided through the Extra Departmental System which comprises 1,27,162 Extra Departmental Post Offices. The Extra Departmental Agents which number 3,09,825 are employed for a period of two to five hours and are remunerated broadly on *pro rata* basis with reference to the work load and the pay scales of corresponding categories of whole-time departmental employees. Their terms and conditions of service is governed by Separate rules, namely, P&T EDA (Conduct & Service) Rules, 1964 framed in this behalf by the Director-General, Posts.

Keeping in view the growth of postal services and the agency functions as also increasing cost of living and other factors, the Government have in the past set up three committees for Extra Departmental Agents for reviewing the benefits for the ED Agents including the rate of allowances and as a consequence a variety of benefits have flowed over the years to the ED Agents. These committees were set up in the context of the Central Pay Commissions which were appointed by the Central Government for reviewing scales of pay and other conditions of service for regular Government employees.

A one-man Committee headed by Justice Charanjeet Talwar was set up by the Government on 31st March, 1995 to examine the wage structure and conditions of service of the ED Agents. Justice Talwar Committee submitted its report on 30th April, 1997 making wide-ranging recommendations which, in effect, place the ED Agents on equal footing with regular employees of the Central Government. The recommendations of this Committee were duly processed and the Postal Staff Federations were also consulted. In November 1997, the Government decided that pending detailed consideration of the Committee's recommendations the basic monthly allowance of different categories of ED Agents may be raised by a factor of 3.25 with effect from 1.1.96. This was, however, not acceptable to the Postal Staff Federations which insisted on implementation of the Justice Talwar Committee recommendations, particularly, in regard to grant of first two scales of pay, pension, leave and gratuity for ED Agents in the first instance.

Early implementation of positive recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee for ED Agents also figured in the Charter of Demands, on which two of the Postal Federations went on strike during July, 1998. The hon. Members of both the Houses have also expressed their concern for early implementation of the recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee.

The Government has fully and carefully considered the recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee for Postal ED Agents and the various demands raised in this regard by Postal Federations and has now decided to extend the following benefits to the ED Agents

14.00 hrs.

- (i) The ED Agents will be paid arrears of allowance for the period 1st January 1996 to 28th February 1998 by increasing their fixed basic monthly allowance by a factor of 3.25.
- (ii) Different categories of ED Agents will be placed with effect from 1st March, 1998 in two Time Related Continuity Allowance depending on the hours of their employment corresponding to the first two scales of pay recommended by Justice Talwar Committee. Only in respect of ED Sub-Postmaster there will be only one Time Related Continuity Allowance.
- (iii) ED Agents will now be allowed paid leave at the rate of 10 days for every half-year without any provision of carry forward or encashment and with effect from the half year beginning from 1st July, 1998.
- (iv) The ex-gratia gratuity available to ED Agents at present will be raised from the present Rs. 6,000/- to Rs. 18,000/-.

- (v) The amount of Office Maintenance Allowance as also allowed to ED Agents will be raised from the existing Rs. 25/- to Rs. 50/- per month.

As a measure of post-employment benefits to ED Agents, Government have decided to provide lump sum severance amount of Rs. 30,000/- on retirement of an ED Agent at the age of 65 years or in the event of death after completing a minimum of 20 years of continuous service. In case of an ED Agent who has completed only 15 to 20 years of continuous service, the severance amount shall be Rs. 20,000/- on retirement or death. Payment of severance amount of Rs. 20,000/- will also be available for such ED Agents who are absorbed against regular departmental posts after 15 years of continuous service as ED Agents.

Necessary orders in this regard are being issued immediately.

The payment of arrears to ED Agents for the revised basic monthly allowance from 1.1.96 to 28.2.98 is estimated to cost an additional Rs. 157.74 crore to the Government, while the additional annual expenditure on the other substantial benefits now being extended to ED Agents is estimated to be of the order of Rs. 301.35 crore.

Despite severe constraint of resources, the Government have gone a long way to improve the conditions of service of Extra Departmental Agents. In this connection, it may be noted that the existing annual wage bill of the Extra Departmental Agents at present is about Rs. 230 crore. To this Wage Bill, another Rs. 301.2 crore would now be added annually, thereby raising the total Wage Bill to Rs. 531.2 crore.

Government is keen to ensure high morale among its Agents and bring about new dedication and dynamism in the working of the Department. Government hopes that Extra Departmental Agents would put their best foot forward in attaining a very high level of efficiency and productivity.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : It is a clear violation of the agreement. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram) : The postal employees have threatened to go on strike. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : This is a clear violation. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : There was a strike for a very long period. At the end of that strike, they entered into an agreement. . . . (Interruptions) There is no response from the Government (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, please sit down. I am on my legs.

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Sir, we want some clarifications. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : What about the recommendations of the Talwar Committee?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mullapally Ramachandran, I am on my legs, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : After a Minister makes a statement, no clarification is sought. This House has no such tradition.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I just cannot permit that. I am sorry.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M.N. KRISHNADAS : There should be a discussion on this.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : This matter should be discussed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, there are other avenues that are open.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : We want a discussion regarding this issue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right, if you want a discussion who is going to stop you? Is anybody going to prevent you from raising the matter according to the procedure? You can raise it under rule 193 or in any other form of discussion.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let Shri Balram Jakhar speak please.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what about the Zero Hour? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, we want a discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, you have other avenues. If you want to have a discussion, you can give a notice under rule 193.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : This is a misleading statement.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You cannot raise it in this manner. Some rule should be followed. How can you raise it this way?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has made a statement. May be, it is misleading or otherwise. I do not know about that. Whatever it may be, if you want to raise the matter, you have to follow some rules and give some notice.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, you were a Speaker of an Assembly. I am on my legs. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : I hope, the Government will agree for a discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Whether the Government will agree or not, you can give your notice. It is left to the discretion of the Speaker.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Jakhar, you may please start.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Sir, you have already called me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am sorry. Shri Fatmi is on his legs.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Now that the hon. Minister is here, let him clarify whether he is going to implement the Talwar Committee Report or not.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I cannot compel him to give a clarification.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, we want a clarification.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Under the rules, on any statement made by a Minister, you cannot ask for a clarification.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Let him merely clarify the position. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do not waste the time of the House. You may raise the matter in some other

form. You have other avenues open. Please do not disturb now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Keeping in view the seriousness of the situation, you may decide on a discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have to give some notice under some rule. Unless you do that, how can I allow it?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you had given me the time. . . *(Interruptions)* Let me speak. I have got an opportunity. . . *(Interruptions)* why are you wasting my time? *(Interruptions)* when my time is over, you speak *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, you have been the Speaker of the Kerala Assembly. If any matter is to be discussed, there must be a notice for that.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please follow the rules. After all, this House will have to run according to the rules. If you are agitated, you give a notice under some rule. Then, you will get an opportunity to discuss it.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring a very serious matter before the House. The present Government cannot do only good work. But it is moving many bills before the House in haste. One bill about which I am on my legs to speak is related with the division of Bihar and it has been passed by the cabinet. I want to raise this matter in the House. It is a matter of great regret that the proposal, which was forwarded to Bihar Assembly, had been negatived. The whole House had rejected it by voting on it.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO : Majority is involved in that . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Let me speak. *(Interruptions)* Bihar Assembly has returned it to the Government of India by rejecting it and it was mentioned that in no case the division of the State is accepted to Bihar. I accuse the Government of India today that Government wants to deteriorate the situation in Bihar. Bihar wants to live one and in wants not to be divided. Before dividing a state certain conditions have to be kept in mind and after going through then only the State may

be divided. . . *(Interruptions)* Sir, this is a very serious matter. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The matter is serious, that is why you have been given an opportunity.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : People will come out to the roads holding weapons . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, what do you want the Government of India to do? You may ask them to do it.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : If Bihar is disturbed. This will have the whole nation. . . *(Interruptions)* This is not an ordinary matter, this should be heard . . . *(Interruptions)* If the Government of India wants to make smaller states, then it should constitute a commission and should see whether the region is benefitted by smaller States or not. The Minister should answer in this regard.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, this is a matter of Bihar and the Legislative Assembly of Bihar has rejected it. Despite this, the Government of India is attempting to take anti-people and anti-Bihar actions. . . *(Interruptions)* This is not the work of the Government of India to play with the interests of the people of Bihar.

(Interruptions) what does the Government of India want? *(Interruptions)*

[English]

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

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have rightly said that in the various parts of the State demands have been raised to create smaller States. This Government have only chosen those three States where the legislative assembly of those State has passed a motion that a state should be created . . . *(Interruptions)*

*Not Recorded.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Bihar Assembly has done the work of rejecting it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let the Minister complete it.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I requested you that this Government have chosen only those three States where the Legislative Assemblies, have passed this motion unanimously. There were some controversies in Some States. Those who wanted something else, were not taken into consideration. These three States should be divided, new State should be created. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The motion was rejected (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Let me say my words.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : You withdraw your words (Interruptions)

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Fatmi Saheb, you listen to me. You are a senior Member. If Minister of Parliamentary Affairs given some wrong statement, then you have a right of privilege against him. Why do you behave like this here.

[English]

Whatever he says here is on record. You have got several methods to find a way out. Otherwise, how can we complete this?

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Sir, this is not the way, they are not allowing me to complete my statement. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs may speak now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, the motion which has been rejected by the Legislative Assembly. . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Raghuvansh Prasad Singh jee, I tell you that if the Minister misleads us, you have the right of privilege in this regard. What will be the result of talking like this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The motion regarding the division of Bihar has been rejected by Bihar Legislative Assembly. . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You first listen to what the Minister says :

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, I request you that no body should do anti-people, anti-law and anti-constitutional work and compels the people of Bihar to go for agitations. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt now.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Sir, according to the constitution the State which demands, . . . (Interruptions) This very Legislative Assembly had said earlier that this State should be divided. They said that they wanted Vananchal, he said and he assumed. After that cabinet sent it to the President. The President sends it to the concerned state. The very Legislative Assembly had earlier demanded that Bihar should be divided, the same Bihar has changed its stand and after changing it sent to the centre. The Chief Minister said that they are sending their views. Power belongs to Central Government, it is the right of the centre. . . (Interruptions) that is why, I say that when the bill comes up you may put your views. . . (Interruptions,

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I want to say that if you do anything against the interests of Bihar, there would be a great mass movement. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, this is not correct. I am on my legs.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When I am on my legs, you will have to sit down.

The Minister has already responded to it. If you want to say anything on this, there are several methods to say that. There is no need to interrupt.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR (Bikaner) : Sir, this is a very serious matter. This is related with the security of the nation. I do not want to make it an issue since this is such an issue which should become the subject of concern itself. If George Sahab would have been in place of me, it is

not known that how much criticism would have been made but I do not want to raise it in such a way. In this way our prestige has been downgraded, the type of enmity is being spread is not good. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO (Jamshedpur) : It is not disintegration but smaller states are being created. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You keep quiet.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : It is like this that in one command there is one commander and one field commander or operation commander. Such a person should be posted under him so that tussle work start between them as a result of which defect takes place before start of the battle. Always it is seen that command should be unified and there should be no mudslinging. This is an internal matter and you should do this and in the interest of the country. I do not want that we should expose it thoroughly in the House. This is a subject of concern and you should think over it because it is a matter related with security. And security is not of one but for all, for the sake of the country. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you I want to request you that this is an issue of Naval Headquarters. This should be set at right properly. Otherwise, This is such a spark which can alight fire and fire is good for nobody. I am telling you in the interest of the country that this should be resolved at home itself.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3.20 P.M.

14.21 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till twenty minutes past Fifteen of the Clock

15.25 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at twenty-five minutes past Fifteen of the Clock

[English]

[SHRI KHAGAPATI PRADHANI in the Chair]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, we want a discussion on the situation in Iraq caused by bombing. You kindly announce whether it will be done under Rule 193 or under any other rule. We want a discussion. It is an open aggression on Iraq. The Prime Minister has made a statement. But we want a thorough discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can raise it after the Minister makes a statement. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister will give a detailed statement in the evening.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : But we should know about the timing.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The meeting of the BAC is going on. In that meeting, they will decide about the timing.

Now we shall take up Matters under Rule 377.

15.28 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to ensure that funds sanctioned for the welfare of STC are used for their welfare only particularly in Madhya Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE (Mandala) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a provision to spend the funds under Tribal Sub-Plan on the basis of tribal population for development of the area in Madhya Pradesh. But in Madhya Pradesh the funds are not properly utilized and diverted to non-tribal areas. I had continuously requested the Government of Madhya Pradesh and the Government of India for making only definite provision for it. But so far no special provision has been made. Even today, the amount of Sub-Plan area is not properly utilized.

I, therefore, request the Government of India to spend the funds under the Tribal Sub-Plan on the basis of special Planned Programme or provide the same to the district collectors of the tribal districts direct from the Government of India.

- (ii) **Need for construction of a bridge on River Chambal at Udaighat in Morana passing through Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Murena) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is an urgent need of a bridge over Chambal river at Udasghat in Amba area of Murena Parliamentary constituency. At present there is a bridge of barrels which causes great inconveniences to the vehicles.

This bridge would benefit lakhs of citizens of M.P. and U.P. I urge upon the Central Government to direct U.P. and M.P. Governments for the construction of this bridge.

- (iii) **Need to increase the relay capacity of Doordarshan at Urai, U.P.**

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a Doordarshan Kendra has been set up in district headquarter Urai in district Jalaun (U.P.) under my Lok Sabha constituency. It has not been airing programmes upto the required range. The geographical situation of my district is such that it is located within 60 kms radius from Urai city. However, Urai city gets benefitted by the television facility from this Kendra.

[Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma]

I request you that the relay capacity of this Doordarshan Kendra may be increased upto a range of 5-60 km, so that the people of the area could also get benefitted.

(iv) Need to clear the proposal of Government of Maharashtra for construction of dwelling units for beedi workers in Solapur

[English]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Solapur) : Sir, I wish to invite the attention of this House to the housing problem of the cottage industries' workers, especially the beedi workers, over fifty thousand of whom live in Solapur city of Maharashtra. In the absence of proper housing facilities, they are forced to live in slums and jhuggis and have no access to sanitation facilities.

The State Government of Maharashtra have submitted a proposal for construction of 10,000 dwelling units for beedi workers in Solapur city at an estimated cost of Rs. 60,000 per unit, of which the State Government is ready to share one-third, that is, Rs. 20,000 per unit. Another one-third cost is sought to be contributed by the Union Government and the rest one-third is proposed to be shared by the worker concerned.

The proposal is pending approval of the Central Government since 1997. I would, therefore, request the hon. Labour Minister to expedite sanction of the scheme. I have addressed two letters to the hon. Minister to expedite the matter. I hope, the hon. Minister would respond soon.

(v) Need to lay broad gauge Railway Line between Bandikui and Agra

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Sir, since there is no broad gauge line between Bandikui and Agra, revenue worth lakhs of rupees is being lost daily. In addition to this, Chennai and Calcutta bound passengers have to take a long circular route via Sawai Madhopur and as a result extra expenditure has to be incurred and more time is taken. Hence a broad gauge line should be laid on this route at the earliest with a view to minimise the hardships of the passengers and save their precious time and revenue. It would also benefit the tourists going to Jaipur.

I would urge upon the Central Government to take up this matter on a priority basis.

(vi) Need to revive IDPL and bring it under administrative control of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

[English]

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO (Khammam) : IDPL was established in 1961 to attain self-sufficiency in bulk drug manufacture which was monopolised by MNCs till then. Even WHO appreciated and observed that the IDPL had achieved in ten years what others could in 50 years. The Indian Medical Association commented that IDPL drugs were of international standard in quality.

IDPL was guided by social welfare motto and never had a commercial outlook. It came to the rescue of the nation by supplying medicines to combat various epidemics.

The Health Ministry orders are to the tune of Rs. 800 crore, of which at least Rs. 200 can be placed on IDPL which ensures quality.

The amount of Rs. 249 lakh which comprises payment of gratuity and leave encashment to retired employees has not been paid, which is a cause of anxiety for those who have spent the prime period of their lives in the service of IDPL.

The permanent solution for the revival of IDPL will be to bring it under the administrative control of Health Ministry as producer and consumer will be brought under one umbrella.

(vii) Need for early functioning of telephone exchanges in Pune district, Maharashtra

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHAL (Khed) : Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the policy of providing telephone facility to all the villages of the country. Sir, according to the policy of the Government all the villages of the country should get telephone facility by 2000 but it is known to all that still 70 percent villages do not have telephone facilities whereas only one year is left for the time schedule fixed for this purpose. Sir, almost 60 percent villages under Pune District are deprived of the telephone facility. Telephone exchange for various villages of district have been sanctioned but necessary material and funds have not been made available to start them and in this way these exchanges have been limited to papers only. Sir, the existing telephone exchange in Pune district can not fulfil the demand of its area because the capacity of these exchanges is very little. Therefore, through you I would like

to request the Government to make available necessary material and funds for all telephone exchanges which have been sanctioned for Pune district so that the work can be started early as possible.

(viii) Re : Need to remove the burden of liabilities imposed on Palghat Unit of Instrumentation Limited and allow its continuance as a Public Sector

[English]

SHRI N.H. KRISHNA DAS (Palakkad) Sir, the Instrumentation Limited, Palghat Unit, Kerala, was established in 1974 as a public sector company. Since inception, this Unit has been making profits. Even though the Palghat Unit is successful in all activities, its other units were incurring heavy losses continuously. There is an acute crisis in the company as a whole. In October, 1993 the company, as a whole, was referred to BIFR and was declared sick shortly. Even at that time, surprisingly, the Palghat Unit was making profits. Then, in December 1996, the Board of Directors of the company, in a meeting, took a decision to make the Palghat Unit as an independent profit making centre by giving subsidiary status and a total revival plan for the company. After a long wait for clearance from BIFR, the Government has now declared the total revival plan for the company. According to that, the Palghat Unit will be a joint venture with 35 per cent private participation, and this Unit has also to bear the major part of the liabilities. This is irrational and unjust.

So, I request the Government not to impose the burden of liabilities on this profit making Palghat Unit and allow it to continue under public sector.

(ix) Need to lay a new railway line between Tindivanam and Cuddalore via Pondicherry

SHRI M.C. DHAMOTHARAN (Cuddalore) : Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to a long pending demand for connecting Cuddalore with Tindivanam by rail through Pondicherry. Cuddalore is a junction and also district headquarters in Tamil Nadu. It also has a port around which seafood industries are engaged in export of seafood.

Tindivanam is yet another ancient town which is the nerve centre of transport network in the northern Tamil Nadu. Pondicherry, unique in its own way, bordering Cuddalore, lies isolated without a proper rail link. Pondicherry is a well known tourist centre and is visited by native and foreign tourists, who come to see Shri Arobindo Ashram, the beautiful coastal line and beach and so on. Generally, tourists come to Tamil Nadu first and after visiting various tourist and pilgrim centres there, they proceed to Pondicherry. The proposed rail link will prove very useful for them.

Connecting Tindivanam and Cuddalore with Pondicherry will also serve the additional purpose of reducing road traffic in the region. People of Pondicherry and the adjoining districts of Tamil Nadu will be able to use this line to great advantage. The proposed line will reduce the distance between Tindivanam and Cuddalore by 20 kilometres. The distance of the proposed line is only around 65 kilometres. Lot of new railway line projects are being taken up by the Government together with the unigauge conversion. This particular line has been in demand for a long time.

In view of the utility and the necessity felt by the people of the region I come from, I appeal to the Government to take up this project for execution in the current financial year itself.

(x) Need to take steps to solve the unemployment problem in the country

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North-West) : Unemployment problem has reached its skyrocketed height. State-wise number of job seekers on the Live Register of the employment exchanges in the year 1997 have been 3 crores and 91 lakhs.

In West Bengal the number of registered unemployed youths is maximum in India amounting up to 57 lakhs 39 thousand (as per the reply to the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 127 on 08.12.98).

Unemployed youths have become helpless and they have no scope to get Government jobs as the situation stands today. In West Bengal there are many unemployed youths holding employment exchange cards for the last twenty years who have not received any call letter for job from the Employment Exchanges.

Central Government should make all efforts to sort out the burning unemployment problem of the country in consultation with the Chief Ministers of the States.

I urge the Government of India to convene a meeting of Chief Ministers to discuss only one point agenda of unemployment and find out its positive solution on war footing.

(xi) Need to release more funds to the State Government of Punjab for early completion of Thein Dam Project

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, for a long time Theen Dam project of Punjab is under construction and as the work of its completion is being delayed, its construction cost is also increasing and on the other hand there is a delay in providing facility to general people of the State. After completion of Theen

[Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra]

Dam the average water of Ravi, Vyas and Satluj rivers of Punjab would be utilized and shortage of electricity of the State would be removed. State Government has demanded that rupees 150 crores should be released for the construction of project without any delay so that it can be completed on coming 12 February, 1999 and it could be dedicated to the country.

I, therefore, request the Government that rupees 150 crores should be released without any delay so that State Government could be able to give facility to the common people.

15.42 hrs.

BILLS – INTRODUCED

The Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Bill

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House would now take up item No. 39. The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Madan Lal Khurana to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for facilities to Leaders and Chief Whips of recognised parties and groups in Parliament.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for facilities to Leaders and Chief Whips of recognised parties and groups in Parliament.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for facilities to Leaders and Chief Whips of recognised parties and groups in Parliament".

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Bagusarai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank Shri Madan Lal Khurana because today he has moved such a bill which is related to Members of Parliament otherwise he always brings such a bill for the advantage of bureaucrats. I urge that nobody is against it. It should be passed.

Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2 dated 17.12.98.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it should be passed today itself. Nobody has any objection in it.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Today this bill has been brought only for introduction. It should be passed on Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It has been introduced.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, when nobody is against it, it should be passed today itself after discussion on it.

[English]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : Sir, we may pass it without discussion. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Today it was meant only for introduction. We could take up the discussion on Monday. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Sir, we can pass it without discussion. . . (Interruptions)

15.45 hrs.

Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I have to make a request to you regarding Insurance Regulatory Bill. This Bill was introduced here. I had talked to Mr. Speaker and concerned people and in regard to this I have a motion.

[English]

If the House agrees, we may request the hon. Speaker to refer the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill, 1998, which was introduced in the House on 15th December, 1998, to the concerned Standing Committee. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali) : We agree.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : The announcement was that it will be sent to a Joint Select Committee. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : The understanding reached was entirely different. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is the power of the Speaker. We are giving power to the speaker. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it was decided that it will be sent to a Joint Committee. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister is saying

now that it should be sent to the Standing Committee. The Minister is misleading the House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to clear one thing.

You would remember, I had said that this is on record that if Joint Committee is to be constituted, then I have to talk to Chairman, Rajya Sabha then we will tell here. When I talked to Chairman there then the opinion is that it should be referred to Standing Committee therefore, I have moved the motion for Standing Committee.

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : No, Mr. Chairman, it was announced by the hon. Speaker that it will be sent to a Joint Committee. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : The Hon. Speaker had announced in the House that it would be sent to a Joint Committee. What happened now? *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please take your seat, we will tell.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I am placing it before the House.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This will be decided by the Speaker after some time when he comes. I have no jurisdiction as this is not on the agenda. It will be decided by the Speaker.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, please keep it pending.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : What happened about it?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It will be decided by the speaker.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : We would like to know as to when Hon'ble Speaker is likely to come and when it will be decided so that we can prepare ourselves

accordingly. It seems to be matter of surprise *[English]* When it comes, we are taken by surprise.

[Translation]

Please tell us as to what time it is likely to be decided so that we remain present there.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The BAC meeting is taking place. The decision taken in the meeting will be announced soon after.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : What does the "Soon after" mean?

15.48 hrs.

High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service (Amendment) Bill, 1998-Contd.

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, please give me an opportunity to speak. This bill has been brought to increase the amenities of High Courts and Supreme Courts Judges. The Democracy has three main pillars - Legislative, Executive and Judiciary. The Judiciary is required to keep the Executive and Legislative always alert. Therefore, the member Judges of Judiciary should be carefree and tension free. They should not worry about subsistence of their families. For this, this bill has been brought. This Bill should have been given warm welcome.

But I am hesitating to support this bill due to some reasons and some points which I would like to place before the House through you. The first point is that this increase should be in proportion to the increase of the salary of common people of India. If it had happened, it would have been justified. At the same time, it would also be justifiable if the judges are free from all reservations after the increase in their amenities. The procedure of the appointment of the judges is such that their appointments can not be made without recommendation and pleading. If the judges are appointed on the recommendations and pleading, then not only we but even common people will also express doubt that the judges appointed on the basis of pleading will listen to cases of pleading only. This pleading can be of many types-may be through friends and sometimes by taking briefcases from lawyers.

There is a saying that the judges hear the arguments of legal experts in the courts but to have the case decided in their favour, their lawyer friend appear before them with

[Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta]

briefcases. It gives an impression that how the corruption is taking place in Courts. Today, the state of corruption in lower Courts as well as in higher Courts is such that the Registrars of respective judges maintain the expenses of their households. I am saying it on the basis of facts, not for their contempt. You may go to any Court, no work can be done without payment. The corruption may prevail by an another reason. The reason for corruption in the courts may be due to delay in judgements. Money is exchanged by one or other means and in such circumstances justice is given instantaneously. We have witnessed many cases wherein the cases have been disposed of during the night within a short time. While there are other cases where Grandfather filed the suit and grandson was not lucky to have justice, so it takes many years to get justice. It certainly happens due to exchange of money. If a survey is conducted of urban property, it will be reveal that how many big buildings belong to the judges of Courts and what will be cost thereof and one can know about the corruption.

As I have said about prejudice, there had been system of jury in courts before and after independence. The cases were used to be put up before the jury. If there was an intention to keep the case in pending for a long time, then the entire jury was kept in one place and they were not allowed to read newspapers, listen radio and discuss among themselves. But now litigation takes years together and the hon'ble judges listen radio, watch televisions and exchange views with their friends and also listen the conclusions of the people who have imperfect knowledge of the case and after that they make their own concept about the case. Due to this I am doubtful that they are not free from prejudice in giving judgements. Therefore, when we are enhancing their amenities, we should have a check on this also.

Today, whatever I have said about Courts, that the cases which remain pending and due to which posts but I would like to say that long vacations of courts are equally responsible for it. What is the meaning of giving long vacations to Courts like school and colleges? I do not understand it. If official work can be done in all Government offices throughout the year, then what is the necessity of giving vacation in Courts? Hence the period of vacations should be reduced. I have come to know that arrangements for computers have been made so that judgements given by Courts may reach to Supreme Court immediately. The High Courts of the States are being linked with Supreme Court through computers so that the judgement given by High Courts may immediately reach to Supreme Court but what is the justification for it if judgement is delayed?

I am not opposed to P.I.L. P.I.L. does the work for awakening of the Government and the executive but once justice Shri A.S. Anand had said :

[English]

"The judiciary wakes up the executive. . . it will continue to be the alarm clock."

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mehtaji, please conclude now.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : I will take only five minutes more. Recently our Hon. President K.R. Narayan ji has also said :

[English]

"People's faith in judicial redressal would 'be eroded if justice delayed is seen as justice denied."

[Translation]

One should think about it. Max's views on the words of Justice Anand are as under :

[English]

"Periodic wake up calls are necessary in India not only for the dithering executive but also for the slow grinding judiciary."

[Translation]

Hence attention should be paid for an early disposal of cases in judiciary. I have another grievance that there is a tendency in judiciary to run away from its responsibility.

During the period of terrorism in Punjab, long dates were used to be given for terrirts or criminals against whom were being heard and sometimes it seemed that the judge itself was sick and hence dates of hearing were deferred many times. It is suprising that when the period of terrorism came to an end, on the pretext of Human Rights Organisation those persons who brought terrorism to an end, were used to be imprisoned hastily and cases were filed against them. There was an attempt to keep these persons with the same terrorists in the jail as a result of which one duty bound police officer committed suicide.

I was saying that Courts should maintain the decorum. Judges do not get the right to make useless remarks on others just because they are in judiciary. You have witnessed that when our colleague Kalpnath Rajji was being sued under "TADA", Court made verious indecent remarks on him. Sometimes they make remarks on such issues which are not under their purview, for instance, it happened many times in the case of Bihar that elections of municipality could not be conducted and their litigation came for hearing and the High Court gave remarks that there was Constitutional failure.

16.00 hrs.

[Translation]

About whom there was furore in this House.

Sir, if someone from executive is involved in corruption, there is a provision for investigation through vigilance commission. I would like that this arrangement should be in judiciary also. Everything should not be left to impeachment. Had there been the arrangement of vigilance in judiciary. Things would not have been like that and judges also would have been careful.

At the end, I would like to say one thing. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the recent statement of a British Editor.

[English]

Here I quote what the famous British editor, Mr. Richard Ingrams said "I have come to regard the law Court not as a cathedral but as a casing where so much depends on the throw of the dice."

[Translation]

If such thing happens, we shall lose our faith in law-Court. We go to the Courts to get justice. There is a saying in our land- "Panch" is "God". If the judges of the Court go this way, where shall we go.

Sir, due to these reasons, I am unable to support this bill wholeheartedly. I will not oppose it. If judges do not have enough income to meet their requirements, it may be raised but they must be just in their decisions. By remaining neutral on this bill, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (Tumkur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to speak in Kannada. I have already indicated my desire to speak in Kannada if necessary arrangements were made. . . (Interruptions) You should also know that there is a language called Kannada in the South. You should be in touch with the languages which are existing in this country.

[Translation]

*SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (Tumkur) : Mr Chairman Sir, the Government has bought this High Court and Supreme Court Judges Amendment Bill, 1998, to enhance the salaries and other facilities of judges. This Bill enables the judges to get more facilities. Specially, columns 4, 6, 9 and 11 of Bill have to be implemented by the Government with immediate effect and without any further delay. I express my happiness about the intentions of this Bill. Pay Commissions are set up from time to time to look into and

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

to improve the salary and other facilities of Government employees. There will be no representative of labour class and farmers in the Pay Commission set up by the Government of India. High officials and retired officials constitute the Pay Commission. They provide sufficient statistics and enable the white collared officials to get more and more facilities. The common people also would agree with the recommendations of the Pay Commission. In fact, this is the tradition in our country. The Commission increases the salary of IAS, IPS and other highly placed officials.

The retirement age of Central Government employees has been extended by two years by the Pay Commission recently. This has created tension in the minds of educated youths in the country. The youths are feeling that they are losing their job opportunities because of the increase in the retirement age of Government employees from 60 to 62 years and from 58 to 60 years. These employees who enjoy all the facilities for about 25 to 30 will get another two years of extension. This logic of extension is not at all convincing to me. Unemployment problem is rampant throughout our nation. Some people are becoming naxalites. They are involving themselves in criminal activities. They are resorting to violence. What is the reason for this? Justice is not meted out to them. They feel that there is no justice for them. They are also feeling that the hapless youths are being exploited to the maximum extent. The higher officials are grabbing all the facilities and there are no job opportunities to the youths. This feeling in the minds of the younger generation is encouraging them to become revolutionary. They begin to indulge in so many anti-social activities. The Government should give a serious thought about this matter. The Commission has given its recommendation and the Government is implementing those recommendations. But who set up this Commission? It is the previous Government which has constituted this Commission. Most of the white collared officials and other Government employees who are responsible for the Constitution of the Pay Commission. This Commission benefits the Government employees.

But who will look after the poor man. He is residing in a hut. He cannot send his children to school. There is no cloth for him. There are no medical facilities for him. He does not feel that tomorrow is bright for him. Who will think about him? Major chunk of the money is being utilised for providing all kinds of facilities for the white collared officials. The poor man is becoming very poor and he ultimately will resort to begging. How can you bring in equality in the society? Some people say that we are all equal. But where is equality and where is equal opportunity in our society? Those who have got an upper hand in the society have equal opportunities (perhaps best opportunities). The poor and depressed person has no future. He cannot earn his livelihood. He cannot get two square meals

[Shri S. Mallikarjuniah]

a day. This is the pathetic condition of a poor man in our country. He cannot impart any kind of education to his children. Under these critical circumstances our own people are ignoring the needs of poor people. They want everything on this earth for themselves. I call it as heinous crime which we are committing against the society. This is not at all proper. Judges should get more salary. They should be given jobs even after their retirement. They should also get all pensionary benefits including gratuity, family pension, etc. etc. On the other hand the poor man gets nothing if he dies in an accident. What facilities are we giving to the children of a poor man who dies in an accident? What does his widow get? We cannot give a house to her to live. Even a site is not given to the widow and her children. A paltry amount of Rs 20,000/- is not sanctioned to the family of the dead. What type of equality is this? What type of society we have? We have the Constitution. People have the right to vote. Unfortunately, we forget the fact that the poor people are exploited. They are ignorant and we want them to continue like that. There is a proverb in Kannada. According to the proverb there is oil with the producer (Ganigitti) and it will be of no use to the child if it is not given to him. We discuss so many issues here. Unfortunately we have no time to help the poorer section of our society.

In the lower Courts the condition of Bar Associations is pathetic. There is no library. If there is some kind of library there are no books in that library. There is no place to sit and read in that so called library. The Judges of the lower Courts do not have any facilities. The Government should do something in this regard. We have reminded the Government many times about these problems of lower courts. We have written to both Karnataka Government and the Government of India. But, strangely nothing has been done in this regard. People say that Justice should reach the doors of the people. There is a long pending demand for setting up a bench of the Supreme Court. Similarly, in South India there are from States like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and other States for establishing High Court benches to enable the people to get justice. This matter has been discussed in greater details during the 10th Lok Sabha. Our former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh is here. In fact the agitation regarding this matter went for a pretty long time in Andhra Pradesh. Even then the Court benches were not set up.

MR CHAIRMAN : Now you may please conclude.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH : Sir, we give advance notices to ventilate our views during zero hour. We are not given any chance. So please let me continue.

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO (Khammam) : Mr. Chairman Sir, so far as establishing a Bench in South India

is concerned, we are all for it. It has been demanded long ago and it is pending with the Government. Since the Law Minister is from South India, he can definitely consider it.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH : In Andhra Pradesh, an agitation was going on for a long time for establishing a Bench at different places, but it was not done. That is the point I would like to make.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH : When we give a notice at 9 or 9.30 a.m to speak in the Zero Hour, we are not given a chance. On other occasions also we are not given a chance to speak. Why should we come to the House when we do not get a chance to ventilate our grievances? I made this remark yesterday also. You are kind enough to give me a chance to speak because you have been in Parliament for so many years and you know the difficulties of the Members.

I want the Supreme Court and the High Courts to be liberal. The Supreme Court Judges and advocates do not like to leave Delhi. They do not want that a Bench should be established in South India. Likewise, senior advocates at Bangalore do not want that a bench should be opened at Dharward or Gulbarga.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH : Sir this is the attitude. How can we impress our Government unless we are given sufficient time to speak out on the floor of the House. We write letters, Do they respond to these letters? Do they call us and ask us to sit down to discuss the issues? They have neither patience nor time. Then, why should we come to the House? I am sorry that I am wasting my precious time. I am a practising advocate and I am an agriculturist also. If we are not given sufficient time, it is better to sit in our own places. We have studied the subject. We have come here to do justice to the subject.

Library facilities should be made available in the district Courts and promotions should be given. Vacant posts of judges should be filled up. The Government should apply its mind to open a Bench in different provinces. The books available in the bar associations are meagre.

Another important point is that stamp duty is increased quite often. Who pays the stamp duty? An ordinary person who comes to Court to seek justice is not in a position to pay the stamp duty. We speak about the common man; and we speak about the poverty in this country. We speak out our grievances in order to deliver justice to the common man. How far we are able to deliver justice to the common man? A few people sit here and pass some laws and resolutions; as a result, we are not in a position to deliver justice to the common man.

With these few words, I half-heartedly support this Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, at the outset, I support the Bill. While doing so, I wish to submit something about the judicial system that is working in India. The first thing I would like to emphasize is about the judicial accountability.

So far as our Constitution is concerned, we are lagging behind in judicial accountability. I do concede that the Indian judiciary has withstood the test of time. I applaud that the Indian judiciary has established some noble traditions also. There is no doubt about that. They have enlarged the doctrines enunciated in the Constitution of India and the judiciary has come to the rescue of the poor man, the man in the street, in safeguarding his fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution. All these things, I would like to submit in favour of the judiciary but there are certain fundamental defects facing the judiciary as a whole and that is why I want to emphasize about the judicial accountability.

The Contempt of Court Act now on force was passed by the colonial rulers. It gives blanket protection to the judiciary as a whole. They are not amenable to any kind of fair criticism. If anything is said about the judiciary, the person will be booked. Proceedings will be initiated against that particular person and the contempt proceedings have even gone to the extent of bringing the State machinery as a whole to the Contempt of Court Act. So, it gives them blanket protection. It has to be amended. We should allow fair criticism so far as judiciary is concerned. We are not above law. We are not above criticism. They must be made amenable to criticism. My learned friend Shri Thambi Durai should take measures to see that the present Contempt of Court Act be amended. This is my first point.

Now, I do not forget the fact that there is impeachment proceedings so far as the higher judiciary is concerned. We can bring them in the House. But that is not an effective system. We have our own bitter experience in the case of Justice Ramaswamy. In spite of the fact that this House decided against him with a majority, nothing could be done. The provision regarding impeachment of the judges of the High Court as well as the Supreme Court is so ineffective. The judicial accountability can be made available in other aspects also. We should have a statutory mechanism, a judicial mechanism, by which the actions of the judiciary will have to be examined periodically. They should also have the feeling that there is a machinery in the State to check up their doings, whether it be good or bad. There must be some authority to overlook the actions, deeds and misdeeds of the judiciary as a whole. I am sorry that our present system do not give us such a provision. We should have some machinery. What type of machinery it should

be, I am prepared to discuss but not at this stage. It is because I do not wish to take much time.

We have three pillars in our Constitution. The Executive is accountable to the Legislature and the Legislature is accountable to the people. We presume that the people at large are sovereign. So, I would suggest that even the judiciary should be made accountable to the sovereign people. My suggestion is, though it may not be agreeable to many of us, that we should have an elected judiciary. The Americans and other Western countries have an elected judiciary.

I do not say that all the judges should be elected. But the judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court can be elected by an electoral college of accredited lawyers, Judges, Presiding Officers and the Judicial staff. Our President is elected by an electoral college. So, the members of the higher judiciary, namely, the judges, of the High Courts and Supreme Court should be elected by an electoral college. They should be accountable to a particular authority. In the United Kingdom, we know that the King is the fountain of justice. But in India, the people at large are the fountain of justice. The King can do no wrong. So, with that conception we were inheriting the British system. Even now we are having the same remnants of colonial system. How is it? I am a practising lawyer. I have 40 years of experience in the Bar. Even now I am forced to address the judge as 'My Lord'. As far as all of you are concerned, you all have only one Lord, namely, Lord Krishna. There is no other Lord. I can understand the King as the fountain of justice. But why should we address the judges of the High Court and the Supreme Court as 'My Lord'? Only after hearing that address, the Lord will be smiling and he will have some inclination to hear you. Each and every time, the lawyer will be forced to address judges as 'My Lord, My Lord' as if Lord Krishna or Lord Jesus is there. We have to address those people who are sitting in the Bench as 'Lord'. Why should we not change it? We should address them as 'Mr. Judge'. What is the difficulty in it? We are having the Republican Constitution. We are not the citizens of the United Kingdom where the King is the fountain of justice. . . (Interruptions).

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Sir, the learned friend is not correct in saying that we are still addressing them as 'My Lord'. This has now been removed. They are now addressing them as 'Mr. judge'.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : So, all these remnants of the colonial system should go. Hereafter, we, the Indian citizens and Indian lawyers, should have the courage to address the Chief Justice of Supreme Court as 'Mr. judge'. That must be the motto. We are not slaves and we are not even the people of a colonial country. So,

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

I would suggest that we should change all these systems. We should also change the procedure about the contempt of court.

Now, I may be permitted to put some other words. While accepting your suggestion, I would suggest another thing. Now, the cases are pending in lakhs in almost all the Courts including the High Courts and the Supreme Court. Justice delayed is justice denied is the proverb. I would suggest that the Government at the Centre as well as the Government at the State should take prompt steps to fill up the vacancies that are available in different High Courts. I know that dozens and dozens of posts of High Court judges are yet to be filled. The Ministry of Law should take serious steps to see that these vacancies are filled up. That is one of the reasons for piling up of cases. Not only that. There is a fundamental reason behind this. There must be decentralisation of judicial powers.

There must be decentralisation of judicial powers. I would suggest that the cases which could be decided at the district level need not be taken to the Supreme Court. There are cases pertaining to a particular State which could be finally decided at the High Court level, such cases need not be taken to the Supreme Court.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Radhakrishnan, please conclude. There are many more speakers.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : There are issues concerning the nation that will have to be decided by the Supreme Court. All these matters are now taken to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court will be happy to deal with all those cases but no decision will be given at the appropriate time. Therefore, there must be complete decentralisation of judicial powers. If there is a dispute between individuals, why should it go to the Supreme Court? There may be disputes with regard to a particular property, which need not go to the Supreme Court. If there is a question of law, then they will say that it has to be decided at the level of the Supreme Court. What will be the result? The poor man in the street is unable to get justice as justice is very costly for him. We all speak about the Welfare State; we all speak about the socialism; and we speak about the poor people, but can a poor man get justice at a cheap rate? It is impossible in India. So, I would suggest that there must be immediate steps taken to see that not only the executive powers but the judicial powers also are decentralised. Each and every case should be decided on merits at a particular lower level. It need not be taken to the Supreme Court. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Radhakrishnan, please conclude. You have taken ten minutes.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Now I come to judicial activism. When the executive and other organs do not function or do not discharge their constitutional functions properly at the proper time, judicial activism may come in. But excessive judicial activism is not good. There are instances of excessive judicial activism. I will cite one example about the MP's quota for telephone and gas connections. A High Court Judge has decided about the procedure to be followed. Actually, we should decide about the procedure and not the Court. They have no right to interfere in our sphere. There is a clear cut interference of judiciary in the affairs of legislature to decide about the procedure to be followed in the distribution of gas connection. It is not for the Court to decide. That is one example of judicial activism and it cannot be encouraged. There must be clear cut guidelines about the powers of the executive, the powers of the judiciary and the powers of the legislature. They must be complementary and not contradictory. So, I would suggest that in all these cases, there must be a rethinking with regard to the functioning of judiciary in our nation. I request the hon. Law Minister to take effective measures so that something is done with regard to judicial accountability. With these words, I support this Amendment.

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU (Narsapur): Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I would like to make a few suggestions on High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill. I appreciate this initiative irrespective of whether the proposal has come from the judiciary to the Ministry or the Ministry itself has realised to bring this particular Bill. It is very much necessary to give all the privileges and required salaries to the High Court Judges as Supreme Court Judges. It is the life of a judge which has to be taken into consideration because most of the judges who are selected or nominated, as the procedure may be, to the High Court or the Supreme Court have good practices prior to that and they have to forego their flourishing practices. At the same time, his social life is being cut off.

Shri Radhakrishnan is an elderly person. I had allowed him to speak. I am only a PUC-failed candidate. I am trying to struggle myself, taking inspiration from people like him and they should support, encourage and correct us whenever they get an opportunity, may be in the House or outside the House.

Apart from that even after the retirement of a judge, his life remains isolated. It is really miserable. What I am trying to tell this august House is that it is a great sacrifice on the part of a High Court judge or the Supreme Court judge. It is not an ordinary sacrifice. After all, they have foregone their good practices and their social lives to come forward and become judges. It is not an ordinary decision of an individual. I appreciate the sacrifice done by them.

At the same time, I would like to say that the Constitution has given us three wings, namely, the Executive, the judiciary and the Legislature. It is quite unfortunate that we have been discussing very commonly, maybe in the House or outside, who is the supreme of these three wings, whether it is the Executive, the Judiciary or the Legislature. Unfortunately, even after 50 years of independence, we are discussing it. If we go through the merits, strengths or powers, it can be pardoned, but we are fighting with our ego, at the cost of the common man. I feel that if any one is fighting with the other in this three-tier system, none of them is going to be the loser, the losers are going to be the people of this country. I think, we have spent 50 years discussing who is supreme.

Our learned senior Member, Shri Radhakrishnan, talked about the usage of 'My Lord' and other things. I do agree with his version. This usage of 'My Lord' kills the ego of a Judge. It is very unfortunate that one has to struggle to kill the ego of a judge or the person who is in the Chair. Here also, it is very difficult for the ordinary Members like us to catch the eye of the Speaker.

Who is supreme in a democracy? It is the people who are supreme and not anyone of us. Our people are so great because they have so much tolerance.

We do not make a distinction while talking about the system. In films, they show the judges or the legislators or the parliamentarians or the bureaucrats in such a way that it becomes very difficult for Members like us to go and enjoy it with our family members. We feel guilty that we are Parliamentarians or Legislators. When we are commented upon in the films, people enjoy it very much. This is how it is going on. People never bothered about the salaries that the Government gives to the Judges. When you see their sacrifices, you can give more salaries to them. But the point that should be stressed is what are their contributions and to what extent they are accountable. People like the Prime Minister, the Law Minister, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and other learned people can sit together and see where we lag behind, what type of cases are coming before the Judiciary and whether justice is being done. Statistically, you can analyses as to what kind of cases come before the High Courts and the Supreme Court. Seventy per cent of the cases go to the Magisterial Courts, 20 per cent cases go to the District Courts, another eight per cent of the cases go to the High Courts and hardly one per cent of the cases go to the Supreme Court. The common man cannot dream of going to the Supreme Court. If at all anybody thinks in this august House that the common man can do so, then it is only a dream. The common man cannot afford to go to the Supreme Court because it is beyond his imagination.

The Supreme Court is the highest authority in the country, but the common man never approaches it. To remedy this, what steps are you going to take to see that the common man gets justice from the highest court? What efforts are being made in this direction? Before the hon. Minister asks us to vote in favour of the Bill — anyway, we are giving support to you — that he had introduced, will the Minister tell us how many poor people have approached the Supreme Court or the High Courts for getting the justice? We hardly expect anything. Please take some appropriate measures in favour of the common man. People are not bothered as to whether I am taking more salary or the bureaucrats are taking more salary. Eighty per cent of the money from the exchequer is utilised on the salaries, 20 per cent on developmental activities and hardly two per cent or five per cent of it reaches the common man in the country. I am really pained when I know how much amount reaches the common man from the exchequer. People are never bothered about the salaries that we take.

The people want that the judges in their capacity and with their authority should deliver justice to them. The people want them to be accountable. Unfortunately, none of us here is able to face the people due to lack of accountability. In a democracy the people are supreme and nobody else, and the people are waiting for that.

Sir, before I conclude I would like to say something about which Shri Radhakrishnan has said. Though I am not as accomplished as Shri Radhakrishnan to mention it yet I would like to submit that he wants elections for the judges of the High Court. We go through the process of elections and we know how many methods are involved in it. I am afraid that the system has to be changed but we have the experience that one suggestion of the Election Commission of providing photo identity passes to the voters for checking electoral malpractices could not be implemented fully. Now, he wants elections to be held for the judges of the High Courts. It is beyond imagination. Let us first have a systematic pattern of elections before we make a suggestion to the judiciary about it. Let the judiciary be little bit aware. The election process there is not so bad. Let it continue. Let us strengthen the judiciary and at the same time let us not allow them to encroach upon the territory of the Legislature. The case of the gas and telephone coupon has rightly been pointed out by an hon. Member. It was unnecessary for the High Courts to have thought about that. Lakhs and lakhs of other cases are pending before the judiciary.

16.42 hrs.

[DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, after so many people have spoken here on this Bill,

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

I think, I also have something very important to say on this Bill. I did not care to look at the Bill to find out as to how much money is going to be paid as salary to the Judges because I do not grudge that. Whatever has been considered necessary by the Government has come before us and we shall vote it. The judges should live honourably and they should have the perks they want. We are prepared to give them that. But there are very serious questions before us.

Sir, only recently, the president of India inaugurated a seminar and the Chief Justice of India was also present in that Seminar. In the news bulletin, in the evening, a lot of time was allotted by the private TV channels like the STAR TV, the ZEE TV and our own Doordarshan to telecast what was said by the hon. President, the Chief Justice and the Attorney General, Shri Soli Sorabjee.

Sir, after all, what is the composition of the Parliament? It is the President of India and the two Houses—the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. The hon. President, in that Seminar, commented on the backlog in the courts. Even the Chief Justice mentioned about having some reforms and Shri Soli Sorabjee came to say something about accountability. But this is a recent happening.

Sir, through you, I would like to request Shri Thambidurai, our hon. Law Minister to kindly go through what the President has said in that Seminar. That was a very important speech. I would, however, like to remind you of what one of the outgoing Chief Justices of India had said after he superannuated. What he said at that was very important. We remained busy and sometimes I feel—I do not know whether I should say this or not—the Lok Sabha in a way has declined. He said, a very important thing. We did not take notice of that. Shri Verma told the country—when he was no more the Chief Justice of India, the day next to his retirement perhaps that our system has no provision for punishing a corrupt judge. He was sharing his agony with his countrymen. He said that there was no system whereby you could punish a judge. This Parliament got a chance to punish a corrupt judge. But some of my friends from the South stood by him though the cases of corruption were proved before the whole country.

Sir, we are the law-givers and we are the law-makers. The hon. judges go on indulging in corrupt practices. But we, as Members of Parliament, who are representing on behalf of the people, do not have any sense of proportion.

This is the last voice of the people. We had a chance to punish a judge who was corrupt but we allowed him to go scot free. Justice Verma said that we had nothing

in the system to punish a corrupt judge. I collected certain details. I am not a student of law but I have some interest in the judiciary. I have given notice on the subject of judicial reforms. The country is crying for judicial reforms. When that subject is discussed I will speak about the corruption in the judiciary.

In a High Court in the South, a judge went to his home on a Friday and claimed TA and DA for Saturday and Sunday when he came back on Monday. He has gone scot free. Till a voice was raised here and in the Vidhan Sabha of West Bengal, a judge who had charged about Rs.35,000 for purchasing spectacles for his family members, could not be restrained. He said in Calcutta that he was equal to a Cabinet Minister in rank. I was a Cabinet Minister myself and I wondered what the perks of a Cabinet Minister were. When the judge said that he was equal to a Cabinet Minister he had no sense of proportion to consult somebody on what the perks of a Cabinet Minister were. He purchased spectacles worth about Rs.35,000 for his two sons and one daughter. That payment was not cleared by the Minister. Credit goes to the Minister concerned in West Bengal who refused to clear the payment. The Minister said that it was not permissible. Then the judge raised a hue and cry. The judge did not have his way because of a able Government in that State. I would like to put it on record that the Government provided by Jyoti Basu in West Bengal, in my opinion, is the best in the whole of my country. The Minister did not allow that money to be paid. In the South, a judge charged TA and DA, it is on record, and he did so continuously.

Chief Justice Verma wanted to punish a judge. I know that what I am saying is going on record. Justice Verma wanted to punish a corrupt judge but there was no system under which he could do it. He called the judge and advised him to reform himself. The judge refused to get reformed. That is the situation.

Accountability of judges is necessary. We have to amend the law. But before that, I request the hon. Law Minister to set up a National Judicial Commission, whether the judges or the Chief Justice agree or not. It is we who have to decide and not the judiciary. It is the Members of Parliament, it is the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and the President of India who have to decide. Together, this constitutes the voice of the people. We want a National Judicial Commission. But, there must be a discussion before that. Mr. Chairman, since you are the Presiding Officer now, you can decide about the time. We want to discuss the reforms that are needed in the judiciary. There is a backlog.

They are indulging in PILs. In this case of gas and telephone coupons, if one hon. Member of Parliament has erred some day, the judges cannot sit in authority and decide that all Members of Parliament have gone wrong.

The judge in Kerala has said that it should be given due publicity. He does not seem to have understood the seriousness of the issue. He does not seem to have analysed the issue while saying that it should be given publicity. These judges have to be told about these things. In fact, Shri Radhakrishnan has questioned our addressing them as 'My Lord'. Because of some colonial thinking one may feel that it is wrong. But we do not lose anything by calling them 'My Lord'. . . . (Interruption) We may call them 'Mr. Justice'. I do not quarrel with you on that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. The time allotted for this Bill is only two hours and we have already taken three hours and fifteen minutes.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I am concluding, Sir.

Sir, if we have no provision to ensure their accountability, if we do not reform the law, if we do not discuss judicial reforms, and if we do not move towards forming a national Judicial Commission, we would be committing a very grave mistake. People are suffering miseries. They tell us their problems. The courts are unable to mitigate the miseries of the people because there are backlogs of lakhs and lakhs of cases. Our esteemed President has commented upon that. We must move immediately and provide justice to the people because we are directly accountable to the people.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : Sir, as per as raising of salaries of judges is concerned, that should be done because there is a devaluation of rupee. They also have their requirements and they should be given salary according to their requirements. But I would like to say that judiciary should also act according to the spirit of the constitution, it should make the cheap justice available to the parties concerned. It is unfortunate that it is not being done. Judiciary is unduly interfering in the implementation of the recommendations of Jaswant Singh Commission and making delay in it. I would like to ask the judiciary to respect the public sentiments. Jaswant Singh Commission recommended to establish benches in different parts of the country, it should be implemented. The State Governments want but because Chief Justice does not want, so. It is not implemented. Therefore, they also should go according to the public sentiments and in accordance with the spirit of the constitution, so that parties should get cheap justice, properly. They should adopt the attitude of liberalisation, it should not be like the "Justice delayed is justice denied." Even today in our High Courts, there is a huge backlog. Cases are not settled in time and people are practically denied of justice.

Consumer Courts should be strengthened and their numbers should be increased. The facilities given to

Members of their benches should be enhanced so that people may not be compelled to go to High Courts and within the bench itself petitioners should get justice.

The facilities and salaries of the members of lower judiciary should be improved, we express concern about High Court and Supreme Court but do not care for lower judiciary whereas their condition is really pathetic. Whatever pension we have to give to judges after retirement. We should give but after retirement they should be debarred from entering the political arena. This will have the advantage that no ruling party or opposition party will be able to affect the judiciary, and the latter would work without fear or favour. This is necessary to instill confidence in judiciary.

I would also like to say one thing about Public Interest Litigation. Sometimes it happens that name remains of the public interest, but they give their stand after hearing one or two parties and it does not involve the interest of public at large. In this way, in the name of public interest, there is exploitation of the public. In the case of Taj Tripazium, in protecting the Taj Mahal from environmental pollution, this has happened. The writ petition was filed there. Some demands were met and later on someone debated and according to that in the real writ petition, in the contents and decision there is no correspondence. Due to this the closure of all industrial units has been announced. There should be a provision in the public interest litigation that if a court takes cognizance in a litigation, after that within a certain period public at large should have the opportunity to interfere, may present its case so that there should not be exploitation of the public in the name of interest.

Certain methods should be adopted whereby it could be ensured that whether the decisions of the public interest litigation have been implemented by the executive properly or not. It should be seen and scrutinized. It happens that decisions are made. I remember that in 1984-85 I had filed a public interest litigation in Supreme Court in regard to the pollution in Yamuna river. The court gave the verdict that Government must restrict but the Government did not care for that decision till today. Though later on when I was elected as Member of Parliament from there, I raised the issue. It had the effect, Yamuna Action Plan was drawn but the decision of the Supreme Court under Public interest Litigation hangs in vacuume. Therefore, such an arrangement should be made where Supreme Court also can do monitoring. In Uttar Pradesh against Yamuna Action Plan and in the case of Taj Trapezium public interest litigation is going on. In that case, the then Government of Uttar Pradesh has given such facts which go against the facts available in Supreme Court and which are wrong. The hearing of the case is going on the basis of those facts. How much authenticity, logic and truth is involved in the

[Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat]

facts given by State Government. In public interest it should also have the right to supervise this, a rule should be enacted for it. Who would represent public at large in the public interest, thus it should be done under this process.

Foundries were closed down but foundries association of Agra kept on crying that we are being closed down. Our request should be entertained but they were not made a party. I have said this for giving an example, therefore, arrangements should be made by this process.

At last, I would say another thing that Government should make arrangements for the welfare of poor people and young advocates and judges of High Court should also see that how the poor people can get justice and young advocates, there is heavy unemployment among them, we should think about the protection of their interests and while making it an integral part of judicial process and giving protection to their interests we should also consider as to what type of procedure should be adopted.

With these words I conclude and thank you.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I support this bill in regard to increase the salary and facilities of judges of High Courts and Supreme Court.

Amenities and facilities of judges should be increased but the process of their appointment, we see that for any post we come by winning election or appointments are made by commission, examinations are held but judges are appointed by pleading. In their class judges are appointed generation to generation in their family on their recommendations. I request the Government to make such a provision and amendment in the constitution that appointments of judges should be made on the basis of wisdom and the suggestion made by Shri Radha Krishna, and we see that reservation is there in all appointments then why it cannot be made in the appointment of judges. Therefore, I am to say that amendments should be made in the procedure of appointment of judges and there should be a provision of reservation therein. As there has been a demand to provide reservations to backward classes and downtrodden, a provision should be made for reservation in appointment of judges also.

Judicial activism should be abolished. Public litigation, P.I.L. which has become publicity litigation and judicial litigation should stopped.

There should be judicial transparency and cases pending in the Courts, the proverb "justice delayed is justice denied." should be improved.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I have also had the privilege of being a Law Minister for some time and I was struck by the extraordinary load that the judges of India, specially at High Courts and Supreme Court have, compared to their counterparts in other parts of the world. For example, in the US Supreme Court, in the entire year, the judges hear only 200 cases and the lawyers presenting the pros and cons cannot speak for more than 20 minutes and the plaintiff who comes in is given a ten minute rebuttal in the end. Hear the judges every day are looking into 200 cases and they have to hear oral arguments which are very long and, therefore, I have complete sympathy with the judges today who are in the High Courts and Supreme Court and they have indeed contributed a great deal in sharpening and deepening democracy in India.

17.00 hrs.

If the scope of article 21 under Fundamental Rights has been so much widened today, we owe it to the Judiciary. I would like the Government not only to raise the salaries of the Judges but also to reduce the load factor through the creation of a series of Benches.

There has already been a Commission, the Jaswant Singh Commission. It has got nothing to do with their Jaswant Singh; it was headed by another Jaswant Singh. That Commission had already gone into this matter. Take for example the State of Tamil Nadu. The High Court is in one end of the State, namely on the border of Andhra Pradesh, in the city of Chennai. For long, there has been a demand for a Bench. In fact, as the Minister of Law, I had initiated correspondence in 1990 and even today it has not been established. I do not know what the problem is and why the Minister of Law has not been able to give effect to this popular demand that there should be a Bench in the middle of the State. The people have to go all the way, for instance from Kanyakumari, to Chennai for their cases. The same is the case in other States like Maharashtra. Madhya Pradesh is such a large State that even though the Court is in Jabalpur, still there is so much travelling that has to be done.

I do not know what is it that stops them from establishing Benches. I understand, of course, that the senior lawyers would lose some of their practise and their income would come down if the Benches start coming up. But this is what we need to do. Therefore, I would like the Minister of Law to tell me in particular reference to the Madurai Bench, why is it that this Government has not been able to give effect to it.

My second point is that the law is written here and the Judges can only interpret it and see whether it is within

the framework of the Constitution. But I find recently that partymen who have been in a political party for long years are being appointed as Judges. I think, there should be a law that if anybody has been a member of a political party for more than three years or five years, he should not be appointed as a Judge. In the State of Tamil Nadu, again, we find partymen being appointed as Judges of Special Courts and this is creating serious doubts whether justice can be dispensed. I think, an amendment is necessary. *(Interruptions)* Why is it troubling him? . . . *(interruptions)* It is troubling him because they are doing it and they are the culprits. . . . *(interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not use such words.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not use such words like 'culprits'.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : They have transferred the Chief Justice of the High Court. This is only at the instance of Dr. Subramanian Swamy. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Subramanian Swamy, kindly give only your suggestions.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I am giving only my suggestions but he is provoked. What does it mean? This means that they are doing it. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please address the Chair.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : Sir, if the hon. Member yields, I want to make a point.

After the judgement of the Supreme Court and also the President's reference, it has become a well known fact. The nine Judges have given a unanimous judgement. It is well known to hon. Members who takes the initiative for transfer of judges and who takes the initiative for appointment of judges. . . . *(Interruptions)* He says that the Minister of Law is responsible for that. It is a sweeping remark on the Minister of Law. He is saying that I am doing it. . . . *(Interruptions)* Let him change that. . . . *(Interruptions)* Give some powers to me to do what you want. . . . *(Interruptions)* Therefore, simply making some remarks is not good. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Subramanian Swamy, kindly try to conclude now.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I was only saying that there should be a law that anybody who has been a member of a political party for more than five years cannot be a Judge.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : It is a good suggestion for future.

MR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I say this only because there is a practice that if you want to harass your political opponents, you appoint a Special Court and appoint a partymen as a Judge of that Special Court. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : it is not new to Tamil Nadu. It is there all over India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt. He is not yielding. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, I was only making a general comment.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have made your point. Please conclude now.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I was only making a general comment. I thought that they would welcome. . . .*

Therefore, I would conclude by saying that the Minister should answer about the Benches with particular reference to Madurai; and secondly, he should answer as to whether he would consider bringing forward a law which would say that anybody who has been a member of a political party for more than five years cannot be appointed as a Judge.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your point of order?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, your immediate predecessor in the Chair observed that- I had raised the question - the Foreign Minister would make a statement

*Not Recorded.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

on the situation in Iraq. He made an observation - it is a sort of a judgement - that after the matters under Rule 377, the Foreign Minister will come and make a comprehensive statement. So that is the business before the House now.

This is what he observed and you can see the record. I raised that question. Therefore, now, Shri Jaswant Singh, the Foreign Minister should come and make the statement. Avoiding the situation at home, America has done this vulgarity and indulged in vandalism.

It is his observation that a comprehensive statement will be made by the Foreign Minister. That is the business before the House now. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I request the Government to say something.

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : He made a statement like that . . . (Interruptions) I understand that it is on record . . . (Interruptions) If Shri Advani is prepared to make a statement, it is okay. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I requested the Government; they will come forward with that.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : The hon. Home Minister should know what happened. The Chair observed that a comprehensive statement would be made after the matters under Rule 377. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : I was there at that time . . . (Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : At this time it was said in your absence.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : In the morning when honourable Prime Minister was speaking, I did not feel that there is a need to say anything else after that statement.

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : I raised it and the Chair said so.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I do not know. I am not aware.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will convey your comment.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : That is the business now. He said that after the matters under Rule 377, the Foreign Minister will come and make a comprehensive statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the hon. Speaker has to decide.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : That is on record.

MR CHAIRMAN : Hon. Speaker has to decide. Now, the law Minister

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Bill that is before the House for consideration and passing is a very simple one.

In the last Session, we had increased the salaries of High Court and Supreme Court Judges. Based on that, we had promulgated an Ordinance giving effect to their pension also. In connection with that, I have brought forward this Bill for consideration and passing. That is a simple one.

When we had increased the salaries of Judges, proportionately, we had increased the pension for the Judges. Secondly, it is regarding rent also. You know as to what is the prevailing rent of houses in Delhi and in most of the cities. Therefore, in order to enhance the rent, I have brought forward this Bill.

While the Members were expressing their views, Shri Motilal Vora started expressing his concern about the existing judicial system, the prevailing conditions in our country, how common men are facing problems with regard to judiciary, etc.

At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to the hon. Members for rendering their whole-hearted support to the Bill. Their suggestions would be utilised in the policy planning and its implementation by the Department of Justice in the future. During the debate, Shri Motilal Vora, Shri Ajoy Chakraborty, Shri Prabhunath Singh, Shri Chandrasekhar Sahu, Prof. Kurien, Prof. Jogendra Kawade, Shri P.C. Gehlot, Shri N.K. Premachandran, Shri K. Rosaiah, Shri S.P. Jain, Shri T.R. Baalu, Shri B.M. Mensinkal, Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta, Shri Mallikarjuniah, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, Prof Saifuddin Soz, Shri K. Bapiraju Dr. Subramanian Swamy and others gave their valuable suggestions. They have raised certain issues. The issue that were focussed during the discussions mainly relate to the pendency of cases, shortage of judicial officers and judges, modernisation of courts and providing infrastructural facilities to the judiciary, alleged encroachment by the judiciary in the domain of Executive through Public Interest Litigations, establishment of Supreme Court Benches at three different places in India, provision of High Court Benches at least in the State Capitals, due attention to be given by the Central Government for revision of pay and other facilities of subordinate judiciary, corruption in judiciary, providing accommodation and transport facilities to the members of subordinate judiciary, improvement in

the conditions of the Court rooms including the provision of stationery etc., punishment for false evidence, review of transfer policy of High Court Judges, providing expeditious and inexpensive justice, introspection by the judiciary, and restriction on re-employment of judges after retirement, especially after joining politics.

Apart from these issues, some hon. Members spoke of my functioning as Law Minister. They said that I am transferring judges and I am appointing lawyers due to certain reasons. I would like to repeat what I have said in my intervention. After the judgement of the Supreme Court, my power is very limited. If I can say, just like a clerk I am passing on the suggestions given by the collegium of the Supreme Court to the authorities concerned. I would like to put the facts before the august House. Parliament will get some authority only when the Members come forward and make changes in the judicial system. It can be done only through you. Then, that authority can be entrusted to the Minister concerned because the Minister is answerable to Parliament.

Some hon. Members spoke about making some changes in the appointment of judges. They said that importance should be given to Backward Classes, Minorities, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. We are living in a democratic country and we are very much concerned about them. We have to give respect to the aspirations of these sections also. This is what hon. President also said in a Conference which I attended two weeks back. Nearly 25 percent of our community are Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minorities.

They are not able to get representation in the judicial system. I am just sharing all that has been expressed. I am conveying these things to the concerned authorities who have to take the decision. That is all I can do. It is left to them to take decision. I cannot discuss further as to how they should function as my hands are tight there. We have committed in our National Agenda to bring a National Judicial Commission. That is a fact and we are giving it an active consideration.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : We support that.

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI : If all the Members have the same feeling, I can convey it to the Cabinet and see to it that the matter is expedited.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : The whole House is one on that.

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI : Various leaders have also expressed the same thing when they have personally met me. Most of the Members feel that we have to do something in this regard. We are considering it.

Now, I would like to highlight other steps taken by the Government to find solution or to rectify the defects that are there.

The Government is aware of the difficulties faced by the litigants basically due to delay in the disposal of cases. In view of the recommendations of the Chief Ministers' and Chief Justices' Conference held in 1993, the Government has taken various measures in this regard. These measures include, amendments of Civil Procedure Code and the Criminal Procedure Code, increase in the number of posts of Judges of High Courts, provision of a statutory base to lok Adalats and vesting it with the powers of a Civil Court after the extension of provisions of Chapter III of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to all the States and Union territories, appointment of Special Judicial Metropolitan Magistrates and adoption of other alternative and locally appropriate methods of resolution of disputes.

In addition to this, various High Courts have taken a number of steps for expeditious disposal of cases. Groupings and classification of cases involving similar questions of law, setting up of specialised Benches, Computerisation of records etc. The High Courts have also issued instructions to their subordinate Courts to reduce frequent adjournment of cases. Shri Vora has also raised this point regarding frequent adjournment of cases saying that judges adjourn the case as and when they like and as a result, the litigants suffer a lot. We are requesting them not to adjourn cases frequently. We are also going to put certain stipulations for that.

The pendency of cases in the Supreme Court has come down from 1,04,936 cases as on 31st December, 1991 to 19,561 cases as on 1st May, 1998. Despite the increase in the disposal of cases in the High Courts, the backlog of cases pending in the High Courts has increased due to change in the pattern of litigation. Regarding the High Courts, as on 31.12.93, 26.51 lakh cases were pending and now on 31.12.97 the number has increased to 31.5 lakh cases. If you take the leading Courts, in Allahabad High Court, the number of pending cases is 8,65,455, in Madras High Court the number is 3,20,619, in Calcutta High Court 2,82,290 cases are pending and in the Kerala High Court, the number of pending cases is 2,50,261.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam) : Why do you not open Benches in the States also which will reduce the pendency of cases? . . . (Interruptions)

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI : You have given the answer also. Shri Swamy has mentioned about the Jaswant Singh Commission. We have to get a proposal from the State Governments along with the recommendations of the Chief Justices of the High Courts. Then only we can take action

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : Have you not received the proposal as yet?

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI : There is some controversy in that. Members are saying that they want permanent Benches.

The proposal is for Circuit Bench only. The proposal which I received duly recommended by the Chief Justice of Madras High Court is only for Circuit Bench. If the Members are satisfied with that we can proceed further . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Mr Minister, every week you are going and coming back from Tamil Nadu. Why can you not interact with them and see that it is done. It is in your own interest. Are you not interested in providing the Bench in Madurai or somewhere in Chennai?

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI : I have written letters. As per the reply received by my predecessor, the Chief Justice of Madras High Court felt that the facilities available in Madurai area are not sufficient. It is according to their version. Therefore, they are not interested to move that. Let the State Government give all the facilities which are required by the Chief Justice of Madras, then it can be done . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, cutting across Party lines, we are one on this matter . . . (Interruptions). We are very much interested to provide a Bench of the High Court at Madurai in Tamil Nadu. But at the same time, why can he not interact with the State Government . . . (Interruptions). The Law Minister can go and interact with the people in the State. What is wrong in it?

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI : I want to interact. But they are putting somewhere ten kilometres away where I can not interact. That is how they are creating the problems . . . (Interruptions).

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Now, we know that the Chief Minister . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI T.R. BAALU : The Minister is not at all interested in constituting the High Court Bench at Madurai in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI C. GOPAL : You are not in a position to understand the position . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI : I am still assuring the House as well as the hon. Members including Shri Baalu and Dr. Swamy that we are ready to take action immediately provided that the Chief Justice of Madras High Court writes a letter saying that the facilities provided by State Government are sufficient. We will take action immediately.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : You are a Minister. Your do not play party politics in this . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister is replying categorically.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Sir, now we are having discussion about Madurai Bench. Similarly, a demand has come from Kerala. The State capital of Kerala, namely, Trivandrum, is lacking Division Bench with the filling facilities. Will the Government consider the proposal to have a Bench at Trivandrum?

SHRI VIJAYASHANKAR (Mysore) : Sir, I would request the Minister to say something about Karnataka also.

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI : I would speak about all the States including Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, etc.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon) : Sir, the hon. Law Minister said that Jaswant Singh Commission gave a recommendation for the creation of High Court at Raipur. But the capital of Madhya Pradesh, namely, Bhopal, is not having a Bench at all. We have requested for creation of a Circuit Bench at Bhopal. Kindly consider that.

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI : I am for establishing either Circuit Bench or a permanent Bench in all parts of the country. I am not against that.

We are taking all steps in this regard. If a proposal from the State Government along with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of that State is sent to us, we will take all steps. There is already some controversy in some State. For example, in Uttar Pradesh, the previous Government had selected certain places. Then they had local problems. They had suggested Meerut as one of the places but then people of Agra started agitating. There has been some agitation going on here or there. They cannot pass on this kind of a blame on to the Central Government. We are not in a position to sort out the local issues. That must be sorted out by the State Governments. If they send a proposal, definitely we will take all steps to establish a Circuit Bench or a Permanent Bench to serve the people. That is the intention of the Government. We are taking all steps in this regard. In Karnataka also, the same problem is going on where some people have been agitating over the shifting of place. What Dr. Subramanian Swamy said is a correct thing that there may be certain local problems. Let them sort out the problem. I am for establishing not only this kind of a Permanent, Circuit Bench but also for a Bench of the Supreme Court also. I am for that. But the initiative should come from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India. If that comes, I will definitely take a view.

The pendency of cases in Subordinate Courts has decreased from 2.18 crore as on 31.12.1995 to about 2 crore as on 31.12.1997. We are still having the pendency of cases in crores at the level of the Subordinate Courts. We are taking all steps to see how it can be reduced. For that the Government has already introduced a Bill on Judicial Reforms for the amendment of the Civil Procedure Code

which will prove to be a milestone in the field of tackling vexatious and frivolous litigation. The Bill *inter alia* contains the provision not to allow more than three adjournments to a party in a case. We intend to bring this Bill. The Bill is under active consideration of the Departmentally related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs.

The Law Commission has recommended in its 154th Report for comprehensive amendment of Criminal Procedure Code. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha which contains a number of measures for quick disposal of cases. The 154th Report contains *inter alia* setting up of a separate and exclusive cadre of investigating agencies, ensuring timely attendance of witnesses. There are some of the measures we are taking.

Apart from that, I want to say something about the Lok Adalats. Most of the Members have asked for providing free legal services to common man. That is the intention of this Lok Adalat. The Lok Adalats have proved an effective mechanism for alternative resolution of disputes through persuasive and conciliatory efforts with the enforcement of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. We have taken so many steps in this regard. Lok Adalats have been provided a statutory base and are now vested with the powers of a civil court.

By providing legal aid to the poor and the needy people, the Act of 1987 is a step forward in the direction to provide inexpensive justice. In 1997-98, 9352 Lok Adalats were held and 9,45,090 cases were disposed of.

As regards, appointment of more judges to the High Court, it has been decided to create 31 new posts of judges in the Courts and the next review of the judges' strength is due.

The High Courts have already been provided with various modern office equipments like telex, Fax, electronic typewriters etc. The various High Courts and State Governments have informed that they are providing electronic typewriters, photo-copier machines etc., to Subordinate Courts in a phased manner. For modernising and streamlining the judiciary in the country through computerisation, we have taken up so many projects and we are trying to implement all those things. So far, about 253 District Courts have been provided with Computer hardware. This will help quick delivery of justice to the litigants.

In reply to my letter sent in August 1998, the High Courts have informed that they are already taking these steps for expeditious disposal of cases.

(a) More practical categorisation and grouping of cases;

(b) As far as possible cases scheduled to be taken up for hearing on a particular day are listed for that day;

(c) No accumulation of defective matters;

(d) Reservation of more and sufficient time slot for old pending miscellaneous matters so that they are listed in chronological order.

(e) Streamlining of administration and manpower of the Registry staff through Computer network.

The decrease in pendency of cases appears *inter-alia* due to the direction given by the Supreme Court in its judgement dated 1.5.1996 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1128 of 1996 for closing of cases involving minor offences pending for two years or more in which proceedings have not commenced and also due to appointment of Special judicial magistrates under Section 13 and 18 of the Cr. P.C. for the disposal of traffic and petty cases.

It is to inform the Members of the House that the subordinate Judiciary is under the administrative control of the High Court as per the Constitution of India. My Ministry has been communicating with the High Courts and State Governments regarding filling up of vacancies. However, most of the vacancies in the Subordinate Courts are being filled up through respective State Public Service Commission where the representatives of the High Courts are also present. As regards system of checks and balance in our polity and increase in number of public litigations entertained by the High Courts, I would say that the self-constraint imposed by the High Courts under the direction of the honourable Supreme Court is the only way to resolve this problem. As regards creation of All India Judicial Service, the matter is under consideration of the Government of India. Few State Governments have not agreed to this proposal. As regards transfer policy regarding High Court Judges, the matter is covered by the recent Supreme Court judgement. The High Court Judges are appointed and transferred on the recommendations of the Chief Justice of India and are covered by the Supreme Court unanimous verdict on the Presidential reference dated 28th October, 1998.

As regards setting up of more Benches of the Supreme Court, the matter requires recommendation of the Chief Justice of India. No proposal has been received from the Chief Justice of India in this regard as per Article 130 of the Constitution. Whenever the proposal comes, the Government will take all the steps.

I am very grateful and thankful to all the hon. Members who have joined and tried to pass the Bill.

I want to mention also regarding the Shetty Commission which are already going to give their various recommendations for Subordinate Judicial Commission,

[Shri M. Thambi Durai]

what are the pay scales etc., which the Government has to consider.

Therefore, once again, I request the hon. Members for whole-hearted support to the Bill.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : What about Constitution of Benches of the Supreme Court?

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI : The present Chief Justice has to give the proposal. As soon as it comes, we will take that up.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and conditions of Service) Act, 1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 11 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 11 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

17.35 hrs.

Explosive Substances (Amendment) Bill

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Explosive Substances Act, 1908 be taken into consideration."

[Translations]

Mr Chairman, Sir, the Explosive Substances Bill or Explosive Substances Act, which is the original law under which explosive substances are regulated in the country, was enacted 90 years ago. It was enacted in 1908 and in these 90 years a lot of scientific progress has been made. The scientific progress has been made for the boon and course of mankind. Some of the new scientific substances invented are very hazardous. Some of which the country has experienced through terrorists during the last few years. Some of them are - R.D.X. which means Research Development Explosive. Another is P.E.T.N. which mean Peta Arithitrall Teltra Nitrate and the third one is H.M.X. which means High Melting Explosive. These three explosive mentioned above are being used by terrorists in the country. Besides, they have been using one more material that is Remote Control Device. It has been used for explosion. The interpretation of Explosive substance in the original Act of 1908 states.

[English]

". . ." Explosive substance" shall be deemed to include any material for making any explosive substance, also any apparatus, machine, implement or material used, or intended to be used, or adapted for causing, or aiding in causing, any explosion in or with any explosive substance; also any part of any such apparatus, machine or implement."

[Translation]

Chief Ministers have been contacted during last days, talks were held with Director Generals of Police, I.G. Police and other officers of Police, their was an unanimous opinion that these are not used in the explosives to be used in India for general purposes. If somebody has got these explosives, it means that he wants to use them for any wrong purposes and he does use these explosives for wrong purposes. Therefore, under Explosive Substance Act, 1908 possession of such substance by any body is a serious matter.

[Translation]

And if there is a provision for bigger punishment for it, it will help us in combating terrorists.

There was enough discussion on this motion and after the discussion this bill was brought in the House. In it the first thing mentioned is that there are two . . . Inter-pretation in the Act. Under the first interpretation general explosive substances come and under the second interpretation these explosive substances are mentioned. We have named it special category explosives. We have mentioned the remote control device also because there is a provision

in the earlier act. By making this difference we have provided that such a guilty person it may get life imprisonment according to the previous laws but now such a guilty person will get capital punishment. Roughly this has been the change. This is a small bill and we have moved it in the House. I want that today the House discuss it and pass it

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved

"That the Bill further to amend the Explosive Substances Act, 1908 be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the honourable Home Minister has now moved the Explosive Substance Amendment Bill, 1998. The proposed amendment in the Act of 1908 are related with the articles of two, three, four and five of the Act. As we are well-acquainted with the fact that since the last few years due to the use of particular type of explosives used by extremists, not only life and property have been damaged but the danger to dignity and security of the nation have also arisen.

Right now the honourable Home Minister has said that generally the manufacturers of the explosives used it in public interests in breaking the mountains, to make tunnels, to divert the river and for other essential purposes. During the recent past, there has been no danger to life and property due to this. But today whether it is a matter of the Punjab or Andhra Pradesh or Assam or Jammu and Kashmir according to the hon. Home Minister, militants and rebels engaged in using in the RDX, the PTN and the H.M.X. are enemies of the country. Almost 90 years have passed after this 1908 Act. was enacted. Science has progressed fast in the world. The real purpose of science is not for the destruction of mankind but for the latter's progress. Many nations of the world have progressed through the science. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru used to say that the nation which lagged behind in the field of science and technology will never be able to come in line with developed countries. Panditjee and other great leaders of the country have from time to time emphasized the progress in the field of sciences. Today we can claim with pride that scientific and technological knowledge within the country has increased but concern has been expressed all over the country and not merely in India that over the use of explosives by the extremists.

If we look at the scenario of Jammu and Kashmir, we find regular complaint that people come from Pakistan after getting trained there. Generally, training means some constructive work but here after getting trained they are continuously involved in destruction. If we donot take action

before hand, other remaining parts of the country would also be turned into Assam and Andhra Pradesh. It was essential to act before it was too last. I have seen the four new articles amonded in the Act of 1908. They are justified in the present circumstances. At that time, in the act of 1908 we provided for life imprisonment or 10 years punishment. But today the situation is such that it is not being controlled by this much provision. The terrorists are being emboldened day-by-day. It is very difficult to identify those people who make such substances. As the honourable Home Minister said after all those very people live with them because generally the explosive substance manufacturers do not do this work. There should be strict action against those with the possession of whom RDX, PTN or H.M.X. are recovered because it is not in public interests. This is not in the interests of the country, it is against the interests of the mankind and this may be a danger to the security of the country. Therefore, I welcome and support the amendments proposed by you in this Act and there must be the provision of capital punishment. Otherwise they would have no fear of their misdeeds, and unless there is no provision, they would continue in their such activities. I would like to request from our hon. Home Minister that it should be observed strictly.

There should be strict instructions to state governments that laws are enforced strictly. We enact laws but those people with whom such explosive materials are found are acquitted in many cases. We should make laws such stringent as in future the manufacturer of such substances dare not do so and we may identify those who pose danger to the security of the country. As far as stringent punishment was concerned, capital punishment under this Act may be better provision. I conclude my speech here and support the amendments proposed by you in this Act.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Honourable Chairman, Sir, I am on my legs to support this bill. Jammu and Kashmir has been the victim of extremism. During the last nine years the I.S.I and Pakistan have sent trained people to Jammu and Kashmir. Some come alongwith arms and some with RDX etc. You must remember that after all kinds of protection and search on the 26th of January, 1995 when our Governor was inspecting the parade of our army, Somebody exploded the RDX bomb from remote control under his feet in which many soldiers were killed and many others were injured. On the 25th of January, 1992 when constables and officers of our police were taking Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi's 'Ekta Yatra'. There was a bomb explosion at the office of Director General of Police. You can very well imagine now impossible was to reach there. I congratulate honourable Home Minister on bringing such type of bill. I understand that for those people who bring explosive substance from Pakistan and other adjoining countries, it will prove to be a deterrent. This is a positive

[Shri Chaman Lal Gupta]

step to curb militancy and end terrorism. At the same time I would like to request that after all they come after crossing the border, our border is so sensitive. I have got an example, our Home secretary had once given the statement that during the last few years, we have seized 43000 kilogram of RDX inside the country. We will have to pay attention on how this much of substance is reaching our country. Many times we have said that we will seal our border and fix wire over it but esp. in Jammu and Kashmir we have not been able to lay wire. I would also want that honourable Home Minister pay attention towards the provision of laying wire. At the same time, I would like to say as the suggestion had also come last time that a five kilometer strip should be erected on our border. We would call it 'No man's land' and it should be protected in such a way that anybody coming to it will be caught easily and seen easily.

I would like to make one more suggestion. Generally, it has been seen that persons are arrested for having RDX, many persons have also been arrested but trial is not conducted against them. If trial is conducted it goes on for the years and concludes without any result. We have experienced here thousands of persons, arrested are released later on or they are given no punishment. You have made the provision of capital punishment for it. I think it is a very good thing but at the same time you should also set up special Courts which should conduct trial of such persons within a limited period which should not exceed one year and the Court should be asked to give its decision within one year. By doing this, we can have a hold on such activities. Today, the way in which I.S.I has laid the trap in our country. I understand that there is terrorism in the whole country. When a person walks out from his house in the morning, he always keeps it in mind particularly in my constituency. Whether he would reach his house in the evening or not. I request you that as Shri Vora Ji said, this law should be implemented strictly. Action should be taken in this regard. It would be better to conduct trial after setting up special Courts.

Special watch is required on the movement of all types of explosives. Because, as has been told, usually these are used for constructing dams or roads after breaking hills. Today, the situation in the country is that these are stolen on the way or from the store. Therefore there should be an effective control on them and we should also ensure effective use of explosive substances wherever there are available with us.

At last, I would like to request once again I rise to support this Bill. Many people may be prone to link this issue to human rights but I think that the security

of the country must receive first priority and we should not hesitate to take stringent possible steps to ensure it.

[English]

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK (Mathurapur) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the Explosive Substances (Amendment) Bill. I have given some amendments also.

While moving the Bill, the hon. Home Minister has said that this is a very simple Bill. Yes, it is simple because there are only three or four amendments. But it is not a simple Bill because capital punishment is being proposed in place of rigorous imprisonment. The Bill as it stands has got very weak definitions. This Bill seeks to fight terrorism and illegal use of explosives.

The original Act of 1884 was brought into effect when we were under the British rule.

The intention of that Bill was designed to control the manufacture, possession, use, sale, transportation and importation of explosives so as to prevent accidents. It was there in the Act of 1884. The name of the Bill was 'Explosives Act, 1884'. Then again in 1908, the Britishers enacted another Bill called, 'Explosive Substances Act, 1908'. That was as per the English 'Explosive Substances Act' in their own country. The object of that Bill, as written, was as follows:

"It seeks to control crimes arising out of the illegal use of explosives".

It was so because there was terrorism, Independence Movement throughout India, particularly in Bengal. There was a terrorist movement. To fight out that terrorism, the Independent Struggle in Bengal, the Britishers brought this 'Explosive Substances Act 1908'. There is a clause 17 about the 'Extension of definition of "Explosive" to other explosive substances.' At that time RDX and TNT were not there. Some other high explosives were also not there. In that section 17, there was a provision to include, because explosive substances are not exhaustive.

Now, in this Bill, which the hon. Home Minister has brought here, the definition of "explosive substances" is very weak. About the definition of "explosive substance" it is written and I quote:

"In this Act the expression "explosive substance" shall be deemed to include any materials for making any explosive substance"

Now if I say where is the house of Ram? One says, 'it is just by the side of the house of Shyam'. When I say, 'Where is the house of Shyam?'. He says, 'it is just by the side of the house of Ram'. So, for life long, you can transfer the house of Ram and Shyam. But you will not get it.

Similarly, about the definition of "explosive substance" you have defined it in terms of "explosive substance"? What type of definition is it? What is the explosive substance? "Explosive Substance" is defined as explosive substance. So, it is not a definition. The definition of it should be precise. In Law, the definition should be precise, exact and pointed one. There should be no ambiguity. The definition should be in the conventional sense and not in nuclear sense.

In the convention sense, 'explosive' is defined:

"a solid, gas or liquid material which, when triggered, will release a great amount of heat and pressure by way of a very rapid, self-sustaining exothermic decomposition

This is the process. But in the present Bill, which the hon. Home Minister has brought, the definition is weak.

A comment has been made by an ex-justice in a murder case of culpable homicide amounting to murder. 'But in the rarest of the rare case that penalty should be imposed.' The comment had been made by a justice. What is the definition of the 'rare case'? What is the definition of the 'rarer case'? And, what is the definition of the 'rarest case'? So, the definition is subjective. This comment was not made by me, it was by an ex-Chief justice.

Here also, in the Bill, the definition is very vague.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. R.R. Pramanik Please come to the subject.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK (Mathurapur) : Sir, I am on the subject.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the definition of the "explosive substance" is very weak. Only to strengthen my argument, I have cited the comments from ex-justice about the rarest case. In a law, you have to define which was the explosive substance—fire arm, fire works also (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be brief.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : There is no brief explosive... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : So, this should be clearly defined.

About the 'Special Category Explosive Substances', the hon. Home Minister has cited three examples. There are many other high explosives, for example, nitro glycerine, nitro glycol, di-nitro toluene, tri-nitro toluene, picric acid, di-nitro phenol, tri-nitro resorcinol, cyclo try-methylene, tri-nitramine (RDX), PETN and so many substances.

18.00 hrs.

It is not exhaustive. It is Inclusive. This should be special category of explosive substances.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time of the house is upto 6 P.M. If the House is agree, time can be extended by half-an-hour.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI AVSM (Garhwal) : It may be completed within half-an hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will sit until it is passed. If the House is agree, it will not take more time.

[*English*]

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : I am asked to say something about capital punishment. I am on the definition. My amendment is, you have to Include (i) sub-clause (c) special category explosive substance is defined in the Act. A special category explosive substance shall be deemed, as it is mentioned here to include research development explosive, RDX. All this is mentioned in the Act. I want to add the special category of explosive substance. I want to add uranium 235 and plutonium.

A 5 kg. uranium 235 was an explosive substance, not the atom bomb of hydrogen bomb which was dropped on Hiroshima. It is only 5 kg. of uranium 235 and plutonium. It is only 4 or 5 kg. That is the critical mass. That material should be under special category explosive substance because some critical atom bombs are possible now. That is 200 tonnes of TNT, not kilo tonne, not mega tonne, not hydrogen, only critical, that is below critical mass, small atom bombs which can destroy this Parliament House altogether. Small amount of Uranium 235 can do it. Scientists and technologists are trying on this. When this Bill was enacted during British period, RDX was not there. For your information, there is cyclonite- RDX, cyclo-trimethylene-trinitramine which was discovered by Henning in 1899 and which was used in World War II. After World war II, the explosive character came in, 1920. So, the Bill was in 1884. At that time, RDX was not there and PETN was not there. It was discovered by Wilbrand in 1891. A time may come when there will be small atom bombs with Uranium 235 or plutonium. Then the question of amendment will come. So, this being a special category of explosive substance, I have given amendment which include Uranium 235 and also plutonium.

I request the Home Minister to include one more Clause (c) which is called the conventional explosive substance because explosive substance contains both conventional and non-conventional substances.

Mr. chairman, Sir, as males and females are contained in human beings, the explosive substances contain

[Prof. R.R. Pramanik]

conventional explosive substances and non-conventional explosive substances.

Now, I come to the provision regarding death penalty. During the British period, in 1908, the Explosive Substances Act was enacted to fight terrorism. If you go to the Andamans, you will find the Cellular Jail. There are three wings out of seven which were meant for the terrorists. The British were afraid of the terrorists. The terrorists used guns, revolvers and all those things as RDX and PETN were not there. The British enacted this Act to fight terrorism by imposing a rigorous imprisonment of five to twenty years or life imprisonment at the Andamans. All the cells were occupied by them. Some of those who were arrested are still alive in West Bengal. There was no death sentence to fight terrorism.

There are laws under the Indian Penal Code where death sentence is prescribed for the following: (1) it must be awarded when murder is committed by a person under sentence of imprisonment for life; (2) waging war against the Government of India and so on. So, there is capital punishment for terrorism. But here death penalty has been mentioned. The Minister of Home Affairs intends to impose for whom? It is mentioned here, 'any person, who unlawfully and maliciously causes, by any special category explosive substance, an explosion of a nature likely to endanger life or to cause serious injury to property shall, whether any injury to person or property has actually been caused or not, be punished with death' So, if there is an explosion and none is dead, still, according to this Bill, if it is enacted, that man would be punished with death.

For the terrorists, there is a law which says that only possession is enough to attract death penalty. There is a provision that the possession must be with the knowledge of the person in possession. For example, if come RDX is put into my pocket without my knowledge, if this Bill is enacted, I will have to go to the gallows because the RDX is there. How much of RDX is there, whether it is in my knowledge and whether it is in my control are not taken into account.

I am against death sentence and I have given notice of an amendment. I am against death sentence because even the British did not include the death punishment for terrorists. They were also to fight terrorism. After Independence, it has become a political issue. I want to quote something which is not my quotation.

"Can fear of death deter or diminish patriotic heroism or treasonable projects organised by suicide squads of maddened terrorists, desperate guerillas or hardened mafia?"

This question was raised by no less a person than Mr. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer. The leading Jurist,

Shri V.R. Krishna Iyer has pleaded for the abolition of death sentence. He is against the existing death sentence and our hon. Minister of Home Affairs is introducing a new death sentence for the special category of explosive substances. There is a debate between the abolitionists and the votaries of death penalty on the existing capital punishment.

So, Shri Krishna Iyer says:

"A leading terrorist has pleaded for the abolition of death sentence. As a Judge, he has written in his judgments that death sentence is not required in the present time, but as Indian law has laid down to award death sentence in certain cases he cannot change the law. So, he has suggested that death sentence may be awarded in the rarest of rare cases."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you. Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

PROF. R. R. PRAMANIK : I have given an amendment.
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am repeatedly saying, please conclude now.

(Interruptions)

PROF. R. R. PRAMANIK : A final sentence about what Mahatma Gandhi said. The Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi had said that God alone can take away life because he alone gives it. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have only seven minutes, but you have taken about 20 minutes.

(Interruptions)

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : So, no other person can take away life. But he is now introducing death sentence only for 'possession and explosion', even if no person has got killed. The terrorist problem is to be solved politically. Terrorism is a political issue. He is not an ordinary criminal. That problem can be solved only politically. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you.

(Translation)

Now whatever you will speak, will not go on record. . . .*(Interruptions)**

*Not Recorded.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am repeatedly asking him to conclude. But he is not concluding. I have requested him five times to conclude, but he is not concluding.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : In short, I want to say that the definition should be clear and there can be no ambiguity. I am against death sentence, but it has been inserted there in this Bill, only for 'possession and explosion'. He is not a murderer. The sentence of life imprisonment is already there. The terrorist problem is to be fought politically and not by giving death penalty. So, I am against death penalty.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you. At the time of moving your amendment, you can say.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : I am having more to say in favour of my amendment. I am against death penalty. Kindly give me a chance at that time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : Thank you very much. I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Home Minister has brought this Bill to make the law of old times more stringent to check the use of explosive substances. I have come to know this thing after hearing his speech. Whenever a discussion is held on explosives substances, I remember that a Scientist Nobel Sahab invented the dynamite and after this invention Noble Prize is being given with the help of amount mobilized from this invention Noble Prizes runs after his name. Now it is given for all things like Economics, Physics etc. for peace.

Sir, Minister has said in his speech that science has made much progress. Heavy punishment will be awarded to those who will have or use the new explosive and dangerous destructive substances invented. The provision of capital punishment has also been made. It seems to us from it that the terrorism and other similar crimes cause a huge loss of life and property. So, there should be more stringent law to tackle such acts and the persons involved must be punished.

We do not know whether RDX or the substance of special explosive category enumerated recently are manufactured in our country or supplied by foreigners to create terrorism. He was telling about having or using the explosive substances that the persons who have or use such substances, should be strictly dealt with. There is a

provision of capital punishment in our constitution for those who kill someone with the help of Lathi, or sickle or other thing but it is not justified to make the provision of capital punishment for those having explosive substances. But we are against the terrorism. In any way, terrorism should be checked and the persons who create terrorism, should be punished.

I would like to say that their spirit is right that such persons should be strictly dealt with. We will support their spirit but [English] Jurisprudence is the eye of law, [Translation] All right, guilty persons should be punished but no innocent should be punished. [English] Jurisprudence is the eye of law [Translation] means that suppose a person steals some dangerous explosive substance or RDX in the form of powder and put it into the pocket of an innocent person, then would it be right to give capital punishment to this innocent person. Therefore, before framing strict law, we should consider it seriously that no innocent person should be punished. The justified law should be enacted.

He was saying that Atom-bomb, plutonium, uranium should be included in this law. If these are included, these persons will also be punished because they have recently conducted nuclear test. Punishment is given in case of small explosion but who will punish those who blast atom-bomb. Therefore, while enacting this law, every possible steps should be carefully considered and the supply of explosives to the country should be checked by framing strict law. It should be stopped and ascertained whatever it is supplied from abroad or manufactured in our own country because common people do not know about it keeping in mind that no innocent person should be punished, a strict law should be framed. We respect their spirit. Terrorism create danger to the national security, lines and humanity. Therefore, every step should be taken to check it but these steps should be justified.

Their Minister George Sahab said about Badodra dynamite that the violence in which no life is lost, is not violence indeed. This is also a combatant, non-violence Guerilla Satyagrah. Due to political reasons, some persons indulge in the destruction of lifeless things in order to attract other's attention. If same punishment is given for killing of human beings and destruction of lifeless things, their Minister will also come under the purview of this law. Therefore, you should not enact such law that your own Minister will be put into trouble. Therefore, a stern law should be enacted against the terrorists who cause loss to lives and property and national security we are in favour of it.

[English]

18.20 hours

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, I rise to support the Bill. I was very much surprised to hear my predecessor speaking against the provision of death penalty. It is very easy, for an academic discussion, to say that any terrorist is a political activist. An ISI agent who has come from Pakistan, who has exploded the device destroying property worth crores of rupees and killing hundreds of people is a political activist? I was very surprised to hear the hon. Member saying that he should be dealt politically. I hope he would say the same, in case one of his relatives, supporters or Party Members is killed and deal with him politically. I think what he said was meant for just an academic discussion. I strongly oppose him. I very strongly support the Bill that has been brought before the House by the hon. Home Minister, I am very much in favour of death penalty.

I know that there may be some difficulty. As you yourself have mentioned, some innocent persons may be put to trouble. If someone puts RDX into the pocket of some innocent person, just like the laws relating to narcotics, he may be put to some difficulty. We all know that in the Indian Courts of law only in the rarest of rare cases, death penalty is awarded. So, it is not that the judge will handle the case in a casual manner. The Judge will certainly go into the details of the case before awarding the death penalty. He will positively convince himself that actually the heinous crime was going to be committed by the concerned person. I would like to quote Clause 3(b) which says

"Any special category explosive substance an explosion of a nature likely to endanger life or to cause serious injury to property shall, whether any injury to person or property has been actually caused or not, be punished with death, or imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to fine."

Let me take a hypothetical case in which nobody is killed in an explosion. But we have to take into consideration his intention. When the concerned person exploded the device, his intention was to kill, to destroy or to subvert the system. His intention was to create panic in the country and it was a mere coincidence that nobody was killed. If that person is allowed to go scot-free, he will again try to resort to the same thing. If we let him loose, he will attempt the same thing once, twice or thrice until he is given a death penalty. I would however, say even the death sentence is not enough for such perpetrators of the worst kind of crime against mankind. By awarding death penalty, we will only get rid of one heinous criminal but by his misdeeds we might have lost hundreds of

innocent lives. So what is the harm in awarding death penalty to such a person? There is no harm in it. Shri Chaman Lal Gupta has mentioned that over 43,000 kilogram of RDX had been seized over the years in our country.

Not only that, the Intelligence Bureau has also found that Pakistan seems to have pushed 51,000 kgs. of RDX into India. Sir, just see, who are the criminals and villains of this case? It is mostly perpetrated by ISI and its agents in India. I will give you the examples of the last ten years to show what has happened in India due to the heinous deeds of ISI. Civilians killed due to ISI terrorism in the last ten years - 21,951; security men killed in the last ten years due to ISI activities - 5,101; persons rendered homeless due to these activities - 2,79,000; property damaged to the tune of Rs. 2,000 crore and weapons smuggled into India - 61,900. Shall we allow India to become a soft State or a banana State? We cannot allow. How can we allow? May be the death penalty might act as a deterrent among the carriers and those infiltrators who are coming from across the border. So, I support it.

The ISI activities in India have penetrated not only in Jammu and Kashmir but have also penetrated into Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and North East. They have penetrated into places like Agra, Kanpur, Ferozabad and into all sorts of places. The ISI is also financing so many people. It is now financing the Kashmiri shopkeepers. People staying in the five star hotels pay any prices for the strategically located property where there is a chance of intelligence gathering and contact points of terrorists.

Secondly, they also indirectly help the human rights activists by buying their books, painting and other things. They also finance some film actors who go to Pakistan and they become their supporters.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : A person will be punished if he keeps any explosive substance whether they are I.S.I. or B.S.I.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, Give me two more minutes, I will conclude. I support this Bill, I just congratulate the Home Minister for introducing the National Security Council. I know, it will take sometime to give good shape to it because we do not have so many experts in India with regard to Myanmar, Middle East and with regard to other places. . . . (Interruptions). Sir, I am very sorry that another two minutes were not given to me.

[Translation]

Other Members took 20-25 minutes and you said nothing to them.

[English]

Sir, I just support this Bill, I appeal to the hon. Home Minister that he should see that if there is any lacuna in the National Security Council, that should be set right. The political connections of people like Romesh Sharma should be brought out and the people should know with whom they had connections. The people should also know how Dawood Ibrahim and Romesh Sharma are perpetrating heinous crimes in India.

With this appeal to the hon. Home Minister, I conclude my speech.

SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. I agree that there should be more severe punishment, but at the same time, I am afraid that this can be misused particularly the provision of death penalty. Hence, I request the Home Minister to see that there should be a difference between the anti-social elements who resort to terrorism and the other type of activities. Unfortunately, in the last several years, terrorism has increased in our country. The Home Minister, while introducing the Bill, has rightly explained that there are different spots in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, North-East and several places where, terrorism has increased. In Kashmir and other places, it is the ISI which is the anti-national element. I would have unhesitatingly accepted the proposal if it is against the ISI or if it is against the anti-national elements who are taking support from outside and trying to disrupt the integrity of this country and who want to destroy the unity of this country.

Terrorism inside the country should be seen from a different angle. I do not support terrorism. I come from Andhra Pradesh where People's War Group are resorting to violence and more than 100 leaders and cadre from our Party, CPI have been killed. There is a target list of more than 200 CPI leaders who are in the hit list. But still, I do not think Naxalism or the People's War Group can be finished by treating this only as a law and order issue. It is a socio-political-economic issue and it should be solved from that angle. I do not see there is only law and order issue. When they take to weapons, naturally, others will also take to weapons and the Government also has to deal with it through weapons. There are fake encounters in various parts of Andhra Pradesh. Unfortunately, innocent people are being punished. Hence, it should be seen from a different angle.

Why has this terrorism come up in Assam? Unfortunately, the whole of India has to be blamed for that. The Assamese people worked to defend their culture, they wanted to defend the integrity from the onslaught from outside which could not be stopped. I do not support terrorism. It should not be accepted. When justiciable

demands in a legitimate way are not met some people resort to terrorism. Unfortunately, some sections of the people do support it. We should see to it that the basic problem of terrorism should be solved instead of treating it merely as a law and order issue.

As you rightly pointed out, it is the irony of history that only last week we congratulated Prof. Amritya Sen for getting the Nobel Prize. How noble is this man who earned billions of dollars for inventing dynamite and explosives. He is the founder of the explosives. Today, this Nobel Prize is the most prestigious and the most valuable one throughout the world. Now in this very Parliament, after a week or so of that event, we are coming with a Bill for imposing capital punishment including, death penalty, for those who will have the explosives. I do agree that those people who resort to massacre with an intention to kill people, should be punished more severely.

Here I would like to say that the Home Minister should reconsider Section 3 of the Bill which talks about the death penalty.

Under Section 5, I am particularly afraid about the punishment for possessing explosives under suspicious circumstances.

This is the thing which can be misused.

I would like to submit that in Andhra Pradesh, like in any other part of the country to have fire arms is prohibited. The people in rural areas, to defend themselves, get fire arms to kill wild animals to defend their crops and most of them are being arrested for having the fire arms without permission, without licence.

We do know that the dacoits, the anti-social elements, the naxalites, everybody in this country have weapons except the law abiding citizens of this country. If they have the weapons, then they will be put behind the prison for this type of reason. Now in the name of anti-naxalite activities, this is being done.

So, while condemning terrorism, I request the hon. Home Minister to reconsider about the death penalty and other things.

With these few words except death penalty, I support the Bill.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, while I rise to speak on the Explosive Substances (Amendment) Bill, I would like to put forth a few points, on behalf of my party, the DMK. The hon. Home Minister Shri L. K. Advani has brought forward this Amending Bill to give 'special category explosive substance' to high and lethal explosive materials like RDX, PETN, HMX, TNT, etc., remote control devices and to provide for maximum punishment to the offenders.

[Shri C. Kuppusami]

Though the objective and the spirit of the Bill seem to be good, I would like to know who has created this sort of situation where the terrorists and anti-social elements move freely with all sorts of explosives. How they could smuggle these explosives into our country regularly? According to one report, over 43,000 kgs of RDX had been seized over the years in the country and the collective explosive power of such materials could lead to unprecedented destruction. According to the Government's own document, Pakistan is suspected of having pushed in about 51,810 kgs. of high explosives, mostly RDX.

For taking effective steps to check smuggling, the Central Government should come forward for establishing Explosive Control Bureau in all the regions which are threatened by RDX explosive activities. So unless the Central Government take effective steps to keep a strict vigil on the coastal lines and international borders and to modernize the security system to cope up with this sort of increasing menace, the situation would, instead of improving, deteriorate further.

The hon. Home Minister should consider providing adequate funds to the State Governments to fight the menace of smuggling of RDX explosives into the State to create insecurity, communal clashes among the people. To launch a systematic action to locate and seize explosives that have been smuggled into the State requires huge number of police force and machinery. The State Government on its own, because of resource crunch, cannot bear such a heavy burden of expenditure. The hon. Home Minister may, therefore, consider sanctioning additional funds for meeting this demand, namely, increased surveillance, purchase of vehicles and communication equipments for these operations.

In the wake of recent report of suspected terrorists' attempt to strike soft targets on the anniversary of Babri Masjid Demolition on December 6, 1998, the State Government, under the dynamic leadership of our hon. Chief Minister Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi, took all preventive steps to instil confidence among the general public. Even the US administration had warned their tourists to avoid going to Tamil Nadu during that period, fearing bomb blasts. But our State Government had taken all precautionary measures by reinforcing security and constant vigil, and no such untoward incident took place.

Our hon. Chief Minister has demanded strengthening of the Coast Guards for reinforcing surveillance along the coastal lines of Tamil Nadu and for carrying out intensive patrolling in the high seas for prevention and detection of smuggling of high explosive materials. I would urge upon

the Central Government to do the needful so that the effective implementation is done and the explosive materials could be seized before they could reach the shore.

Hon. Home Minister, through this Bill, seeks to get more powers and to inflict capital punishment to the offenders under the provisions of the Explosive Substances Act. But there is a saying 'power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.' So, I would request the hon. Home Minister to give an assurance to the Parliament that the powers vested in the Government will not be misused for political purposes, and innocent persons would not be harassed unnecessarily. There should be some safeguards and guidelines so that whoever is in the Government would not misuse the provisions of this Bill.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam) : Mr Chairman Sir, days are gone when there were strays where explosive substances were used. It was used by Shaheed Bhagat Singh in the interest of the nation. It was out of patriotism that he had done it. But today in a situation where values have come down and morals have come down, there are mercenaries, paid terrorists who live on it and who make themselves heroes. Instead of condemning them, there are certain well-placed citizens who will not feel shy to tell their association with them. It is very unfortunate. In these circumstances and in a situation where the culprit, who has made this or who has used this to kill somebody or to cause damage to the property, instead of feeling shy thinks that he is a hero.

I definitely appreciate the Home Minister for bringing a rigorous legislation and bringing a change in the existing Act. I am in favour of it. But I only wish that it should not be misused in any case. He should have included some clauses to prevent the misuse of this act, as the previous speaker said, for political reasons. That should not be allowed. As Shri Sudhakar Reddy said, once the death penalty is given and if it is later found that he is innocent, we cannot save him. We do agree that because of Indian culture and tradition, we always believe in reforms. We do still believe in reforms. But the recent incidents and trends do indicate that unless there is a fear of this capital punishment, the number of cases would go much higher. So, capital punishment has to be there. I support the death penalty. But I only wish that there must be some precautions. In this context, I wish the hon. Minister to refer to the Bill. Clause 3 of the Bill deals with punishment for causing explosion likely to endanger life or property and the punishment is irrespective of whether the damage is done or not. It is agreed. Part 1 of clause 4 deals with punishment for attempt to cause explosion. In clause 3 also, irrespective of whether the damage has occurred or not,

they are giving the punishment. Unless there is an attempt, it could not have failed. So, I think that he may please give a thought to it. The first part of clause 4 relating to punishment for attempt to cause explosion could have gone into clause 3 and not clause 4. He can give a thought to it and if necessary, he can think of bringing an amendment later on.

As some Members have said, I am of the opinion that there must be special courts constituted exclusively for this purpose, keeping in view the delays that are occurring in finalising these cases. When there is no fear of law in the minds of the citizens, no amount of police force or no amount of security can prevent these activities. Basically, the citizens must have a fear that if they commit a crime, they would be punished mercilessly. That fear has gone away from the minds of the culprits; it is only the law-abiding citizens who are suffering, and the people who do not care the law are doing all these things. They are getting shalter also. When well-placed people associate themselves with such people out of ignorance, then I can understand. But I regret to say that even after knowing the antecedents and their activities, they say that they are associated with such criminals. It is a matter of shame, and I do not know how they could say so.

Your decision to impose death penalty is all right, and you are telling that it should be so in the case of rape also. My only worry is about the tendency to misuse such things in the present situation. It should not be used for political reasons or to achieve any political goals. That should be taken care of. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI (Dharward South) : I oppose this proposal of death penalty because the Government has no power to award death penalty to any criminal.

SHRI K.S. RAO : In that context, I request the hon. Home Minister to take into account the reasons behind the disparities in this country because of which, sometimes, some people are becoming aggressive. I wish that you must concentrate on the rampant corruption that is there in the country and the disparities that are there between the rich and the poor. If we can eliminate both of them, we can reduce the number of people who are involved in the terrorist activities.

With these few points, instead of taking more time, I support the Bill proposing severe punishment, more particularly at this juncture when the terrorist activities are on the increase. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the explosive substances (Amendment) Bill on behalf of Shiv Sena. Today, there is

not even a single State in Hindustan where bombs have not been blasted. Even our Home Minister had a narrow escape. I.S.I. had tried to kill him. Four thousand bomb blasts occurred in Kashmir after Independence wherein more than 50 thousand people died. Bomb blast took place in Mumbai also. The Minister of Home Affairs is present here. Dawood Abraham and his henchmen who were responsible for bomb blasts in Mumbai, are absconding. It was informed in the House that I.S.I. was behind the blasts occurred in Mumbai. Now Dawood Abraham has fled to Pakistan. I would like to know whether he is going to be brought to India or he is to be forgiven ?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to speak for some more time because I have come to the House after a long time. A large number of training centres of I.S.I. are operating in India. Earlier there was government of United Front, Government of Congress, they told the house that there are training centres. I would like to ask about the number of remaining such training centres in India and the reasons for not getting them abolished. Recently the provision of capital punishment has been made in this regard. I submit that if one loses property it can be recovered but loss of lives can never be recovered. Today, blasts have taken place in every State of India i.e. Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Bengal, Tamil Nadu where many lives were lost. I would like to ask the Minister of Home Affairs the quantity of RDX brought to India so far. Bomb blast took place and it means RDX has been smuggled to India in big quantity. Bombs, hand grenades and Machine-guns were smuggled in Maharashtra after riots in 1993. Raids were conducted twice and many terrorists were arrested. I would like to know about the quantity of RDX being smuggled to India. Today India is in danger.

Communists Member are not present here and Congress Members are very few. The issue of minorities is raised here. When culprits are apprehended, who belong to minority . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY : Is it only minorities?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Guilty should be punished, But when people of minority are arrested, the reply should be such that we are one and guilty should be awarded death sentence irrespective of religion and caste. If any thing happens, we are attacked by saying Hindu-Hindu. They all are helpless for votes and that's why they do not raise voice. . . . (Interruptions) Listen to me. You can understand what I am saying but you have no guts to speak. . . . (Interruptions) I support and welcome the Bill moved by you. It should be implemented without delay. If culprits is apprehended, he should be shot

[Shri Mohan Rawale]

immediately. You see the average of innocent people killed and daily bomb explosions taking place in one or the other place. More than four thousand bomb blasts have taken place in Kashmir. You can see the average of entire India.

Thanking you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI C. GOPAL (Arakkonam) : Sir, I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister. There was a bomb blast in Tamil Nadu in which the hon. Home Minister had a narrow escape. The BJP unit of the State of Tamil Nadu has submitted a Memorandum, which has been signed by a few lakhs of people, demanding a CBI enquiry into the matter. One Shri Basha was arrested in the matter and it is suspected that he is an ISI agent. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : Sir, the Government of Tamil Nadu had taken all necessary steps and the Central Home Minister was also satisfied with the situation. (Interruptions)

SHRI C. GOPAL : Sir, I have been given to understand that the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had written a letter for having the matter enquired into by the CBI. I would like to know whether there is any proposal for conducting an enquiry by the CBI or not.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am highly grateful to the House that they have broadly supported the Bill. I'll try to give reply in brief to the questions raised and apprehensions expressed during the discussion. Firstly, Prof. Pramanik is the only Member who has made amendment. I was listening him attentively and I would say that I studied it and after that. I again collected information from the Ministry of Defence because he mentioned about plutonium and Uranium and said that this category should also be mentioned. I had to ask from the Ministry that we have only mentioned about R.D.X., H.M.X. and T.N.T. but amendment has come and what would they say about it. I was told by the scientists that these are radioactive substances, and not compounds and here it is written as compounds.

[English]

It is not a compound, it is an element. Furthermore, it is a radioactive substance which, in its ordinary form, is not explosive. It becomes explosive when it is enriched and fusion is allowed to take place at a very very high temperature. Otherwise, they are not explosive in that sense.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK (Mathurapur) : Uranium 235 is a fissile material and not a fertile one. Natural Uranium contains Uranium 235 and Uranium 238. Uranium 238 is a fertile element, not a fissile one. For making a bomb, critical mass is required. But Uranium 235 is an explosive nuclear substance. When you call a substance explosive, it can be a conventional explosive or a nuclear explosive but it is an explosive substance. For making a bomb, critical mass is required, detonation is required and so many technologies are required. But Uranium 235 is enriched. Plutonium is a fissile element. Sub-critical bombs are now coming in.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I shall keep your knowledge in mind. But I do not want to make amendments in the law which give ideas to people. Firstly, it is essentially a matter on which scientists can comment; I would not claim to do that. But I did enquire, after your amendment, and I did go into the whole thing. After all that, I came to the conclusion that the present formulation of the law is the best because it 'includes' and it does not exclude anything. Today, at least we are aware that the kind of explosives Pakistan or the ISI have been providing to the militants are, principally these three. These are substances that are being provided and, therefore, they have been specifically mentioned.

[Translation]

It has been repeatedly said that if it is found with somebody by mistake, that will be hanged, it is not like that. It is written in each provision i.e. you will see it in the clause 3.

[English]

"Any person who unlawfully and maliciously causes, by any explosive substance, an explosion of a nature. . . ."

[Translation]

All this terminology clarify that it will not be decided by any executive and there is no question of hanging anybody. It will be decided by the Court and appeal will be made at proper place about the judgement of the Court. Yes, you can say that you were quoting Krishna Iyer and was accepted not only in the world but in India too, we have heard the discussion over the years from lawyers, judges that capital punishment is a solution or not, whether there should be capital punishment or not. I am of the view that there is utility of capital punishment in context of India and if a person brings R.D.X. from Pakistan and blows off a train here and kills innocent people there should be

19.00 hrs.

provision for capital punishment in that case. Capital punishment should not be the minimum punishment,

that's why the provision of life imprisonment has been retained in original Bill. For example if judge go through the entire case and reach to the conclusion that life imprisonment should be awarded instead of capital punishment he would have to decide in this regard.

Keeping it in mind that there should be no misuse, but on the other hand such terrorism in which terrorist undertakes the work with the help of Pakistan but fails to do the work and no death is caused, therefore he cannot be acquitted from the crime. If a person does an explosion and nobody dies it must be seen that if he does an explosion, death may take place or not as he derails a train, suppose people are saved and no death takes place but to derail a train is such an offence for which punishment should be given main care that who will use explosive particularly in this case major care and who will use special category explosives and does try to kill, for that there is a provision.

Shri Mohan Rawale has mentioned about the serial bombing of 1993 bomb blasts. The next day I went there. I had myself seen the havoc caused by RDX, it was my first experience. I had seen bomb blasts in Delhi. Punjab and other places but I had seen the havoc caused by RDX blast for the first time. I visited those 13 places where it was used, particularly I still remember the scene of Worli. It seemed as that of 1945 war, in which we had witnessed bombing, big craters were created due to RDX. Therefore, a deterrent provision should be made for those who possess explosives of special category. Therefore, I would request the House to pass this Bill unanimously. Government is vigilant about the questions asked by honourable Members like the guidelines as to what is being done about I.S.I. and as Chaman Lal ji said that people are intruding. Neither the Government nor I claim that by making such provisions the vexed problem of terrorism would be solved. There is no doubt that apart from this we will have to take stringent measures.

[English]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : Is it for ISI?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : It is not for ISI. There is no mention of ISI. These explosives are not available here. They have got from them. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Explosive Substances Act, 1908, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : But Sir, I have got the amendment. I was assured that I would speak later on, on amendments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK: I beg to move:

Page 2, line 5 and wherever they occur in the Bill,—
for "any explosive substances"

substitute "any conventional explosive substance." (1)

Page 2, lines 14 and 15,—

after "compounds" insert—

"Nuclear explosive substance viz Uranium 235 and Plutonium". (2)

Page 2, —

"(c) the conventional explosive substances shall be deemed to include all the explosive substances except the special category explosive substances. (3)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, he has already spoken. In fact, his entire speech was on his amendments. I have noted everything. I am sorry, I am not able to accept it.

[Translation]

If you will explain about conventional, then you will have to explain about unconventional also. Here explanation has been made. One is of explosive substance and the other is of special explosive substance. There are only two categories. These suffice the purpose. I have given the reply about Plutonium and Uranium. I can say that I do not consider it necessary to accept your amendment for the purpose of this law. Your opinion will be that there should be no capital punishment but the opinion of the Government is that at least capital punishment should be awarded for such crimes till there is a provision of capital punishment in our law.

I would like to request you to withdraw your amendment and this House should unanimously accept this important law.

[English]

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK (Mathurapur): While replying to this Bill, hon. Home Minister mentioned about RDX, PTEN, ISI agents and Pakistani people. But in the Bill, there is no mention of ISI people or spies or Pakistani people. While giving the reply, the hon. Home Minister mentioned ISI, Pakistani agents and foreign nationals. There

[Shri Mohan Rawale]

immediately. You see the average of innocent people killed and daily bomb explosions taking place in one or the other place. More than four thousand bomb blasts have taken place in Kashmir. You can see the average of entire India.

Thanking you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI C. GOPAL (Arakkonam) : Sir, I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister. There was a bomb blast in Tamil Nadu in which the hon. Home Minister had a narrow escape. The BJP unit of the State of Tamil Nadu has submitted a Memorandum, which has been signed by a few lakhs of people, demanding a CBI enquiry into the matter. One Shri Basha was arrested in the matter and it is suspected that he is an ISI agent. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : Sir, the Government of Tamil Nadu had taken all necessary steps and the Central Home Minister was also satisfied with the situation. (Interruptions)

SHRI C. GOPAL : Sir, I have been given to understand that the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had written a letter for having the matter enquired into by the CBI. I would like to know whether there is any proposal for conducting an enquiry by the CBI or not.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am highly grateful to the House that they have broadly supported the Bill. I'll try to give reply in brief to the questions raised and apprehensions expressed during the discussion. Firstly, Prof. Pramanik is the only Member who has made amendment. I was listening him attentively and I would say that I studied it and after that. I again collected information from the Ministry of Defence because he mentioned about plutonium and Uranium and said that this category should also be mentioned. I had to ask from the Ministry that we have only mentioned about R.D.X., H.M.X. and T.N.T. but amendment has come and what would they say about it. I was told by the scientists that these are radioactive substances, and not compounds and here it is written as compounds.

[English]

It is not a compound, it is an element. Furthermore, it is a radioactive substance which, in its ordinary form, is not explosive. It becomes explosive when it is enriched and fusion is allowed to take place at a very very high temperature. Otherwise, they are not explosive in that sense.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK (Mathurapur) : Uranium 235 is a fissile material and not a fertile one. Natural Uranium contains Uranium 235 and Uranium 238. Uranium 238 is a fertile element, not a fissile one. For making a bomb, critical mass is required. But Uranium 235 is an explosive nuclear substance. When you call a substance explosive, it can be a conventional explosive or a nuclear explosive but it is an explosive substance. For making a bomb, critical mass is required, detonation is required and so many technologies are required. But Uranium 235 is enriched. Plutonium is a fissile element. Sub-critical bombs are now coming in.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I shall keep your knowledge in mind. But I do not want to make amendments in the law which give ideas to people. Firstly, it is essentially a matter on which scientists can comment; I would not claim to do that. But I did enquire, after your amendment, and I did go into the whole thing. After all that, I came to the conclusion that the present formulation of the law is the best because it 'includes' and it does not exclude anything. Today, at least we are aware that the kind of explosives Pakistan or the ISI have been providing to the militants are, principally these three. These are substances that are being provided and, therefore, they have been specifically mentioned.

[Translation]

It has been repeatedly said that if it is found with somebody by mistake, that will be hanged, it is not like that. It is written in each provision i.e. you will see it in the clause 3.

[English]

"Any person who unlawfully and maliciously causes, by any explosive substance, an explosion of a nature. . . ."

[Translation]

All this terminology clarify that it will not be decided by any executive and there is no question of hanging anybody. It will be decided by the Court and appeal will be made at proper place about the judgement of the Court. Yes, you can say that you were quoting Krishna Iyer and was accepted not only in the world but in India too, we have heard the discussion over the years from lawyers, judges that capital punishment is a solution or not, whether there should be capital punishment or not. I am of the view that there is utility of capital punishment in context of India and if a person brings R.D.X. from Pakistan and blows off a train here and kills innocent people there should be

19.00 hrs.

provision for capital punishment in that case. Capital punishment should not be the minimum punishment,

that's why the provision of life imprisonment has been retained in original Bill. For example if judge go through the entire case and reach to the conclusion that life imprisonment should be awarded instead of capital punishment he would have to decide in this regard.

Keeping it in mind that there should be no misuse, but on the other hand such terrorism in which terrorist undertakes the work with the help of Pakistan but fails to do the work and no death is caused, therefore he cannot be acquitted from the crime. If a person does an explosion and nobody dies it must be seen that if he does an explosion, death may take place or not as he derails a train, suppose people are saved and no death takes place but to derail a train is such an offence for which punishment should be given main care that who will use explosive particularly in this case major care and who will use special category explosives and does try to kill, for that there is a provision.

Shri Mohan Rawale has mentioned about the serial bombing of 1993 bomb blasts. The next day I went there. I had myself seen the havoc caused by RDX, it was my first experience. I had seen bomb blasts in Delhi. Punjab and other places but I had seen the havoc caused by RDX blast for the first time. I visited those 13 places where it was used, particularly I still remember the scene of Worli. It seemed as that of 1945 war, in which we had witnessed bombing, big craters were created due to RDX. Therefore, a deterrent provision should be made for those who possess explosives of special category. Therefore, I would request the House to pass this Bill unanimously. Government is vigilant about the questions asked by honourable Members like the guidelines as to what is being done about I.S.I. and as Chaman Lal ji said that people are intruding. Neither the Government nor I claim that by making such provisions the vexed problem of terrorism would be solved. There is no doubt that apart from this we will have to take stringent measures.

[English]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : Is it for ISI?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : It is not for ISI. There is no mention of ISI. These explosives are not available here. They have got from them. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Explosive Substances Act, 1908, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : But Sir, I have got the amendment. I was assured that I would speak later on, on amendments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK: I beg to move:

Page 2, line 5 and wherever they occur in the Bill,—
for "any explosive substances"

substitute "any conventional explosive substance." (1)

Page 2, lines 14 and 15,—

after "compounds" insert—

"Nuclear explosive substance viz Uranium 235 and Plutonium". (2)

Page 2, —

"(c) the conventional explosive substances shall be deemed to include all the explosive substances except the special category explosive substances. (3)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, he has already spoken. In fact, his entire speech was on his amendments. I have noted everything. I am sorry, I am not able to accept it.

[Translation]

If you will explain about conventional, then you will have to explain about unconventional also. Here explanation has been made. One is of explosive substance and the other is of special explosive substance. There are only two categories. These suffice the purpose. I have given the reply about Plutonium and Uranium. I can say that I do not consider it necessary to accept your amendment for the purpose of this law. Your opinion will be that there should be no capital punishment but the opinion of the Government is that at least capital punishment should be awarded for such crimes till there is a provision of capital punishment in our law.

I would like to request you to withdraw your amendment and this House should unanimously accept this important law.

[English]

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK (Mathurapur): While replying to this Bill, hon. Home Minister mentioned about RDX, PTEN, ISI agents and Pakistani people. But in the Bill, there is no mention of ISI people or spies or Pakistani people. While giving the reply, the hon. Home Minister mentioned ISI, Pakistani agents and foreign nationals. There

[Prof. R.R. Pramanik]

is a law for those who are against the country. There is a penal punishment, capital punishment for them. I have mentioned that. The punishment is there. The provision is there. Capital punishment is there for them who are against the nation. But while replying, the Home Minister mentioned about Pakistani agents, but in the Bill there is no mention of ISI and Pakistani agents. I am against terrorism created by Pakistan and the people across the border. But in the Bill, it is mentioned as "any man" RDX and PTEN are not available here. Any explosive can be manufactured here, can be obtained here, and any Indian citizen can act on that explosive. But in our country, there are terrorists and Naxalites. They are not Pakistani agents. They are not ISI people.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is nothing about addition of I.S.I. in his amendment. There is no such amendment in his amendment where in it has been mentioned that if any I.S.I. agent undertakes such an act, he should be awarded with capital punishment.

[English]

We have not suggested that. Frankly, may I explain also that ISI on Pakistan has been sending all these arms and explosives into the country? Those who use it are not necessarily ISI people, but they not causing the same damage to the country as anyone else.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : There is a law. There is a capital punishment for only possession of RDX and explosives. It comes under capital punishment. I think that will be misused.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : It is not against ISI.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : There is every possibility that this law may be misused politically to suppress the opponents. Even the British had misused the Explosives Act, 1889.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you withdrawing your amendments?

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : I am not withdrawing my amendments on the subject. I am for punishment but not for capital punishment.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put all the amendments moved by Prof. R.R. Pramanik to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : I beg to move:

Page 2, line 19 and wherever they occur in the Bill, -
for "injury to property"

substitute "damage to property" (4)

page 2, line 20,-

for "property"

substitute "damage to property" (5)

Page 2, lines 20 and 21,-

omit "with imprisonment for life, or" (6)

Page 2, line 26,-

omit "death, or" (7)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I shall put amendment Nos. 4 to 7 moved by Prof. Pramanik to clause 3, to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill

Clause 4

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : I beg to move

Page 2, line 39,-

omit "with imprisonment for life, or" (8)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall put amendment No. 8 moved by Prof. R.R. Pramanik to clause 4, to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 4 and 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 4 and 5 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, The enacting Formula and The Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The Motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Sir, I beg to move.

"That the Bill be passed"

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

The House now stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m..

19.13 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, December 18, 1998/
Agrahayana 27, 1920 (Saka)*
