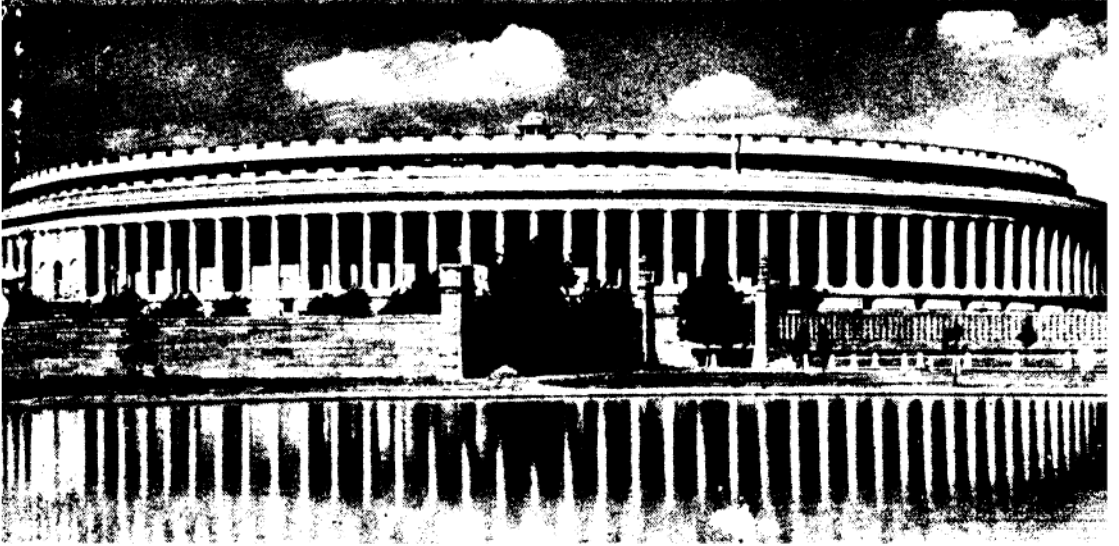


VOLUME XX. No. 3
JULY—SEPTEMBER, 1974

The Journal Of Parliamentary Information



THE JOURNAL OF PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION

Editor: S. L. SHAKDHER

The Journal of Parliamentary Information, a quarterly publication is brought out in the months of January, April, July and October every year.

Articles on constitutional, parliamentary and legal subjects are invited for publication in the Journal. The articles should be submitted typewritten on only one side of the paper.

Books intended for review in the Journal should be sent to the Editor.

The views expressed in the signed articles etc. published in the Journal are those of the authors and the Lok Sabha Secretariat does not accept any responsibility for them.

Copyright for the articles, notes and reviews published in the Journal vests with the Lok Sabha Secretariat and prior written permission from the Editor should be obtained for the reproduction of any material from the Journal. A copy of the publication in which an article is so reproduced should be sent to the Editor.

Correspondence concerning the subscription and sales should be addressed to the Sales Branch, Lok Sabha Secretariat, Parliament House, New Delhi-1.

Price per copy : Rs. 3.00

Annual Subscription : Rs. 12.00

JOURNAL OF PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION

VOL. XX, No. 3

July—September, 1974

CONTENTS

	PAGE
EDITORIAL NOTE	481
ADDRESSES AND SPEECHES	
Joint Valedictory Meeting of Financial Committees of Parliament (1973-74)	483
Election of Shri Godey Murahari as Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha	506
Farewell to Retiring Members of Rajya Sabha	508
ARTICLES	
Parliament and the Plan by S. L. Shaktiher	509
Parliament and Social Change by Surendranath Dwivedy	534
Parliament and Public Opinion by S. P. Aiyar	539
Some Thoughts on Election Processes by Ajit Prasad Jain	548
Committee Reform in the U.S. Congress—A Progress Report by John D. Lees	553
The Question Hour by Shradhakar Supakar	561
SHORT NOTES	
I. Parliamentary Events and Activities by Conference Branch, Lok Sabha Secretariat	564
II. Privilege Issues by Committee Branch I, Lok Sabha Secretariat	568
III. Procedural Matters by Table Office, and Research and Information Service, Lok Sabha Secretariat	590

	PAGE
IV. Constitutional and Legal Matters—The Pondicherry Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1974 by Research and Information Service, Lok Sabha Secretariat	602
SESSIONAL REVIEW	
Lok Sabha—Tenth Session by Research and Information Service, Lok Sabha Secretariat	607
Rajya Sabha—Eighty-Seventh and Eighth Sessions by Research Unit, Rajya Sabha Secretariat	643
State Legislatures by Research and Information Service, Lok Sabha Secretariat	668
PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE STATES	
by Research and Information Service, Lok Sabha Secretariat	672
BOOK REVIEWS	
Yair Evron : <i>The Middle East : Nations, Super Powers and Wars</i> by Hari Kishore Singh, M.P.	687
Sol Chaneles : <i>The Open Prison—Saving their Lives and Money</i> by Dinesh Chandra Goswami, M.P.	689
RECENT LITERATURE OF PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST	
by Research and Information Service, Lok Sabha Secretariat	691
APPENDICES	697

EDITORIAL NOTE

Parliamentary democracy is perhaps the most dynamic system devised by human experience and ingenuity. The multifarious facets and the ever growing ramifications of the system generally and of the institution of Parliament in particular, warrant continuous attention and study. In developing countries like India, the role of Parliament in political and socio-economic development assumes special significance. This issue brings three articles on the theme.

The article on "The Parliament and the Plan" is devoted to discussing the need for developing appropriate mechanisms for parliamentary surveillance of the process of plan formulation and implementation and for strengthening accountability procedures in the context of a general review of the work of the five parliamentary committees on Draft Fifth Five Year Plan which recently concluded their deliberations.

Under the title, "Parliament and Social Change", Shri S. N. Dwivedy, a former Member of Parliament dwells on the heavy responsibilities of the Members of Parliament if Parliament has to become a vehicle of planned socio-economic growth.

Parliament functions as the nerve-centre of a growing system of political information. In one of its earlier numbers, this *Journal* had published an article* on "Parliament and the Press" in which the author spoke about the "obsession" of the Indian Press with parliamentary activities and a neglect of its function of probing and dramatising other events that affected the lives of the people. Are they really obsessed? In his article on "Parliament and Public Opinion", Professor S. P. Aiyar covers several interesting aspects connected with the image of Parliament and the communication media.

It is gratifying to note the increasing interest being taken in the *Journal* by experienced parliamentarians. We would indeed welcome

*Durga Dass: Parliament and the Press, *J.P.I.*, Vol. XV, No. 1, April 1969, p. 11.

more contributions not only from sitting Members of Parliament but also from former Members. In the present issue, Shri A. P. Jain, who has since retired from Rajya Sabha, shares his thoughts on the need for electoral reforms in the country. It may be mentioned that the Joint Committee of Parliament on Amendment to the Election Law considered various aspects of this question and submitted its report to Parliament in March, 1972. A Government Bill seeking to implement some of the recommendations of the Joint Committee has since been introduced in Parliament.

Shri S. Supakar, a former Member of Lok Sabha in his article on "The Question Hour" has mentioned what from his experience he found to be the shortcomings in the question procedure and has made certain useful suggestions to overcome them. However, it may be mentioned that ever since the present Speaker, Dr. G. S. Dhillon took over, the position has greatly improved. Although even now there have been days when only one question could be orally answered, as will be evident from the figures quoted elsewhere in this issue, the number of questions taken up for oral answer has increased and the supplementaries are declining.

This issue also contains an article on "Committee Reform in the U. S. Congress" by the well-known British scholar, Professor John D. Lees. His focus is on what he considers "the most important decision of recent years, the creation of a House Select Committee on Committees" in January 1973 for considering comprehensive revision of Committee organization and responsibilities in the U.S. House of Representatives. It is hoped that more Indian and foreign academics would come forward with their contributions to the Journal.

—S. L. Shukdher



**DR. G. S. DHILLON, SPEAKER, LOK SABHA ADDRESSING THE JOINT VALEDICTORY MEETING OF FINANCIAL COMMITTEES (1973-74).
Others seated in the front row: from left to right are Shri A. Bakshi, Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu
Chairman, Public Accounts Committee, Shri G. G. Swell, Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri R. K. Sinha, Chairman, Estimates
Committee and Shri S. L. Shakkher, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha.**

JOINT VALEDICTORY MEETING OF FINANCIAL COMMITTEES
OF PARLIAMENT (1973-74)

[The joint valedictory meeting of the three Financial Committees of Parliament, viz., the Committee on Public Undertakings, the Estimates Committee and the Public Accounts Committee, for the year 1973-74 was held on April 30, 1974. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Dr. G. S. Dhillon, presided over the meeting. The Chairman of the three Committees availed of the occasion to give a broad review of the working and achievements of their respective Committees during the year. The speeches of the chairman and the address by the Speaker are reproduced below.

—Editor]

SPEECH BY SHRIMATI SUBHADRA JOSHI

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

On behalf of the Members of the Committee on Public Undertaking and on my own behalf I have great pleasure in welcoming you at this Valedictory Meeting.

The Committee on Public Undertakings examined nine important subjects namely, Role and Achievements of Public Undertakings, State Farms Corporation of India Ltd., the Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (Marketing and Distribution), India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd., Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (Refineries Division excluding Pipelines Section), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (Marketing Division), Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Modern Bakeries (India) Ltd. and Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Co. Ltd. The last five subjects are based on comprehensive Audit appraisals made available by the Audit Board. In addition, the Committee have presented eight Action Taken Reports.

I am glad to say that all this work has been possible because of the strenuous work done by each and every Member of the various Study Groups more particularly the Conveners Shrimati Purabi Mukhopadhyay, Dr. Mahipatray Mehta, Shri Nawal Kishore Sharma, Shri Lal K. Advani and Shri U. N. Mahida who went deep into the working of the Undertakings entrusted to their charge and drew up a questionnaire which focussed attention on main issues. Members

showed keen insight in examining the representatives of the Undertakings and administrative Ministries concerned.

The large volume of material and the valuable data gathered by the Secretariat and the Memoranda of Important Points furnished by the Audit Board under the distinguished leadership of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (Shri A. Baksi) and his officials has been of immense help to the Committee.

The Committee's Report on the subject of Role and Achievements of Public Undertakings covers the whole spectrum of the working of Public Undertakings. It brings out some of the positive aspects of the functioning of public undertakings like growth of public sector, progress in laying a base for industrial development, trends in capacity utilisation, increase in exports, foreign exchange earned, socio-economic achievements in generation of employment, removal of regional imbalances, fillip to growth of small scale and ancillary industries, research and development, etc. The Committee have stressed on Government the need to lay down financial, economic and social objectives of public undertakings and desired that a White Paper should be presented to Parliament setting out such objectives.

The Committee have found that during the period 1967-68 to 1971-72, the total production by public undertakings in terms of value increased from Rs. 1,902 crores to Rs. 3,960 crores sales turn-over of manufacturing concerns from Rs. 1,059 crores to Rs. 2,162 crores, exports increased from about Rs. 145 crores to about Rs. 300 crores. Public sector enterprises afforded employment opportunities to 7 lakh persons. They spent more than Rs. 34 crores on maintenance of townships for their employees and on other social overheads like education, medical facilities, transport etc.

The Committee are convinced that if public sector had not been launched the industrial growth that we are witnessing today would not have been possible and the long strides taken towards self-sufficiency in many key industries would not have been there.

The Committee have asked the public sector undertakings to adopt modern management techniques like maintenance of productivity indices to raise the level of productivity.

In the Report on Refineries Division of the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., the Committee have noted that the refining capacity likely to be available at the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan was only 13.25 million tonnes per annum as against 17.55 million tonnes envisaged

in the Fourth Plan document. The Committee have recommended that the delay in the implementation of the various schemes should be thoroughly investigated.

The Committee have noted that the Kerosene Treating Unit II of the Barauni Refinery set up at a cost of Rs. 1.24 crores was practically idle since its commissioning. The Lube Oil Complex remained under-utilised for several years resulting in a loss of about Rs. 50 lakhs. The Bitumen Unit set up at a capital cost of Rs. 1 crores had also remained idle. The Committee have recommended that the idleness/under-utilisation of the various units of Barauni Refinery should be thoroughly investigated.

The Committee have noted that the Gujarat Refinery was designed for a capacity of 3 million tonnes per annum. The capacity has been increased to 4.3 million tonnes by bringing about operational changes and modifications. The Committee have also noted that by taking certain steps Gujarat Refinery has been able to achieve more than 92 per cent of yield as against 90 per cent envisaged in the Detailed Project Report. The processing cost in the Gujarat Refinery was the lowest as compared to all the other refineries in India. The Committee have recommended that the Corporation should consider taking similar measures in other Refineries also so as to improve the operating efficiency and effecting economy.

In the Report on the Marketing Division of the India Oil Corporation the Committee have observed that because of non-availability of adequate retail outlets the Corporation had to sell substantial portion of its products through other foreign oil companies under the Product Exchange Arrangements foregoing profit margin to the extent of Rs. 11.93 crores during the years 1966-67 to 1972-73 on motor spirit. In addition, the Corporation had to enter into agreement for the sale of lubricants to other oil companies by sacrificing the profit margin thereon. The Committee have recommended that Government/Corporation should formulate a perspective plan of establishment of retail outlets consistent with the production and availability of motor spirit and that the actual implementation of the plan should be reviewed periodically.

The Committee have also observed that the product exchange arrangement entered into by the IOC with other foreign owned oil companies operating in the country was an inequitable one. As a result of this, the Corporation suffered a loss of Rs. 4.43 crores during 1966-67 to 1971-72 on account of non-recovery of main installation charges from other oil companies. The Committee have strongly

urged that negotiations with the oil companies should be completed without any further delay and the revised product exchange agreement finalised in right earnest keeping the interests of the IOC in view.

The Committee have emphasised the importance of maximum utilisation of available gas from the oil refineries for the production of LPG, low production and poor availability of LPG means higher consumption and larger import of kerosene oil which, according to the Committee, the country can ill afford at present when it is faced with the oil crisis.

While observing that the Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. has been able to carry the fertilizer message to the farmers in different parts of the country, the Committee have emphasised the need for a determined effort to work the existing plants of the Corporation to full capacity of 3.86 tonnes of nitrogen, to commission without further delay plants which have already been set up but which are awaiting commissioning for several years and take concerted measures to see that the new plants required to be put up in the Fifth Plan go on stream on time. They have also stressed the need for planning in depth and concerted efforts on the part of all concerned with the fertilizer industry to achieve the target of 58.85 lakh tonnes capacity proposed at the end of the Fifth Plan. The Committee have observed that the best service that the Corporation can render at the present juncture is to maximise production, develop fertilizer-mix suited to the requirements of principal crops, make fertilizers available to the farmer in time and at reasonable prices and provide guidance and assistance by way of soil testing and proper application of fertilizer, etc.

In their Report on State Farms Corporation of India Ltd., the Committee found that against the total requirement of one lakh tonnes of wheat seeds in the country, the State Farms Corporation has produced only 12,200 tonnes of truthfully labelled seeds. The Committee have recommended that Government should pool the resources of the three seed producing agencies viz., National Seeds Corporation, State Farms Corporation and Tarai Development Corporation and draw up a coordinated programme of seed production with well defined targets for each with a view to meet the demand for quality seeds in the interest of stepping up agriculture production.

The Committee have appreciated the objective with which the India Tourism Development Corporation was started for creating

interest in tourism both in India and abroad and to strengthen the infrastructure for tourism by augmenting the facilities for tourists in various spheres like accommodation, transport, entertainment, shopping etc. While there has been improvement in room occupancy of prestigious Ashoka Hotels, New Delhi and Bangalore and Akbar Hotel, New Delhi, the percentage of room occupancy in the case of ITDC motels at Jammu, Hassan and Khajuraho was less than even 25 per cent. The Corporation should carefully review the working of these motels and take concerted measures to improve the position.

As regards the transport fleet, the Committee have stressed that a careful review should be made in the light of perceptible increase in price of petroleum products. In the context of conserving fuel resources, the Committee have asked the Corporation to examine whether it would not be better to lay greater stress on acquisition of coaches of larger capacity rather than adding luxury cars so that the interests of common tourists are served better.

In the Report on Modern Bakeries, the Committee have asked the Undertaking to examine the feasibility of producing cheaper type of bread and buns in suitable smaller sizes and to ensure adequate arrangements for their distribution so as to be within the easy reach of the weaker sections of society living in Jhuggi Jhompri, industrial and other areas.

The Committee have recommended that Government/Food Corporation of India should ensure that flour of the requisite quality is consistently and in time made available to the Modern Bakeries in the interest of sustaining supply of good quality bread to the public. The Committee have also recommended that advance action should be taken about the precise location and acquisition of land for the units to be set up during the Fifth Five Year Plan.

In the Report on Hindustan Photo Films, the Committee have pointed out that the Company produced photographic products over a period of seven years, the value of which on average c.i.f. price amounted to Rs. 12.67 crores as on 31st March, 1973 and saved foreign exchange to the extent of Rs. 4.78 crores, after allowing for the cost of imported materials etc. The Committee have observed that while the saving in foreign exchange is a positive contribution, it underscores the need for utilisation of the rated capacity in a more effective manner by reducing rejections, losses on account of recovery of silver and solvents etc. to the minimum and improving the system control and management information services, so

that the country can attain self-reliance in photographic products and avoid outgo of foreign exchange.

In the Report on Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., the Committee have noted that at present the share of public sector in the formulations of drugs is only 5.6 per cent. By the end of the Fifth Five Year Plan, it is likely to be raised to Rs. 31.5 crores out of which IDPL's share would be Rs. 22 crores. The Committee have recommended that a time-bound programme should be prepared to put to full use its formulation capacity in the interest of meeting the demand of public for drugs in common use.

I am happy to state that in keeping with the high tradition of the Financial Committees, we have consistently tried to judge all issues on merits and give unanimous recommendations.

May I take this opportunity to place on record our appreciation of the valuable support and assistance rendered by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Shri A. Baksi, the Chairman, Audit Board, Shri R. P. Ranga, and Secretary Audit Board, A. N. Mukhopadhyay, and other officers and staff of the Audit Board.

I am happy to state that inspite of the initial handicap due to my absence abroad for about 3 months we have been able to complete our work within our tenure. For this I am specially grateful to the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri S. L. Shakhder, and officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat who have been rendering devoted service to the Committee in the discharge of their function.

I am grateful to Shri Nawal Kishore Sharma who very ably guided the Committee during my absence abroad last year.

May I express our gratitude to you, Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, for the invariable courtesy and graciousness which you have always shown to us.

I am also thankful to the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker who has been kind enough to be with us this evening.

Before concluding, may I once again thank the Conveners and Members of the Committee for the houndless enthusiasm and keen interest shown by them in the work and for all the kind consideration that they have invariably extended to me which has enabled

us to complete the work as a team. I take with me happy memories of two years of useful service to the cause of public sector which I hold dear.

SPEECH BY SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU, CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
COMMITTEE

We are thankful to the Hon'ble Speaker and the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker for being with us this evening to mark the conclusion of our work for the current term. I am very grateful to each of my colleagues in the Committee whose untiring zeal and hard work had made possible thorough and purposeful examination of a lot of subjects—the brunt of which was of course borne mainly by the conveners, namely, Professor Mukerjee, Sarvashri H. M. Patel, B. N. Shastri, Sunder Lal, Anandam and Nawal Kishore, whom I cannot thank adequately for discharging their exacting responsibilities so ably in a spirit of dedication.

In particular, I would like to mention the very valuable work done by my esteemed friend, Professor Mukerjee, as convener of our Action Taken Sub-Committee.

Sir, in all we have presented during the year as many as 38 Reports of which 17 were original Reports. These Reports cover practically all the Departments of Government. May I now briefly recall some of the important recommendations?

To take up the Revenue Receipts first, in their report relating to Income-tax, the Committee have drawn pointed attention to a recurring feature, namely, the underassessment of income and wealth in respect of certain categories of assesseees in the high-income group, notably film stars. We have suggested, *inter alia*, that the working of the Film Circles of the Income Tax Department should be critically examined with reference to the concealed income|wealth|gifts detected, under-valuation of assets found out, penalties levied and arrears of tax collected. On the basis of such an examination, steps should be taken to make the Film Circles really effective. The Committee have also recommended that a special machinery be devised and set up with utmost expedition for the purpose of ensuring that the professionals, such as lawyers, doctors, engineers, contractors etc. are assessed to tax properly so as to check evasion of tax. The Committee have also noted that inspite of their repeated exhortations, the penal provisions of the law were not being properly enforced resulting in loss of sizeable revenue.

In another Report dealing with the Sales Tax Receipts of the Union Territory of Delhi, the Committee have stressed the urgent need for remedial measures to remove a procedural lacuna which has resulted in considerable loss of revenue from tax free purchases on forged registration certificates. The Committee have also suggested in this Report that there should be an effective system of exchange of information with other States so that unauthorised inter-State purchases made by dealers registered in Delhi may come to notice promptly. Further, to detect bogus registered dealers, shop to shop surveys should be conducted from time to time in an effective manner. We have also urged that the powers of searches and seizures should be effectively used to unearth cases of exaction, and that the Department should gear up their machinery in this regard.

We have recommended that wide publicity must be given for the commodities exempted from sales tax and commodities that attract lower rate of taxes so that consumers may not be exploited by unscrupulous traders.

In our Reports on the Railways we have again brought out the imperative need of toning up the working of this vital limb of the national economy, and have suggested that the Railway Board draw up without delay a plan designed (a) to improve the overall efficiency of the Railways and (b) to economise on expenditure to the maximum extent possible. We have also made specific suggestions for increasing Railway earnings by rationalising the rate structure in regard to industrial raw materials, improving carrying capacity of coaches and wagons, better utilisation of line capacity, review of concessional rates quoted by Zonal Railways, etc.

A rather disconcerting fact revealed during evidence was that in a majority of cases the return from newly-opened lines was less than anticipated. We felt that this demonstrated that either the initial project reports on these lines were not realistically prepared, or the operations were not done efficiently. We have accordingly stressed that in future proposals for new lines should be very carefully examined by Railways and where a new line is not expected to be remunerative it should be specifically brought to the notice of Parliament for prior approval.

In a special Report on installation of computers on Railways, we have pointed out how the financial interests of Government have not been safeguarded in accepting the terms of the IBM. We have dealt with a number of irregularities in the hiring of the

computers and connected equipments which give every appearance of malpractice. The utilisation of the computers and the manner of the utilisation were found to be far from satisfactory. We have decided to go into the entire deals with this firm as well as other similar firms by all the Government Departments to see whether there were any malpractices.

Our separate Report on Defence Production also reveals serious lapses and irregularities in the sale of copper scrap by certain Ordnance Factories, resulting in considerable loss to Government. We have accordingly stressed the need for rationalising the procedures for the disposal of scrap and the method of valuation. We have also suggested that Government may consider setting up a sort of Metal Bank to ensure that metal scraps, especially non-ferrous, which were becoming costlier and scarcer, can be profitably utilised by another Government Department/public undertaking instead of being disposed of at a loss in the open market.

Our examination of the grant of cash assistance and import replenishment licences in a number of cases has brought out various lapses and possible malpractices. We have noticed how the claims of the exporters were inflated and how the authorities allowed the claims without proper verification. Our Report also brings out the lacuna in the Export Promotion Scheme itself and we have asked the Government to reorient them in a manner that would subserve national interest better. Incidentally, we have also reiterated our desire to have a check of foreign exchange transactions by the CAG.

We have also made a comprehensive appraisal of the working of the Coffee Board and suggested that the Coffee Board immediately draw up a time target plan for expansion of the area of coffee cultivation, in consultation with the concerned State Governments. We have also suggested restructuring of the Coffee Board in order to serve the interests of the consumers better.

Coming to the Action Taken Reports, thanks to Shri H. N. Mukherjee and the Members of the Action Taken Sub-Committee, the follow up of the recommendations of the Committee has been very effective. To quote only one instance, we have brought out how a suggestion of the Committee to link up the income tax assessments with those of wealth tax has resulted in addition of as many as 10,000 wealth tax assessees. The review undertaken by the CBDT at the instance of the Committee is not yet complete. Further, the Committee had given another suggestion to link up

gift tax assessments with the registration of agricultural land transfers. A sample survey restricted only to two months in two financial years has revealed that gifts of Rs. 3.15 crores had escaped tax. We have asked the Board to undertake a review for eight years. All this shows how the Committee's recommendations had the effect of considerably augmenting revenue.

I have great pleasure in placing on record our appreciation and thanks for the valuable assistance rendered to the Committee by Shri A. Baksi, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and his team of able officers especially Gourishankar, DRA. We have always greatly valued the factual information which the Audit under his far-sighted and dedicated leadership have been making available to the Committee.

I must also place on record my deep appreciation of the services rendered by the P.A.C. Secretariat staff who have all along tried to render their best in the matter of furthering the cause of Public Accounts Committee whilst serving under trying circumstances.

SPEECH BY SHRI R. K. SINHA, CHAIRMAN, ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

We are all very grateful to the Hon'able Speaker and the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker for having graced this occasion with their presence. As you all know, on the sad and untimely demise of Shri Kamal Nath Tewari, Chairman of the Estimates Committee in January, 1974, I was appointed as the Chairman of the Committee by the Hon'ble Speaker. I am, therefore, very grateful to him for the trust placed in me for discharging the onerous responsibilities of this high Office.

Before I proceed further I wish to place on record my tributes to the memory of Shri Kamal Nath Tewari. He was a great patriot and revolutionary and a seasoned Parliamentarian. He conducted the deliberations of the Estimates Committee very ably. His amiable disposition endeared him to each and every one. His heart went out in sympathy to the poor and the weaker sections of society and he tried to help every one. For me personally he was a philosopher, friend and a guide.

At the beginning of the present term of the Committee, the Members were unanimous that they should select such subject as were of direct relevance and interest to the common man. Accordingly, the Committee selected a number of subjects like Civil Supplies Organisation covering foodgrains, sugar, vegetable oils, paper,

medicines, etc., Availability and Distribution of cement, Extension of Credit Facilities to weaker sections of Society and for development of backward areas, Electronics, Television, Films, etc.

As usual seven Study Groups of the Committee were constituted for the detailed examination of the various subjects and for consideration of Government's replies intimating the action taken by them on the recommendations contained in the earlier (original) Reports of the Committee. I am most grateful to each and every Member of the Committee, particularly the Conveners of the Study Groups Sarvashri Bhaosahaib Dhamankar, Awdesh Chandra Singh, Anantrao Patil, Mohammad Tahir, Krishna Chandra Halder and Jharkhande Rai who took keen interest in studying voluminous material obtained from the Government on the various subjects and memoranda received from non-official organisations as well as other relevant publications. It is because of the thoroughness of the work done by the Members and the Conveners that we were able to frame searching questions for examination of the witnesses and give meaningful recommendations.

I have to say with deep sorrow that Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda, Member from Cachar and a Member of the Committee who evinced keen interest in the working of the Committee, passed away on the 16th September, 1973. I would like to place on record our appreciation of the contributions made by her to the working of the Committee.

May I, with your permission, touch briefly upon some of the main recommendations made in these Reports.

In their Report on the 'Civil Supplies Organisation' the Committee have dealt with the problem inhibiting the availability and fair distribution of essential commodities of mass-consumption such as foodgrains, sugar, edible oils and vanaspati, medicines, paper, kerosene, controlled cloth, etc. They have suggested that the data collection and forecasting mechanism of the various production Ministries should be streamlined so as to enable timely action being taken to meet the anticipated shortages. Besides suggesting measures for augmenting the availability of the essential commodities in short supply, the Committee have recommended that it would go a long way in improving distribution of the essential commodities, if the District Magistrate is regularly informed of the despatches of these commodities in his district and he, in turn, adequately publicises the

same in his District through local papers, public announcement and other appropriate media. He should also elicit the active cooperation of the local population in ensuring fair distribution of the commodity.

In regard to the Civil Supplies Organisation, the Committee have recommended that the role and functions of the Organisation should be precisely defined and they should be given an expert corps of staff so as to assess and forecast in a realistic manner the requirements and availability position in respect of various articles of mass-consumption so as to facilitate decision making at the highest level. They have also suggested active involvement, of the public in the enforcement of various civil supplies control measures at all levels—village, tehsil/taluk and district.

In their Report on the 'Availability and Distribution of Cement', the Committee have observed that due to under-utilisation of the capacity of the Cement Plants there has been considerable shortfall in cement production leading to scarcity. The Committee found that the capacity was not fully utilised because of lack of adequate coal supply, power cuts and shortage of wagons to move cement. The Committee have suggested optimum utilisation of the existing installed capacity, giving of larger share in cement production to the Cement Corporation of India, and setting up of split location plants to bring about improvement in the existing position. The Committee have laid particular emphasis on the utilisation of industrial wastes like blast furnace slag and fly ash in augmenting the production of cement. The Committee have also pointed out that the existing distribution system of cement leaves much to be desired and in particular, found that the free sale quota of cement was considerably reduced due to higher demands of cement by Government Departments. They have suggested various steps to streamline the system of distribution.

It was for the first time that the examination of the Department of Banking was taken up by a Parliamentary Committee. In their Report on 'Extension of Credit facilities to the weaker sections of Society and for development of Backward Areas', the Committee have focussed attention on several inadequacies noticed in the achievement of objectives by the nationalised banks. The Committee have also called upon Government to have the credit requirements and gaps properly assessed in various priority sectors and thereafter prepare a target oriented plan of action for meeting the same.

The Committee have recommended that Government should examine in a comprehensive manner as to why the backward districts/

areas have not made any perceptible progress despite developmental efforts during all these years and plan an integrated developmental approach by all concerned agencies for the improvement of these areas. The Committee have also suggested that, apart from the Annual Reports of banks, a separate consolidated report reviewing the working of all the public sector banks should be presented by Government to Parliament every year.

In their Report on the Department of Electronics, the Committee have recommended that Government should review the question of placing units which are charged with the responsibility of manufacturing electronics under the Department of Electronics in the overall interest of development. Besides suggesting the removal of all constraints like shortage of raw materials and other inputs, the Committee have also recommended that energetic measures should be taken to find out items at present being manufactured in public sector undertakings which could be profitably farmed out to ancillaries. According to the Committee, this should be taken up not only as a social obligation but also as a sound economic proposition in the interest of the undertakings themselves.

The Committee have stressed the need for preparing an integrated programme for research in the vital field of electronics and have suggested that the Electronics Commission should coordinate this programme so as to achieve the best results. The Committee have also underlined the need for stepping up of exports of electronics items for which there are vast opportunities, on account of the distinct advantages of comparatively low cost technical skill available in the country. The Committee have also suggested that more Export Processing Zones should be set up in the country to increase the export of electronic items.

In their Report on Television, the Committee have urged Government to exercise utmost economy in the implementation of SITE programme ensuring that maximum benefit is derived from the scarce financial resources that are being spent on this costly and untried experiment.

The Committee have also suggested that to make TV available within the reach of the common man and to bring about environmental changes and socio-economic developments, it would be necessary to bring down the cost of TV receivers drastically. The Committee have also expressed the view that commercialisation of TV at this stage of development is uncalled for.

As regards the present programmes being telecast on TV, the Committee have expressed the view that there is need for serious thinking on the part of the authorities concerned to strike a balance between 'education' and 'entertainment'. They have suggested that the programmes should be so designed and produced, which, apart from being entertaining, should help to inculcate the cultural and moral values among the viewers.

In their Report on Films—Part I, the Committee have highlighted the role of films as a powerful medium of entertainment and education and emphasised the need for employing this medium for nation-building activities. The Committee have drawn attention to the present evils besetting the films industry like role of black money, star system, entry of unscrupulous producers and shortage of cinema houses in the country and have suggested remedial measures for removing these evils. The Committee have also emphasised the need for enacting a legislation for workers in the film industry at an early date.

In their Report on Films—Part II, the Committee have expressed their displeasure at the working of the Children's Film Society and have suggested that the functions of the Society should be taken over by the Films Division. The Committee have also made suggestions for improvement in the working of the Films Division and Film and Television Institute of India, Poona.

In their Report on 'Central Government Health Scheme' the Committee have pointed out that the scheme has so far been extended to seven cities and covers only about 2.8 lakhs out of 15.4 lakh Central Government employees (excluding Railways). The Committee have recommended that a detailed plan to extend this scheme to cover the Central Government employees, particularly at places which have a large concentration of such employees, should be prepared early by Government so that the benefit of this scheme is extended to a majority of the Central Government employees.

In their Report on "Archaeological Survey of India", the Committee have pointed out the steep decline in the number of explorations and excavations undertaken by the Survey during the Fourth Plan and have emphasised the need for accelerating this work. Recommending the setting up of an organisation similar to the "Rescue" established in U.K., the Committee have highlighted that a large treasure of Indian History and art lying buried is being destroyed or threatened due to developmental projects. The Committee have also drawn attention to the heavy arrears in the printing

of publications by the Survey. As regards the implementation of various schemes included in the Fifth Plan, the Committee have stressed that expenditure in each year of the Plan period should be properly spread over. To prevent loose sculptures from being stolen and smuggled out of the country, the Committee have stressed the need for constructing more sculpture sheds to which these should be removed with proper security arrangements.

Besides the above Reports, the Committee has also presented to the House two Reports reviewing the implementation by Government of the recommendations contained in their earlier Reports. In their Report on Industrial Licensing, the Committee have stressed that the industrial licensing policy of Government should be stable over the plan period. They have also emphasised the role of industrial licensing in the development of backward areas and the encouragement of small scale industries. The Committee have criticised the persistent delays in the disposal of licensing applications which have been clogging industrial development and have urged speedy clearance of pending applications.

In their Report on Forestry, the Committee have criticised Government for taking 6 to 7 years to revise the National Forest Policy. They have also criticised Government for allowing deforestation of 1.7 million hectares in different States during the last 3 years ending 1972-73 and have opened that had Government paid serious attention to this problem and taken measures to implement the Committee's earlier recommendations, the position would have been much better than it is today.

I am glad that throughout the deliberations of the Committee, there has been full and frank discussion and unanimity in drawing conclusions on the basis of merits.

The wide coverage and attention, given to the Committee by the Press and in Parliament, bear testimony to the highest esteem in which the informed public holds the Estimates Committee.

I express my deep personal gratitude to the Hon'ble Speaker for the confidence reposed in me in performing this challenging task. He was always ready to extend utmost courtesy and consideration in the interest of facilitating the work of the Committee.

May I also thank Hon'ble Deputy Speaker for joining us in the function this evening.

I would also like to put on record our heart-felt appreciation of the devoted and painstaking service, rendered to the Committee, by the Officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat. In particular, I would like to convey our deep appreciation of the ever-ready help and guidance that the Committee received, from Shri S. L. Shakhder, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha who, as the Members know, has been associated with this Committee since its inception.

SPEECH BY DR. G. S. DHILLON, SPEAKER, LOK SABHA

I am very grateful to the Members and the Chairmen of the three Financial Committees on Public Undertakings, Public Accounts and Estimates to have given me this opportunity to spend this evening amongst them and learn at first hand of their work and achievements during the last twelve months. Apart from the number of Reports which make an impressive total of 77, the Committees amongst themselves have covered practically the entire gamut of activities of the Government.

The Public Undertakings Committee have, besides examining in depth a number of Public Undertakings, very appropriately undertaken a comprehensive review of the Role and Achievements of the Public Undertakings.

The Committee on Public Accounts have covered practically all Ministries and Departments of Government of India which had come to adverse Audit notice for one irregularity or another. The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Department of Revenue have in particular attracted special attention of the Committee.

The Committee on Estimates took up for examination subjects of vital interest to the common man such as the Civil Supplies Organisation which covers the procurement and distribution of foodgrains and sugar; production and supply of edible oils including vanaspati; medicines, paper etc. The Committee have also pioneered the examination of the Department of Banking.

We miss greatly this evening the radiant and smiling face of my revered friend Shri Kamal Nath Tewari, who ably presided over the deliberations of the Committee on Estimates for more than two years. The choice of subjects for the year bears testimony to his wide-ranging interests and his heart-felt concern for the problems of common man. Shri Tewari died in harness working in the service of the country till his last breath. He had the unique quality of commanding instant respect and agreement by his persuasive and gentle

manners. In him we have lost a great Chairman, a great parliamentarian, a great patriot and I take this opportunity of placing on record our tribute to his memory.

We are also sorry to miss amongst ourselves Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda, who died last year. We will never forget her very warm and charming personality, so much dedicated, so noble and so earnest about work.

The responsibility for completing the work of the Committee fell, in the last quarter of the term, on the broad shoulders of Shri R. K. Sinha who had been closely associated with the work of the Committee as a Convener and had made a mark earlier as the Chairman of the Railway Convention Committee. I am glad that he has discharged these onerous responsibilities with his usual efficiency and thoroughness.

We have been very fortunate in having Shrimati Subhadra Joshi to head the Committee on Public Undertakings for the last two years. Shrimati Subhadra Joshi had earlier distinguished herself as a Convener of the Committee and was the main inspiration behind the monumental report on Personnel Policies and Labour Management Relations which called for meaningful participation by workers from shop floor to the Board Table. She has a unique record of selfless and dedicated service to the cause of people. All these qualities she has brought to bear fully in the challenging work of examining the working of public Undertakings in depth.

During her distinguished tenure, the Committee examined working of a large number of public undertakings and gave 15 original Reports and 20 Action Taken Reports.

To take the work of the Committee for the current year, the report on the Role and Achievements of Public Undertakings for the first time has brought together the contribution made by the public sector in laying a broad and sound basis for industrial development. To quote the Committee "It is beyond doubt that if public sector had not been launched the industrial growth that we are witness but today would not have been possible and the long strides taken towards self-sufficiency in many key industries would not have been there".

We need to remember these positive achievements of the public undertakings in reaching sales turnover of Rs. 3975 crores, in provid-

ing employment to seven lakh workers, in reducing imports and in achieving exports to the tune of about Rs. 300 crores.

I am one of those who firmly and ardently believe in the public sector and consider that it was a great fortune of this country to have had a Prime Minister like late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru at the helm of affairs to conceive and encourage the setting up of public sector industries particularly in strategic and sensitive areas so as to achieve self-reliance. The faith of the late Prime Minister Nehru and of the Committee on Public Undertakings as spelt out in the Report on Role and Achievements of Public Undertakings appears to have been vindicated by the latest reports of the public sector making an over-all profit for the first time in 1973-74.

I compliment the Committee for this valuable horizontal study focussing attention on the positive achievements of the public sector.

In the Report on State Farms, the Committee have pointed out that the irrigation facilities are available in no more than 16,000 out of 70,000 acres taken up and that there is lack of coordination between this Corporation and other State sector enterprises like the National Seeds Corporation in the matter of testing and marketing of seeds of proven quality.

In the Report on fertilizers, the Committee have drawn attention to the low consumption of fertilisers in this country as compared to average consumption the world over, the perceptible gap between the requirements and availability, the need for maximising the production in the existing units and above all, for rational distribution of fertilisers so as to make them available to the farmers in time and at reasonable prices. I hope, the report of the Committee results in urgent action by Government so that this essential input becomes available to the farmers.

In the Report on Modern Bakeries, the Committee have done well to remind the undertaking and Government of their responsibility to make available bread and buns to the weaker sections of the society in adequate number and at reasonable prices. I hope the Modern Bakeries rise to the occasion and play a valuable role in holding the price line.

In the Report on IOC, Marketing Division, the Committee have rightly focussed attention on the need for increasing detailed outlets particularly in metropolitan areas so as to have market participation commensurate with its share of production. The out-dated product

exchange arrangements with foreign oil companies need to be critically reviewed and revised so as to serve better the interests of the nation.

In the Report on IOC Refineries, the Committee have tried to give a composite picture of efficient Koyali Refinery which has been able to exceed its installed capacity by a million tonnes by operational changes and modifications and Barauni Refinery which has not been able to put either the three main units for refining crude oil or its ancillary units for manufacture of kerosene and bitumen to economic use for want of proper planning.

In their Report on Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals, the Committee have highlighted the need for undertaking demand survey before setting up manufacturing units in the public sector.

In the Report on Hindustan Photo Films, the Committee have drawn attention to the inadequacies of the foreign collaborator and the operational difficulties which have resulted in heavy rejections and consequential losses suffered by the undertaking. The Committee have done well to focus light on lack of proper management in the use of silver and its compounds resulting in reported loss of over rupees one crore which certainly calls for a deeper probe.

Before I go on to the other Committees, I would like to join the Chairman in paying tribute to each and every member of the Committee and more particularly, the Conveners—Sarvashree Nawal Kishore Sharma, Lal K. Advani, Smt. Purabi Mukhopadhyay, Dr. Mahipatray Mehta and U.N. Mahida, who have given their best in the service of the Committee and made possible the examination in depth of these public undertakings.

May I convey our best wishes and regards to Shrimati Subhadra Joshi on completion of her successful tenure as Chairman of the Committee. I am sure, she would take with her happy memories of a work well accomplished.

Shri Jyotiromy Bosu, Chairman, Committee on Public Accounts has been always greatly concerned about economic and financial matters and he has taken very great pains and labour to focus attention on such issues in the Reports of Public Accounts Committee presented this year. The Committee have presented as many as 8 Reports on taxes including Action Taken Reports. In the Report on Income Tax, the Committee have drawn pointed attention to a recurring feature, namely, under-assessment of income and wealth

in respect of certain categories of assesseees in the high income group notably film stars. The Committee have stressed the need for ensuring that professionals such as lawyers, doctors, chartered accountants, engineers, architects, contractors, etc. are assessed to tax properly so as to check evasion of tax.

In the Report on Sales Tax relating to Union Territory of Delhi, the Committee have drawn pointed attention to the procedural lacuna which make it possible for dealers to escape sales tax by giving fictitious addresses. The Committee have asked that the existing loop-holes in the Act and the Rules should be plugged.

The Committee have given two detailed Reports on Defence Services and Defence Production. In the Report on Defence Services, the Committee have highlighted the case of assault boats costing several lakhs of rupees becoming unserviceable at a time when they were most needed during the Bangladesh emergency due to lack of care in the adhesive used. In the Report on Defence Production, the Committee have highlighted the fact that the manufacture of aluminium bridges in the new factory was not taken up in time to meet urgent requirements with the result that these had to be imported.

Taking note of an investment of over Rs. 100 crores in a Defence complex whose overall utilization now is less than 5 per cent, the Committee have stressed the need for realistic and integrated planning to see that investments are made only in such production units which are essential to Defence requirements and which would have enough work-load.

In the Report on Foreign Trade, the Committee have examined in depth the question of giving cash assistance for schemes where an export obligation had already been prescribed as a condition for import of capital equipment. The Committee have also given details of a case to highlight how overheads and sale commissions are inflated by exporters and manufacturers so as to claim fraudulently unwarranted cash assistance. I hope a thorough probe by Government in these cases would help to plug some of the loop-holes pointed out by the Committee.

In the three Reports on Railways, the Committee have stressed the need to maximise the utilization of line capacity and to increase the carrying capacity of wagons and coaches in order that revenue may be augmented. They have also pointed out how the Railways are not getting the quality of coal paid for which results in losses

and damage to locomotives. The inspection machinery needs to be revamped.

The Committee have done a great service by drawing pointed attention to the manner in which computers have been hired for Railways without going fully into their financial implications *vis-a-vis* outright purchase or their economic utilization *vis-a-vis* workload, their effect on employment opportunities etc.

Arising out of this, the Committee are proposing to make a thorough probe into the purchase of computers by other Government Departments to see if there have been any irregularities and malpractices in their purchase.

I am glad that in the Public Accounts Committee the tradition of allotting a subject to each Member has continued with the result that Members have a sense of active participation in the working of the Committee. I join the Chairman in placing on record the excellent work put in by all the members and in particular the conveners, Sarvashri Sunder Lal, Biswanarayan Shastri, M. Anandam, Nawal Kishore, H. M. Patel. May I also place on record the meticulous work done by the Action Taken Sub-Committee under the inspiring leadership of Professor Hiren Mookerjee.

I must compliment the Estimates Committee for taking subjects of vital public importance and current interest for examination during their term. The report on 'Civil Supplies Organisation' brings out the inadequacy of the existing Government machinery to forecast realistically the production of foodgrains and assess the requirements with particular reference to those which have to be met by the public distribution system. The purpose of Civil Supplies Organisation can hardly be served unless it has the necessary expertise to anticipate and analyse the trends in this sensitive area and make available meaningful data for decision at the highest Government level. I only hope that Government would take serious notice of the recommendations and take effective action to see that the requirements of common man for food, cloth, oil, medicine, paper etc. are met adequately without putting him to avoidable stresses and strains.

The Committee have also pioneered this year the examination of Department of Banking with special reference to the extension of credit facilities to weaker sections of society and for development of backward areas. After the initial enthusiasm, the extension of credit facilities to the priority sectors, particularly agriculture, has neither kept pace with the requirements nor with the expectations generated

at the time of bank nationalisation. The Committee have stressed the need for taking concerted measures to see that the credit requirements of agriculture, small-scale sector and other priority sectors are met in time and adequately.

In their report on Electronics, the Committee have underlined the great potential of this labour intensive industry for meeting the internal and export requirements. The Committee have rightly called for concerted efforts to see that our country makes full use of this opportunity to increase exports. The Committee have also stressed the need for adequate funds for research and developmental effort and for early establishment of export promotion zones.

The Committee have given two comprehensive reports on 'Films' in which they have highlighted the problems of finance, star-system, restrictive distribution, etc. which continue to handicap this industry. The Committee have asked Government to take concerned measures in coordination with the film industry to encourage the production of films which would help our developmental efforts without sacrificing the entertainment aspect.

The Committee have also stressed the need for more extensive news coverage by Films Division as also production of more documentaries films and Children's films to meet the audience requirements.

In their report on Television the Committee have rightly stressed that unless the programmes are given a socio-economic content and TV sets brought within the reach of the common man and provision made for them in the Community Viewing Centres, TV may not achieve its developmental objective and may remain a mere decorative piece in the drawing rooms. I agree with the Committee that there is an imperative need for improving the quality of our telecast for agricultural, educational and developmental purposes.

In the report on 'Archaeological Survey', the Committee have stressed the need for documentation of sculptures and to take effective measures to prevent smuggling of precious archaeological objects by unscrupulous elements.

In their report on 'Cement', the Committee have pointed out how production has lagged far behind the Fourth Plan targets and have called for concerted measures particularly by the public sector to reach the Fifth Plan target. Loopholes in the distribution system

should be plugged so that cement becomes available to common man at the prescribed price and in time.

In their report on 'C.G.H.S.', the Committee have called for a balanced development of allopathic, homoeopathic and indigenous systems of medicines. The Committee have also stressed the need for extension of the scheme to cover other big cities and centres which have sizeable concentration of Central Government employees.

May I also pay my compliments to the conveners of the Study Groups, Sarvashri Awadesh Chandra Singh, Anantrao Patil, Mohammad Tahir, Krishna Chandra Halder, Jharkhande Rai and the Convener of the Action Taken Sub-Committee, Shri Bhaosahib Dhankar who have greatly assisted the Committee in their work by making a penetrating study of the subjects entrusted to their care. I also place on record the dedicated work put in by all the members of the Committee.

I am glad that there has been coordination between the work of the three Committee, for I find that while the Committee on Public Undertakings took up the production of foodgrains by the State Farms Corporation and of availability of fertilizers to the farmers through the Fertilizer Corporation of India, the Estimates Committee concerned itself with the examination of the larger question of availability and distribution of foodgrains and other essential commodities. Similarly, the Committee on Public Undertakings have examined in depth both the Refinery and the Marketing Division of the IOC. There was also close coordination between the Committee on Estimates and Public Undertakings in the examination of Forms of Budget Estimates for Government departments and public undertakings. Such a coordination makes for a concerted and well directed probe by Financial Committees.

I am happy to learn from the Chairmen, Committee on Public Accounts and Public Undertaking the valuable assistance which had been given by Audit under the distinguished, knowledgeable and dedicated leadership of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Shri A. Baksi.

I am also glad to note that the Lok Sabha Secretariat, under the brilliant and able leadership of our Secretary-General, Shri S. L. Shakhder, has continued to render satisfactory service to the Committees.

ELECTION OF SHRI GODEY MURAHARI AS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF RAJYA SABHA

On April 26, 1974, on a motion moved by Shri Om Mehta, Minister of State in the Department of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Godey Murahari was elected as Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha for a second term in succession. Felicitating Shri Murahari on his election, the Leader of the House, Shri Umashankar Dikshit, said:

“During his previous term as Deputy Chairman, Shri Murahari had distinguished himself in many ways, and it was a remarkable achievement that during this period he continued to enjoy the equal of confidence and trust of every section of the House....He has the qualities of poise, of self-restraint, of sweetness of temper and evenness of temperament in the most trying conditions and because of these qualities he has endeared himself to all of us.

“I congratulate him on this distinction that he has achieved for the second time which he very richly deserved and we do hope that he will continue to guide this House in the maintenance of the highest standards which this House has consistently tried to maintain”.

The leaders of various groups in the House who also joined in offering their felicitations to Shri Murahari on behalf of their parties were Sarvashri T. K. Srinivasan, Bhupesh Gupta, Lal K. Advani, Mahabir Tyagi, Niren Ghosh, U. K. Lakshmana Gowda, N. G. Goray and Raj Narain.

Congratulating Shri Murahari, the Chairman, Shri G. S. Pathak said:

“The encomia that he has received from every section of this House are a proof of his popularity, his knowledgeability and the tact and ability with which he conducted the proceedings of this House....I acknowledge the help and cooperation which was very valuable to me and I hope that....during our common tenure....I will get the same cooperation and assistance from him”.

Replying to the felicitations, Shri Godey Murahari said that he was grateful to the members who had spoken so highly about him. During his tenure as Deputy Chairman he had tried to conduct the proceedings of the House impartially and he got all the help and cooperation from the Chairman and the Secretariat. The treasury

benches also extended to him the same cooperation which he received from the Opposition. When he was first elected to this office, he had declared that he was with all the parties. The same situation existed today and he considered himself as an independent.

Shri Murahari further said that it would be his endeavour to see that the proceedings of the House were conducted in accordance with the rules of procedure and that the problems of the country were properly reflected in the House. He assured the House that he would be impartial to every member of the House.

FAREWELL TO RETIRING MEMBERS OF RAJYA SABHA

In terms of the provisions of article 83 of the Constitution, about one-third of the members of Rajya Sabha retire every second year and fresh elections take place to fill their seats. Seventy members were due to retire on April 2, two on April 15, and other two on August 1, 1974.

On March 26, 1974, the House bid farewell to the retiring members. Expressing his appreciation of the notable services rendered by the retiring members, the Chairman, Shri G. S. Pathak said:

"I hope they will remember their association with this House. They go from here having gained considerable experience of the working of this Parliament and the Government. They can utilize this experience in the wider field of activity which they are entering now. I hope that wherever they are, they will continue to take interest in national affairs and work for the unity of the country and the strengthening of our democracy".

On this occasion, fourteen members who were retiring recalled their association with the House and thanked the Chair and other members for their cooperation and understanding. These were Sarvashri Pitambar Das, C. D. Pande, Ram Sahai, Sitaram Jaipuria, and T. G. Deshmukh, the Deputy Chairman Shri Godey Murahari, Miss Saroj Purushottam Khaparde, Shri Ganeshi Lal Chaudhary, Shri A. P. Jain, Dr. Triguna Sen, Sarvashri Man Singh Verma, N. Joseph, Golap Barbora, and Debananda Amat.

Associating himself with the sentiments expressed by the retiring members, the Leader of the House, Shri Umashankar Dikshit said:

"All partings are unpleasant... (but) change is an inescapable and unavoidable part of private and public life and also of democracy and social functioning. And we need not make partings or regard change really as unpleasant. It is the demand of civilization, culture and philosophy that we do not regard change from one station to another as anything more than a different opportunity, a different atmosphere, for serving the causes to which any one of us or all of us are committed".

THE PARLIAMENT AND THE PLAN

The Five Parliamentary Committee on the draft Fifth Five Year Plan: A General Review

While enunciating the Directive Principles of State Policy, the Constitution of India has *inter alia* ordained that the State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may a social order in which justice, social, economic and political, shall inform all the institutions of the national life, and shall direct its policy towards securing, among other things:—

- (a) that the citizens, men and women equally, have the right to an adequate means of livelihood;
- (b) that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good; and
- (c) that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment.¹

In furtherance of the above principles as well as of the declared objectives of building a new—egalitarian, socialistic, no poverty—social order by promoting a rapid rise in the standard of living of the people through efficient organisation and exploitation of the material and human resources of the country, increasing production, and ensuring more equitable distribution among members of the community, the Government of India set up the Planning Commission in March, 1950. This was the beginning of the great national endeavour of bringing about planned economic development and desired social change through peaceful means and democratic processes.

Planning in a democratic State is a social process in which, in some part, every citizen is expected to be an active participant. To set the patterns of future development is a task of great magnitude and significance. It has to be based on and meticulously oriented

*Shri Shakdher is the Secretary-General of Lok Sabha and the President of the Association of Secretaries-General of Parliaments.

1. Article 39.

to the needs of the community. At every stage it has to imbibe and absorb the impact of public opinion. No plan can succeed without the people's deepest involvement, participation and identification. This is particularly true in a system of parliamentary democracy.

The influence that Parliament exercises over the Executive stems from one basic principle: Parliament embodies the will of the people and it must, therefore, be able to lay down the foundational guide-lines of public policy and to supervise the way in which this policy is carried out, so as to ensure that it remains in consonance with the aspirations of the nation as a whole. The need for parliamentary surveillance of the planning process, therefore, assumes special significance.

Parliament, as a body, cannot effectively scrutinise the voluminous plan documents, based on extensive data, research and specialists' analyses as they are. It has neither the time nor the *expertise* for a thorough scrutiny of the varied and complex details of the plan. The only possible resolution of the problem, therefore, has been through the device of parliamentary committees. By a prior discussion of the draft plan in the Committees;

- (i) the floor time of the House is considerably saved,
- (ii) Members are able to develop some degree of specialisation and make special contributions in areas of particular interest to them,
- (iii) even backbenchers are able to express their views freely and to feel a sense of participation,
- (iv) Members are able to consider matters on merits and on non-party lines; and
- (v) the Planning Commission and the Government come to know the views of Members of Parliament and to suitably utilize them while finalizing the plan.

The formation of Parliamentary Committees for the discussion of the draft Five Year Plans was first decided upon by the Business Advisory Committee of the Lok Sabha in 1956. In their thirty-first report presented to the Lok Sabha on May 9, 1956, the Committee laid down the procedure for the Plan Committees as follows:—

- (i) Four Committees of the House may be formed to discuss the Plan (Second Five Year Plan) which might be divided into four groups of subjects.

(ii) Each Committee may consist of such Members of the House as might like to participate in the discussion of the subjects allotted to that Committee. No maximum number for a Committee need be fixed.

(iii) A circular may be issued to the Members asking them to give their names for serving on one of the Committees.

(iv) A Chairman may be appointed by the Speaker for each Committee out of those forming that Committee.

(v) The Committees may meet immediately after the draft Second Plan has been presented to Parliament.

(vi) Each Committee may examine the Plan in respect of those subjects which are allotted to it.

(vii) The proceedings may be reported *verbatim* and the same made available to all the Members in the Library.

(viii) A synopsis of *verbatim* proceedings may be submitted to Parliament by the Committees, which may contain a brief summary of the points and suggestions made by the Members and any other material which the Committee may like to include.

(ix) The Planning Commission may be asked to depute officers to assist the Committee in their deliberations.

The Committee also recommended that Rajya Sabha might be asked to join in the discussion of the Plan by the Committees and to suggest names of its Members to be included in the Committees.

On May 11, 1956, the report of the Business Advisory Committee was adopted by the Lok Sabha on a motion moved by the Deputy Speaker who also made it clear that the Committees to be formed should arrive at no decisions and pass no resolutions, but express their views which would be made available to all the Members. On the basis of this general procedure adopted by the Lok Sabha, Parliamentary Committees were formed for the consideration of the draft Second, Third and Fourth Five Year Plans.

The Fifth Plan: The "Approach to the Fifth Five Year Plan, 1974—79" was laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament on February 20, 1973. The document was taken up for consideration in the Rajya Sabha on July 31, 1973 on a motion moved by the Minister of Planning. The motion was debated on July 31, and August 1, 2 and 6, 1973. Thirty-five Members participated in the discussions. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning intervened on August 2, 1973 and the Minister of Planning replied

802 LS—3.

to the debate on August 6, 1973. A motion was moved by the Minister of Planning in the Lok Sabha on August 31, 1973 to consider "The Approach to the Fifth Plan 1974—79" which was debated on August 31, and September 4 and 5, 1973. Twenty-three Members participated in the debate which however remained inconclusive when the House adjourned *sine die*.

The debate on the 'Approach' document could not be resumed during the Winter Session of the Lok Sabha. In the sitting of the Business Advisory Committee held on December 5, 1973, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs submitted that the draft Fifth Five Year Plan was proposed to be laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament towards the end of the Winter Session and that further discussion on "The Approach to the Fifth Five Year Plan", therefore, was not necessary. The Minister of Planning had intended to set up committees of Members of the Consultative Committee attached to his Ministry for discussing the various aspects of the draft Fifth Five Year Plan, but the move was opposed by a number of Members who demanded that as in the past, Committees of the House should be set up and the Chairman thereof should be appointed by the Speaker. The Business Advisory Committee agreed that until the Synopses of Proceedings of these Plan Committees were presented, there need not be any discussion in the House on the draft Fifth Five Year Plan.

Constitution of the Plan Committees: On a request made by the Minister of State for Planning, the Speaker agreed to the formation of the following five Committees for considering the draft Fifth Five Year Plan, which was laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament on December 19, 1973:

- Committee 'A': Policy, Resources and Allocations
- Committee 'B': Industry, Power, Transport and Scientific and Technological Research
- Committee 'C': Agriculture and Rural Economy
- Committee 'D': Social Services, Education, Manpower Planning and Population Policy.
- Committee 'E': Implementation and Public Cooperation.

Membership and Composition: In pursuance of the announcement made by the Speaker, Members desirous of serving on any one or more of the above Committees were requested to give their

names by December 19, 1973.^{1A} A copy of para no. 1499, published in the Lok Sabha Bulletin Part II dated December 17, 1973, was forwarded to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat with a request that Rajya Sabha might join the Committees and communicate the names of Members for inclusion in the Plan Committees. The Rajya Sabha Secretariat reciprocated by publishing a similar para no. 21573 in the Rajya Sabha Bulletin Part II dated December 18, 1973. The last date for intimating the names of Members of the Rajya Sabha was December 20, 1973. The names of Members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha continued to be received in the Secretariat even after the expiry of the dead-line dates. All the names were included in the respective Committees and notified in Bulletin Part II.²

The Speaker in consultation with the Chairman, Rajya Sabha appointed³ Shri Manubhai Shah, M. P. (Rajya Sabha), Shri Shyamnandan Misra,⁴ M. P. (Lok Sabha), Shri Darbara Singh, M. P. (Lok Sabha) Dr. Z. A. Ahmed, M. P. (Rajya Sabha) and Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah, M. P. (Lok Sabha) as Chairmen of Plan Committees 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D', and 'E' respectively. Table 1 gives the final membership position of the five Committees:

TABLE I
Members of the Five Plan Committees

'Committee	No. of Members		
	Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha	Total
A	92	63	155
B	116	67	183
C	126	69	195
D	111	54	165
'E'	78	39	117

^{1A}The names of Members were published from time to time in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Bulletins Part II.

²The relevant Bulletins were:

L. S. Bn. (II), December 26, 1973, January 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 25 and 30, and February 4, 6, 11, 16, and 19, 1974

R. S. Bn. (II), December 28, 1973, January 2, 4, 8, 11, 15, 16 (two paras), 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 28, 29, 31 and February 2, 4, 6, 11, 18 and 19, 1974.

³*L. S. Bn.* (II), December 2, 1973 and *R. S. Bn.* (II), December 22, 1973.

⁴Pandit D. N. Tewari, M.P. (Lok Sabha) was appointed Chairman of Committee 'B' vice Shri Shyamnandan Mishra resigned w.e.f. March 1, 1974; see *L.S. Bn.* (II), and *R.S. Bn.* (II), March 1, 1974:

As compared to the membership of Plan Committees constituted for the Second, Third and Fourth Plans, the membership of all the five Committees constituted for the Draft Fifth Five Year Plan was the largest Table 2 indicates the comparative membership figures.

The actual number of Members of Parliament who gave their names for serving on one or more Committees on the draft Fifth Five Year Plan was 250 from the Lok Sabha and 143 from the Rajya Sabha. 171 Members of the Lok Sabha and 88 Members of the Rajya Sabha actually participated in one or more sittings of the Plan Committees. 82 Members of the Lok Sabha and 44 Members of the Rajya Sabha attended four or more sittings of the Plan Committees.⁵ Table 3 seeks to analyse the attendance of Members in the five Committees.

40 Members from the Lok Sabha and 18 from the Rajya Sabha spoke in Hindi during the course of discussions.

The membership of the Plan Committees and the actual attendance of members have been further analysed in Table 4 in terms of the occupational background of the Members. It may be of some interest to note that the number of 'political and social workers' was the largest in all the Committees, except Committee 'C' (Agriculture and Rural Economy) in which agriculturists (cultivators and landlords) constituted the single largest occupational group. The latter group was also the second largest in Committees 'B', 'D', and 'E'. Table 5 indicates the break-up of membership in terms of party/Group affiliations.

⁵For a full list of the Members of the five Plan Committees and record of their attendance in committee sittings, see *Parliamentary Committees on Draft Fifth Five Year Plan—General Review* laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on May, 10, 1974, Appendix II.

TABLE 2
Comparative membership figures for the Plan-Committees Constituted for the Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Plans

Committee	Second Plan			Third Plan			Fourth Plan			Fifth Plan		
	Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha	Total	Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha	Total	Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha	Total	Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha	Total
Committee 'A'	60	22	82	63	44	107	50	30	80	92	63	155
Committee 'B'	77	37	114	86	50	138	42	34	76	116	67	183
Committee 'C'	66	25	91	105	53	158	68	30	98	126	69	195
Committee 'D'	47	32	79	48	37	85	27	21	48	111	54	165
Committee 'E'	—	—	—	20	14	34	40	24	64	78	39	117

*Committee 'E' was not formed during the discussion on the Second Plan.

TABLE 3
Attendance of Members in the Sitings of the Plan Committees

Committee	Members	Members' Attendance in Plan Committees					Members Totally remaining absent															
		One Sitting	Two Sitings	Three Sitings	Four Sitings	Five & more Sitings																
A	92	15	11	26	10	5	15	6	5	11	8	3	11	5	7	12	48	32	80			
B	116	67	183	20	10	30	22	8	30	10	4	14	3	17	16	11	27	34	31	65		
C	126	69	195	19	9	28	14	11	25	11	6	17	13	3	16	16	4	14	59	36	95	
D*	111	54	165	15	5	20	15	5	20	5	5	10	4	1	5	—	—	—	72	38	110	
E*	78	39	117	11	3	14	5	9	14	5	1	6	3	1	4	—	—	—	54	25	79	
L.S. R.S. Total		L.S.	R.S.	Total	L.S.	R.S.	Total	L.S.	R.S.	Total	L.S.	R.S.	Total	L.S.	R.S.	Total	L.S.	R.S.	Total	L.S.	R.S.	Total

* Committees 'D' and 'E' had only four sitings each.

TABLE 4
Occupational Background of Members of Plan Committees.

Occupation	Number of Members in Plan Committee *														
	A			B			C			D			E		
	Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha	Total	Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha	Total	Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha	Total	Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha	Total	Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha	Total
Agriculturists (Cultivators and Landlords)	18 (9)	5 (2)	23 (11)	28 (19)	7 (3)	35 (22)	49 (31)	19 (9)	68 (40)	20 (7)	8 (3)	28 (10)	27 (11)	7 (1)	34 (12)
Traders and Industrialists	4 (-)	9 (3)	13 (3)	9 (8)	7 (2)	16 (10)	4 (3)	6 (2)	10 (5)	5 (3)	5 (4)	10 (7)	2 (-)	2 (-)	4 (-)
Civil and Military Service	1 (-)	1 (-)	2 (-)	2 (1)	-	2 (1)	-	1 (-)	1 (-)	-	-	-	1 (-)	-	1 (-)
Medical Practitioners	2 (1)	-	2 (1)	1 (1)	-	1 (1)	2 (2)	-	2 (2)	3 (3)	1 (-)	4 (3)	-	-	-
Teachers and Educationalists	7 (4)	3 (1)	10 (5)	7 (5)	6 (2)	13 (7)	7 (3)	2 (-)	9 (3)	17 (5)	7 (2)	24 (7)	4 (-)	3 (1)	7 (1)
Journalists and Writers	15 (10)	7 (4)	22 (14)	9 (4)	6 (2)	15 (6)	7 (3)	7 (6)	14 (9)	10 (9)	6 (2)	16 (6)	11 (5)	3 (1)	14 (6)
Lawyers	18 (8)	11 (5)	29 (13)	19 (14)	8 (6)	27 (20)	22 (10)	12 (4)	34 (14)	16 (3)	5 (-)	21 (3)	9 (2)	5 (2)	14 (4)
Political and Social Workers	26 (12)	26 (15)	52 (27)	38 (29)	32 (21)	70 (50)	23 (12)	21 (12)	53 (24)	39 (13)	22 (5)	61 (18)	24 (6)	18 (9)	42 (15)
Engineers and Technologists	1 (-)	-	1 (-)	3 (1)	1 (-)	4 (1)	3 (2)	1 (-)	4 (2)	1 (1)	-	1 (1)	-	-	-
Artists	-	1 (-)	1 (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 (-)	1 (-)
TOTAL	92 (44)	63 (30)	155 (74)	116 (82)	67 (36)	183 (118)	126 (66)	69 (33)	195 (99)	111 (39)	54 (16)	165 (55)	78 (24)	39 (14)	117 (38)

* Figures in brackets represent the number of Members who actually attended the Sitings.

TABLE 5

Party/Group Affiliations of the Members of the Plan Committees

Name of Party/Group	Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha	Total
Congress	142	62	204
Congress (O)	*	13	13
CPI	14	7	21
CPI-M	22	3	25
DMK	19	10	29
Jan Sangh	20	12	32
Swatantra	*	9	9
Other Parties/Groups/Unattached/Nominated	33	27	60

* Shown against Other Parties etc.

Procedural Guidelines: With a view to considering the procedural guidelines and laying down a broad schedule of committee sittings, preliminary meetings of the Chairmen of the five Committees, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the Ministers of State in the Ministry of Planning and Department of Parliamentary Affairs were held on December 22 and 24, 1973. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs was in the Chair on December 22, 1973 and in his absence on December 24, 1973, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning occupied the Chair. The following main decisions were taken at the above sittings:

- (1) The Committee may arrive at no decisions nor pass any resolutions; but the Committee Members may express their views and synopsis thereof may be laid on the Table both in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.
- (2) The meetings of the five Committees should be attended only by those Members who have sent their names for the respective Committees.
- (3) A joint meeting of the Members of all the five Committees may be held only if considered necessary.

(4) The Committees may meet from the 17th to the 19th of January, 1974. Further meetings may be held if and when considered necessary. Two or three Committees may meet simultaneously during the above period daily.

(5) The lists of topics for discussion may be drawn up by the Planning Commission and made available latest by the first week of January, 1974 alongwith background notes and basic materials on each of the topics for discussion at the meetings.

(6) The Planning Commission will also supply additional information and materials on any points indicated by the Chairmen.

(7) Points on which additional information may be required by Members of the Committees, will be passed on to the Planning Commission by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. Necessary stenographic assistance will be provided to Members of the Committees by the Planning Commission for the purpose.

(8) The Planning Commission will arrange to supply sufficiently in advance of the Committee meetings relevant publications and materials to Chairmen and Members of the Committees to assist them in their deliberations.

(9) The synopses may be adopted by the Committees, if considered necessary, by the respective Chairmen.

The Sitzings of the Plan Committees: As decided in the meeting of the Chairmen, the sittings of the Plan Committees were fixed for January 17-19, 1974. This was notified individually to all the Members of the Plan Committees on December 26, 1973. A separate para was also published in Bulletin Part-II.⁶ Subsequently, Chairman, Plan Committee 'A' found it necessary to slightly modify the programme of sittings in respect of Plan Committee 'A' and fixed the dates from January 18 to January 21, 1974. The revised programme of all the Plan Committees was individually notified to the Members on January 8 and 16, 1974. It was also published in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Bulletin Part II.⁷ On January 18, 1974 all the Committees adjourned their sittings after passing

⁶L.S. Bn. (II), December 26, 1973 and R.S. Bn. (II) December 28, 1973:
⁷L.S. Bn. (II), and R.S. Bn. (IO), January 11, 1974.

a condolence resolution as a mark of respect to the memory of Shri Kamal Nath Tewari, Chairman, Estimates Committee who had expired on the previous day. The programme of sittings on January 19 and 21, 1974 was revised in consultation with the respective Chairmen and notified to the Members on January 18, 1974. While the Committees 'C', 'D', and 'E' concluded their discussions on January 21, 1974, Committees 'A' and 'B' decided to have more sittings. Committee 'A' accordingly held two sittings, one on February 15 and another on April 19, 1974. Committee 'B' held four more sittings on February 15 and 16 and March 1 and 25, 1974. Thus, by the third week of April, 1974 all the five Committees had concluded their discussions on the draft Fifth Five Year Plan. During this period Plan Committee 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' and 'E' held discussions for nearly 17, 26, 16, 8 and 10 hours, respectively and recorded 1843 pages of *verbatim* proceedings. The total duration of all the sittings was 77 hours and 29 minutes. Table 6 shows the schedule and duration of sittings.

TABLE 6

Schedule and Duration of Sittings of the Plan Committees

Date and Day	Room No. in Parliament House	Time	No. of Members present.	Subjects Discussed
1	2	3	4	5
<i>Committee 'A'</i>				
18-1-1974 (Friday)	63	15.00 to 15-15 hrs.	14	Adjourned
19-1-1974 (Saturday)	Central Hall	10.30 to 13.10 hrs.	40	Policy, Resources and Allocations.
Do.	Do.	14.30 to 17.22 hrs.	32	Do.
21-1-1974 (Monday)	Central Hall	09.40 to 13.00 hrs.	38	Do.
Do.	Do.	14.30 to 18.20 hrs.	26	Do.
15-2-1974 (Friday)	62	10.15 to 13.00 hrs.	37	Do.
19-4-1974 (Friday)	62	15.30 to 17.30 hrs.	17	Consideration and adoption of Introductory Note to Synopsis of Proceedings

1	2	3	4	5
<i>Committee 'B'</i>				
17-1-1974 (Thursday)	63	10.00 to 12.35 hrs.	47	General discussion.
Do.	63	14.30 to 17.25 hrs.	40	Do.
18-1-1974 (Friday)	63	10.00 to 10.30 hrs.	50	Adjourned
19-1-1974 (Saturday)	63	10.00 to 13.35 hrs.	56	Power
21-1-1974 (Monday)	63	10.00 to 13.12 hrs.	36	Industries
Do.	50	15.00 to 17.55 hrs.	17	Do.
15-2-1974 (Friday)	53	14.00 to 17.30 hrs.	51	Industries.
16-2-1974 (Saturday)	62	11.00 to 13.45 hrs.	42	Do.
1-3-1974 (Friday)	50	14.30 to 17.00 hrs.	11	Do.
25-3-1974 (Monday)	62	15.00 to 17.25 hrs.	11	Industries and Transport
<i>Committee 'C'</i>				
17-1-1974 (Thursday)	Central Hall	10.00 to 13.40 hrs.	68	Agriculture and Rural Eco- nomy.
18-1-1974 (Friday)	Do.	10.00 to 10.20 hrs.	15	Adjourned.
19-1-1974 (Saturday)	53	10.00 to 13.00 hrs.	57	Agriculture and Rural Eco- nomy.
Do.	63	14.00 to 17.30 hrs.	31	Do.
21-1-1974 (Monday)	53	10.00 to 13.00 hrs.	42	Do.
Do.	62	15.00 to 17.30 hrs.	28	Do.
<i>Committee 'D'</i>				
17-1-1974 (Thursday)	53	14.00 to 17.30 hrs.	44	Social Services, Education, Man-power, Planning and Population Policy.
18-1-1974 (Friday)	53	14.00 hrs 14.15 hrs.	14	Adjourned.
19-1-1974 (Saturday)	53	14.00 to 16.30 hrs.	30	Social Services, Education, Man-power Planning and Population Policy.
21-1-1974 (Monday)	53	14.00 to 16.00 hrs.	23	Do.

1	2	3	4	5
<i>Committee 'E'</i>				
17-1-1974 (Thursday)	50	14.10 to 17.20 hrs.	32	Implementation of Plan and Public Cooperation
18-1-1974 (Friday)	50	14.00 to 14.10 hrs.	7	Adjourned
19-1-1974 (Saturday)	50	14.10 to 17.50 hrs.	20	Implementation of Plan and Public cooperation
21-1-1974 (Monday)	50	10.22 to 13.33 hrs.	17	Do.

Material from Planning Commission: The Planning Commission had furnished the following two papers which were circulated to all the Members of the Committees:

- (1) List of Topics for discussion on the draft Five Year Plan
- (2) The Fifth Five Year Plan in Outline.

Besides this, three copies of important reports of Task Forces/ Working Groups set up in connection with the Fifth Five Year Plan were furnished for being kept in Parliament Library. The Members of the Committees were duly informed about the availability of those Reports in the Library.

In addition, the Planning Commission furnished notes⁸ on specific points raised by Chairmen and Members of the Committees.

Secretarial Assistance: The secretarial assistance⁹ to the Committees was provided by the Lok Sabha Secretariat which comprised *inter alia* the following:

- (i) Preparation of bibliographies and background notes in connection with the various topics discussed by the respective Committees. (The total number of pages thus circulated was 440).
- (ii) Collection of reports and other publications required in connection with the work of the Committees from the Planning Commission.

⁸For a full list of materials see Synopsis of Proceedings of the respective Plan Committees.

⁹The administrative and research staff of the five Committees was very modest this time. It comprised one Senior Research Officer and five Research Officers (one for each Committee) under the overall supervision of the Officer on Special Duty.

(A Study Box on Five Year Plans, comprising Books, Reports, parliamentary proceedings, articles etc. was set up in Parliament Library (Ground Floor) for consultation by the Members.)

(iii) Circulation of notes, memoranda and points or suggestions received from the members of various Committees.

(iv) Preparation of an up-to-date list of Members and its publication in Bulletin Part II, correspondence with Members in connection with the work of the Committees, making arrangements for sittings of the Committees, including such items of work as reservation of Committee rooms; sound and microphone arrangements, seating arrangements, serving of light refreshments for Members etc.

(v) Recording of verbatim proceedings of all the five Committees (The Rajya Sabha Secretariat provided the services of Reporters for two Committees).

(vi) Providing interpretation service to Members on request (The Rajya Sabha Secretariat provided the services of Interpreters for the Committees).

(vii) Circulation of verbatim speeches of Members for correction and incorporating corrected speeches in verbatim proceedings.

(viii) Preparation of Synopsis of Proceedings of all the five Committees, and the drafting of the General Review.

(ix) Listing of important observations/conclusions made by Members for incorporation in the Introductory Notes by the respective Chairmen.

Work in Committees

Committee 'A':—Committee 'A' held six sittings lasting 17 hours minutes on January 19 and 21, February 15, and April 19, 1974. Besides the Chairman, 3 Members participated in the discussions. The Minister of Planning (Shri D. P. Dhar), the Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning (Shri Mohan Dharia), Prof. S. Chakravarty, Member (C), Rr. K. S. Gill, Adviser, Perspective Planning, and Shri S. K. Govil, Chief, Financial Resources Division, Planning Commission replied to the various points raised by the Chairman and Members of the Committee.

At the sitting held on February 15, 1974, while discussing the problem of resources for the Fifth Plan, the Members requested the Minister of Planning to make available the note submitted by Dr. B. S. Minhas to the Prime Minister before his resignation as a Member of the Planning Commission. The Minister of Planning (Shri

D. P. Dhar) conceded to the request made by the Members and stated that a copy of the note of Dr. Minhas would be made available¹⁰. In the same sitting, the Chairman announced that he would constitute a small informal panel to draft the consensus emerging out of the discussions so that it could be included in the Chairman's Introductory Note to the Synopsis of Proceedings of Plan Committee 'A'.

The Chairman constituted an Informal Panel of 28 Members (15 from Lok Sabha and 13 from Rajya Sabha) on March 6, 1974 to whom the draft Introductory Note and the List of Points/Suggestions made by Members during the course of discussions held in Plan Committee 'A' were circulated. The Informal Panel met on the 12th March, 1974, and authorised the Chairman to constitute a small sub-panel for drafting the consensus on the basis of suggestions/observations made by Members during the course of discussions held in Plan Committee 'A'. The Chairman constituted the sub-panel, consisting of four Members, including the Convener, for the purpose of drafting the consensus. The sub-panel met on March 30, 1974 and April 2 and 3, 1974.

On April 2, the sub-panel heard the Minister of Planning (Shri D. P. Dhar), the Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning (Shri Mohan Dharia), and Shri S. Chakravarty, Member (C), Planning Commission with regard to the proposed restructuring of the draft Fifth Five Year Plan necessitated due to unabated price rise and changes in the economic scene, both international as well as within the country. On the basis of the discussions held with the Planning Commission, the sub-panel prepared a draft Introductory Note containing salient points of consensus emerging out of the discussions, and other important observations/conclusions of the Members of the Committee. The draft Introductory Note was circulated to the Committee and adopted unanimously with minor amendments at a special sitting held on April 19, 1974.

¹⁰Subsequently on February 27, 1974 in reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, a copy of the note by Dr. Minhas incorporating his views and reservations along with his covering letter to the Prime Minister was laid on the Table of the House. See *L.S. Deb.*, Pt. I, February 27, 1974 US. Qn. 1111.

The consensus¹¹ in Committee 'A' was that unless the general price line was maintained at a tolerable level, the Plan would be a non-starter. The country should aim at self-reliance and eliminate the grip of foreign capital. That might necessitate fundamental structural change in agriculture and industry which were essential for the removal of poverty and unemployment, and the raising of resources. Curb on deficit financing, disincentives to investments in non-essentials and discouraging imports thereof, land reforms, building of a public distribution system and curbing of conspicuous consumption, were some of the policies which should be implemented with a determined political will. Drastic measures of an integrated character were required to reduce the menace of black money. Demonetisation of currency notes should be considered seriously.

Committee 'B': Committee 'B' held 9 sittings lasting 26 hours 22 minutes on January 17, 19 and 21, February 15 and 16, and March 1 and 25, 1974. Besides the Chairman¹², 58 Members participated in the discussions. The Minister of Planning (Shri D. P. Dhar), the Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning (Shri Mohan Dharia), Shri M. S. Pathak, Member (Industry), Shri M. K. Ganguli, Adviser (Transport) and Shri V. V. S. R. Hanumantha Rao, Director (Minerals), Planning Commission replied to the various points raised by the Chairman and Members of the Committee.

While approving the Synopsis of Proceedings of the Committee, for being laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament, the Chairman appended a note containing important observations| conclusions made in the Committee in regard to the subjects under their discussion.

The consensus¹³ in Committee 'B' was that the organisational structure of public sector industries should be studied and steps taken to rationalise and strengthen the management which should

11For fuller note on consensus, see *Synopsis of Proceedings of Plan Committee 'A'*.

12Shri Shyamnandan Mishra. M. P. (Lok Sabha) from 21-12-1973 to 28-2-1974; and Pandit D. N. Tiwary, M.P. (Lok Sabha) from 1-3-1974 onwards.

13For fuller note on consensus, see *Synopsis of Proceedings of Plan Committee 'B'*.

be bestowed with requisite autonomy to carry out its job well and with expedition. The targets of production should be realistic and practicable. In view of the current oil crisis, highest importance should be attached to the production of fertilisers in the country and the fertiliser projects should be coal-based.

Committee 'C': Committee 'C' held five sittings lasting 15 hours 40 minutes on January 17, 19 and 21, 1974. Besides the Chairman, 54 Members participated in the discussions. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning (Shri Mohan Dharja) and Shri B. Shivarman, Member, Planning Commission replied to the various points raised by the Chairman and Members of the Committee.

While approving the Synopsis of Proceedings of the Committee for being laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament, the Chairman appended a note containing important observations|conclusions in regard to subjects discussed in the Committee. The draft note was circulated to the Members of the Committee with a request to offer their comments, if any. The note was finalised by the Chairman in the light of comments received and included in the Synopsis of Proceedings.

The consensus¹⁴ in Committee 'C' was that the agricultural policy should be guided by considerations of social justice and removal of poverty. Development of agriculture and rural economy at a faster pace was not only vital for the removal of poverty and achievement of self-reliance, but was most essential for the stability of the country's democratic set-up. The allocation for agriculture should, therefore, be substantially increased and the rate of growth should be raised to about 6 per cent. During the course of discussions in the Committee, the Members laid stress on undertaking village-surveys for ascertaining the requirements of development, association of Gram Panchayats in the planning process, intensive agriculture and speedier execution of medium and minor irrigation schemes, more availability of power for energising tube-wells and pumps-sets, execution of multiple cropping programme, exploitation of production potential of dry land farming, reclamation of waste land, development of local manurial resources, introduction of gobar gas plants, distribution of improved seeds, cheap agricultural implements and repair facilities, credit facilities etc. Crop insurance has been suggested for adoption on an experimental basis at least in the case of major commodities like foodgrains, jute and cotton. Emphasising

¹⁴For further note on consensus, see *Synopsis of Proceedings of Planning Committee 'C'*.

the need for land reforms, consolidation of holdings and promulgation of ceiling laws keeping in view the national guidelines, the consensus note says that the production base of small and medium farmers and landless labourers cannot be strengthened unless implementation of policies of Government in regard to land reforms is vigorously pursued.

Committee 'D': Committee 'D' held three sittings lasting 8 hours on January 17, 19 and 21, 1974. Besides the Chairman, 31 Members participated in the discussions. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning (Shri Mohan Dharia) replied to the various points raised by the Chairman and Members of the Committee.

While approving the Synopsis of Proceedings of the Committee for being laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament, the Chairman appended a note containing important observations made in the Committee in regard to the subjects under discussion.

The consensus¹⁵ in Committee 'D' was that there were many areas in the country where even the basic needs of the people like food, clothing, shelter and drinking water had not been met. These should be identified and a core programme within the Minimum Needs Programme prepared and implemented. The Plan should help implementation of the constitutional guarantees in respect of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes. In order to put an end to oppression of those classes, a special wing of the police should be set up to give protection to Harijans. For this purpose, committees consisting of Police officials and prominent citizens and representatives of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes should be set up to keep a watch over the protective measures. Members also laid stress on the provision of drinking water to villages, house sites, rural roads, rural electrification, enhancement of rates for scholarships for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, slum clearance in cities, and the much needed development of hill areas.

Committee 'E': Committee 'E' held three sittings lasting 10 hours on January 17, 19 and 21, 1974. Besides the Chairman, 22 Members participated in the discussions. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning (Shri Mohan Dharia) and Shri V. G. Rajadhyaksha, Chief Consultant, Planning Commission, replied to the various points raised by the Chairman and Members of the Committee.

¹⁵For fuller note on consensus, see *Synopsis of Proceedings of Plan Committee 'D'*.

While approving the Synopsis of Proceedings of the Committee for being laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament, the Chairman appended a note containing important observations made in the Committee in regard to the subjects under discussion.

The consensus¹⁶ in Committee 'E' was that the approach towards various plan programmes should be involvement of the people at every stage of implementation. There was also urgent need for strengthening the monitoring and evaluation apparatus at the Centre and in the States to watch the performance of strategic sectors in the Plan and to give suitable guide-lines for proper implementation of the plan programmes.

Discussion on General Points: During the deliberations of the Five Year Plan Committees, it was generally recognised that the device of setting up these Committees did afford greater opportunity to Members of Parliament to express their views individually on the draft Plan document and feel a sense of involvement with the planning process. However, it was strongly stressed by several Members in each of the five committees that it was not enough for the Committees to discuss the draft Five Year Plan, once in five years. In the words of a Member¹⁷:

"When Parliament as the highest authority in the country accepts a Plan, it should be the responsibility of Parliament to supervise it and to get reports every six months or one year and see whether the Plan is working according to schedule. All Members of Parliament should be fully involved in the implementation part of it, not directly taking part in the implementation; but keeping an eye on the progress of implementation, thereby keeping the House and the people informed".

Some of the more significant points made by the Members for bringing about more effective parliamentary surveillance of the plan implementation were:

- (i) There should be a Vigilance Committee of Parliament consisting of Members of Parliament and sociologists, experts, economists, industrialists and others. This Committee should review the Plan in its entirety and report to Parliament every six months or one year.¹⁸

¹⁶For fuller note on consensus. see *Synopsis of Proceedings of Plan Committee 'E'*.

¹⁷Shri S. A. Kader, M.P. *Proceedings 'E'*, Jan., 1, 1974.

¹⁸Shri S. A. Kader, M.P.. *Ibid.*

(ii) Yearly targets should be fixed¹⁹ and there should be annual reports by the Planning Commission to Parliament on the performance of the Plan.²⁰ The annual reports of the Planning Commission should be discussed in Parliament and suitable remedial action taken to correct the functioning of the economy.²¹

(iii) (Plan) implementation should be controlled by an agency and predominantly, it should be controlled by Parliament as a whole. It should be made a non-controversial issue. The political parties should also be taken into confidence. If all the parties agree to see that the implementation is carried out, or they are going to supervise the implementation, it will create confidence in the people about the Plan itself so that implementation is conducted at a very high level of public life.²²

(iv) Whatever arrangements we make for implementing the Plan, they will not work unless there is that political driving force. The ultimate responsibility is that of Parliament and of the ruling party. But, of late, we have not seen any parliamentary grip over the Plan.²³

(v) The State Plans may be discussed in the State Legislatures in terms of the goals set, achievements registered and shortfalls, if any, and reasons for them.²⁴

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning (Shri Mohan Dharia) made the following important observations during the course of discussion in the Plan Committees:

“Every year, along with the budgetary propositions, if we could have physical planning in addition to fiscal planning, it would be helpful. If this sort of deliberation in that respect as we are having today could be there, it will help us in understanding every year what the targets were, to what extent they have been reached and what were the shortfalls, and what care should be taken in the next year and so on.”²⁵

19Shri K. G. Deshmukh, M.P., *Proceedings 'C'* Jan. 1, 1974.

20Shri Shyamnandan Mishra, M.P., *Proceedings 'B'*, Jan. 1, 1974.

21Shri B. R. Bhagat, M.P., *Proceedings 'E'* Jan. 21, 1974.

22Shri S. A. Kader, M.P., *Ibid.*, Jan. 19, 1974.

23Shri B. R. Bhagat, M.P., *Ibid.*, Jan. 21, 1974.

24*Ibid*

25*Proceedings 'D'*, Jan. 17, 1974.

Assuring the Members of the Plan Committees that the Planning Commission was serious in the whole experiment of involving the Members of Parliament in the process of planning, the Minister said:

"Instead of collecting the Members at the time of preparation of the draft plan. I feel that every year, such committees which are attached to these subjects could sit and go into the fiscal and physical aspects of planning and consider what has been the performance, why there has been failure in the performance and how it could be set right."²⁶

Speaking about the role of the Planning Commission *vis-a-vis* the implementation of the Fifth Five Year Plan, the Minister of Planning (Shri D. P. Dhar) made the following observations:

"The Planning Commission is not an executive agency. It is not responsible for the execution of economic policies or for the conduct of the economy of the country. It falls within the sphere of various executive agencies.

If the process of accountability should be strengthened, it can be cast in a different mould, and I agree that what we need is the strengthening of the mechanism of accountability."²⁷

In the Plan Committees, there was no difference of opinion on the point that the most crucial area to be studied and overseen by Parliament was that of plan implementation, and if parliamentary scrutiny of the Five Year Plans was to be really purposive, meaningful and result-oriented, there should be yearly physical targets in the Plan and proper accountability for their fulfilment. Such a parliamentary scrutiny had to be of a continuing and concurrent nature and based on adequate study, assimilation of information, analysis of data and operational research in performance evaluation. The question is what should be the nature and type of such a Committee or Committees. The position in regard to the Plan Committees was as follows:—

- (1) These were *ad hoc* Committees and became *functus officio* as soon as the Synopses of Proceedings were laid on the Table of both the Houses.

²⁶*Ibid.*, January 21, 1974.

²⁷*Proceedings 'A'*, February 15, 1974.

(2) They were neither elected nor nominated by the Speaker—only the Chairmen were nominated—nor appointed by the Houses of Parliament on a specific motion.

(3) They did not have any specific mandate as such.

(4) In keeping with their limited functions and scope, the membership of the Plan Committees was thrown open to all the Members of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. Every Member of Parliament could become a Member of any or every one of these Committees by merely indicating his wish in that regard.

(5) These Committees were not expected to make any recommendations or to present reports to Parliament. They arrived at no decisions and passed no resolutions.

(6) In the very nature of things, no detailed scrutiny of the Plan in its various ramifications preceded the sittings and deliberations of plan committees.

There are, of course, the Consultative Committees attached to various Ministries, including the Ministry of Planning. These Committees are composed of Members of Parliament nominated on the basis of the preference indicated by them or by their party leaders. The Committees are reconstituted each year at the time of the budget session. So far as the adequacy of these Committees for the purpose in view is concerned, it may be stated that:

(1) These are not parliamentary committees.

(2) Each of these Committees is presided over by the minister concerned.

(3) It is the Minister who decides what information concerning his Ministry should be shared with the Members of the Consultative Committee attached to his Ministry. At the most, the Members can raise question and seek some information from the Minister concerned.

(4) Since these committees are consultative in nature, no reference to the discussions held in their meetings can be made on the floor of the House.

It is obvious that the Consultative Committees cannot be effective media for overseeing plan implementation. Since *ad hoc* Parliamentary Committees of the Ministries are ruled out as effective instruments for the purpose in view, it seems, the best alternative to achieve the desired end may be setting up of a Standing Committee with subject oriented Study Groups to be concerned with the Five Year Plans from formulation stage onwards and more particularly with watching plan implementation and evaluating performance against the physical targets as related to fiscal targets.

As contradistinguished from some other scrutiny committees of Parliament, the proposed Committee may contemporaneously and continuously study and oversee *inter alia* the priorities, allocations and utilisation of funds, resource position, physical targets and achievements, shortfalls, if any, and remedial measures to be taken in the following year or months in the light of the experience gained or of any unforeseen developments affecting the concerned sector or economy.

Also, the Planning Commission may consider laying on the Table of the Houses of Parliament annual achievement reports prepared on the lines of the mid-term appraisal of the Fourth Plan and highlighting adherence to physical targets along with fiscal outlays. Besides their own regular studies, the Plan Committee may use as the basis of scrutiny these annual reports.

It may be pointed out that the proposed Committee would not in any case duplicate the work of any of the existing Parliamentary Committees. Its functions would be very specific and clearly defined and limited. Besides, some of the distinguishing functional features of the proposed Plan Committee may be as follows:

(i) The Committee's scrutiny would be more or less of a concurrent and continuous nature and not merely a *post mortem*.

(ii) The work of the Committee would be based on developed information collection, retrieval and management techniques and supported by independent in-depth studies. The Committee would endeavour to use modern research tools and methods of enquiry in its scrutiny procedures.

(iii) The recommendations of the Committee may constitute valuable aid to the Planning Commission and to the various Ministries and agencies of the Government inasmuch as the constant vigilance and fair and constructive appraisal of the Plan performance may prevent possible erosion of credibility and lead to the strengthening of the entire system.

The setting up of the Committee would be a vindication of the principle that planning is a non-party national endeavour and also that in the matter of planning in our parliamentary system of Government, Parliament and the Government are not competing centres of power but inseparable partners, that the plan, from formulation to implementation, is a joint cooperative venture of the Planning Commission, the Government and the Parliament. In the Committee situation, it would be far easier for Members to make, and for the

Government to accept, constructive suggestions, thereby putting to effective utilisation a great deal of varied experience, *expertise* and ability.

The close involvement of the Members of Parliament in the Planning process, the annual reports from the Planning Commission to Parliament and the reports made by the proposed Parliamentary Committee on the Plan from time to time may together perform the very useful role of involving the public at large in the Plans and creating a healthy plan awareness among them. The reports of the Plan Committee may also bring to light any unremedied defects and educate public opinion in the operational mechanics of the process of planning. The Committee may have the effect of strengthening the mechanism of accountability to Parliament and the people in the field of planning. The Committee reports may provide considerable feedback to the House and may be discussed in the Houses of Parliament along with the annual plan for the next year.

The approach of the Committee may not be that of negative audit but that of achievement audit. It may scrutinise performance, efficiency and speed. In other words, the Committee may try to produce some sort of internal efficiency reports or a sort of modern management study, the basic purpose being to strengthen accountability procedures, evolve and adopt better means of analysing performance in implementing policies and prescribing correctives to ensure the best use of available public resources.

In the ultimate analysis, the success of the proposed Committee would depend upon:

- (i) the Members of the Committee taking adequate interest in Committee work and developing necessary expertise;
 - (ii) the Planning Commission and the Government cooperating with the Committee by providing it with full and timely information;
 - (iii) the staff providing the necessary expert research and professional assistance; and
 - (iv) the Committee aiming at becoming an effective instrument for making management type enquiry into Plan implementation backed by adequate information, data and supporting materials and leading to an internal performance or efficiency scrutiny harnessed to the needs of both the Parliament and the Government.
-

PARLIAMENT AND SOCIAL CHANGE

The success of democracy is very much dependent on the success of the parliamentary system. Democracy is a way of life; it does not rule out revolutionary movement. But it has to be judged as against totalitarianism. Totalitarianism suppresses the opposite view whereas the very essence of democracy is the enlargement of freedom of the individual and regulation of this freedom for the common good of the society as a whole. Democratic approach is persuasion, argument, debate and collective decision. Whatever the system of government—capitalistic, socialist or in between—it has to follow fundamental principles of democracy to respect the individual and be guided solely by the will of the people. It has to function with the willing consent of the people and has to respond to changes and modifications in response to the aspirations and desires of the people.

This change naturally envisages a peaceful transformation. What is peaceful may not be reactionary. It has to be peaceful as well as revolutionary. India has a complex society where sharp divisions between classes and castes are not so clearly distinguishable as in other countries. This means there is some inherent capacity of tolerance in the society which has sustained the tradition-bound system. India has grown through this tradition. India's freedom movement was an unusual type of movement—it was peaceful, yet revolutionary. That conditioned people's mind. That background has helped India to adopt to the new changes and adhere to the democratic method. The elections in India and functioning of the democratic system are really a remarkable phenomenon in the contemporary political evolution in the world. India has not only opted for the democratic system with a written constitution, in response to the overwhelming desire of the millions, it has decided to fully operate the constitution, its parliament and all other institutions for rapid social change and economic progress. It has further resolved to make this society a democratic socialist society. This makes it incumbent upon the powers that be to use methods and enlarge its functions in such a manner as would cover all aspects of

*Shri Surendranath Dwivedy is a former Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha).

human society. Whatever the basic policy pursued, it becomes inevitable for the governmental structure to become involved in social and economic problems. It cannot be regarded as interference, but it is a self-imposed restriction on one's own power and willing submission before the authority of the common good. This democratic way has to function with rapidity and also effectively.

Hence although the Constitution is sovereign and India has to follow a constitutional authority, it does not necessarily mean that Indian people have become slaves of the Constitution. The Constitution is sovereign, but it is not sacrosanct. It has certain ideals as embodied in the preamble and in the chapter of fundamental rights. It has put certain obligations as specified in the Directive Principles of State Policy. There should not be any conflict between the two. If there is any obstacle on the way of rapid progress in carrying out the directive principles, it has to be removed. Parliamentary democracy is inevitably going in the direction of economic democracy.

Under such a system, Parliament no longer remains a mere political institution. It is the supreme authority of the people no doubt, but it has also to act as the vehicle of social change and progress. In the Indian context and in view of the unique experiment of both democracy and socialism that is being carried out in India, such a reorientation of the role of the Parliament becomes important.

We have almost inherited the British system. This is because of our long period of contact with England and we are almost familiar with British parliamentary institutions. When the chance came, we wanted to reproduce them. Even after the adoption of the Republican constitution, our parliamentary procedure and practices are so very conditioned and influenced by the British House of Commons that we often draw analogy and inspiration from that House. We proclaim proudly that the members of Parliament enjoy such privileges as are available to British Members of Parliament and we do not want codification of privileges. This heritage and unnecessary adoption often result in clashes in the House and also such rigid adherence to hoary practices prevent Parliament to discuss urgent and explosive problems before the nation. In recent years, although we have evolved new methods such as calling attention, etc., no discussion on any matter of urgent public importance is permitted if it is of an anticipatory nature, *i.e.*, if the matter referred to is likely to be covered by the debates on budget, presidential addresses or any of the impending bills. Actually speaking, the scope for discussing the particular matters is very much limited and it becomes stale and loses its urgency. That fails to pinpoint the issues

to focus attention of the country. The Parliament must assume the character of an institution which, when in session, must be ready to immediately tackle and respond to the burning problems and urgent developments. Rules should not curb our power, restrict our participation, but enlarge the opportunities so that it becomes a real platform to voice peoples' grievances and work as a deterrent to tyrannical actions and methods. Institutions or practices which have been obstacles to economic well-being and social justice need to be removed. This becomes all the more necessary in India where unfortunately no viable opposition party has emerged. Huge majority in the Parliament without effective opposition may tend to make the ruling party arbitrary in its dealings. Parliament has to evolve new pattern to safeguard this danger and curb such undemocratic tendencies.

There is no doubt that in India, we are giving utmost respect to our Constitution and the Parliament. British parliamentary system developed after great many conflicts and clashes. They were of a different nature. Mostly it related to the power of the Churches, the King and the State. Here in India, fortunately, we have no such fear. Our Constitution provides various checks and balances. It has defined the respective jurisdictions of the Executive, the Judiciary and the Legislature. No one is supreme over the other—all these institutions are to work complementary and supplementary to each other deriving their power from the Constitution. In spite of several strains and stresses in recent years, the parliamentary institution has shown the ability and capacity to withstand the storm.

In recent years, the Indian Parliament has shown courage and conviction to make new laws and enact progressive measures. Sometimes controversies are raised over the interpretation of laws. Legislature, judiciary and the executive are at loggerheads. There is a seeming dispute between the judiciary and the legislature. The recent dispute over the appointment of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is a matter which does not pertain to the issue we are discussing in this article. But the way the courts have interpreted the laws and the manner in which they wanted to take away or abridge the rights of the Parliament to amend any part of the Constitution certainly was a matter of concern. It certainly was an infringement and would have prevented Parliament to discharge its function as the vehicle of social change.

The Parliament has to function and work for the interest of the people. Social and community interest often clashes with individual

interest. Take for example the amendment of article 31. It cannot be said that the earlier amendment for rural property and the recent substitute of "amount" in place of "compensation" are not acts for community's interest. So also, amendments of the Constitution revoking articles abolishing privy purses and privileges of the ex-rulers of ex-Indian States or even the Bank nationalisation. These are some of the progressive measures which have been undertaken in order to fulfil the minimum aspirations of the people. These are enabling measures to pave the way and make it easy for the Executive to proceed towards an egalitarian society in view. The conflict therefore is not for powers and authority, but clash of interests. This should be viewed from this angle and Parliament must have to evolve new methods, if necessary, appropriate amendments of the Constitution have to be made to enable Parliament—the sovereign will of the people—to work without hinderance to achieve the common objective.

The Parliament has to act as a liaison between the people and the State. It must assert its full authority as the voice of the people over the Executive. If it has to act as a vehicle of social change, which it must, it should not be a mere handmaid of a majority political party. Party whip system must not be used for the only purpose of survival of the party or its leadership in authority. This has to be changed. The party in power must have a stable majority and must continue. Those elected as members on a particular party ticket, have to subordinate their individual desires to party's decisions and mandate. But that is only when the very existence of the Government is threatened. Otherwise they should have complete freedom to speak, criticise and on fundamental matters where the party or the Government deviates from the right path, they should have even freedom to vote or not to vote. Parties in India have no class character; there is bound to be conflict of interest inside the party. No party has a right to go against the accepted national objective of social change and the new order of society. It is just possible that in such eventualities, there may be inter-party cooperation or on issues members might combine cutting across party lines. Such combination should not be prevented, but should be permitted on social and basic economic issues. On political issues parties may have to play their own rules and discipline. This distinction has to be made if in India the Parliament has to make its contribution towards social change.

The members of Parliament should not be mere representatives of the people and be automatons carrying out the will of the people. They would not simply concern themselves with winning of votes

in their constituencies and say and act just to cater to their needs and desires which might be prejudicial or not congenial to the overall growth of the nation or the society. They must work for a creative society. They must not always have the fear to become unpopular if they do not act in a particular manner which is desired by their constituents on considerations of expediency and local interests. They must do what is right and necessary and conditions must be created for that purpose. It must be realised that one becomes unpopular only when he does not do the right things. Many wrong acts may affect his popularity much more than one right and proper action. The leaders have a responsibility not only to reflect the voice, but also to lead and guide. If members of Parliament who virtually become the leaders of the nation, falter or do not have that outlook or vision, how can Parliament be effective!

Indian Parliament therefore has a different and distinct role to play in building up the modern Indian Nation and bringing about a social change. The whole functioning and its role has to be re-defined and necessary modifications are needed to be made not only in the rules of procedure and conduct of business of the Parliament, but also in the Constitution.

PARLIAMENT AND PUBLIC OPINION

The theme of this article is the core of parliamentary democracy and it is one of vital interest to any one who reflects on the future of constitutional government in India. It encompasses the relationship between Parliament and State assemblies on the one hand and the press, radio and television, political parties and pressure groups on the other. Parliament does not function in a vacuum and in a democracy the inter-action between Parliamentary agencies and those of public opinion are close and continuous.

In the constitutional and political development of Western countries the words 'Parliament' and 'Legislature' are often used interchangeably. In India we speak of 'State Legislatures' and restrict the word 'Parliament' to refer to the two houses of the Union Legislature. Moreover, by common usage, 'Parliament' refers to the Lok Sabha alone but this is incorrect in view of our bicameral system. To the student of the history of parliamentary institutions the two words have distinct connotations. The word 'Parliament' is of French origin and suggests 'talking'. So Parliament is a talking shop. However, one must hasten to add that in the evolution of parliamentary democracy, it has become something much more than a talking shop. As Menhennet and Palmer observe, it is talking to a purpose which characterizes the institution. Parliament provides opportunities for the airing of all sorts of views with the object of influencing public opinion. In 1965 a Select Committee on Procedure remarked that one of the main thrusts of parliamentary reform has been the improvement of the efficiency of the House of Commons as a debating chamber¹. In contrast to all this, the word 'legislature' is of Latin origin and refers to the law-making function of that body. This was the aspect stressed by the older textbook writers while describing the organs of government. A great deal of parliamentary procedure has grown on the assumption that the function of parliament is to make laws; debates in Parliament are

*Dr. S. P. Aiyar is Reader in the Department of Civics and Politics, University of Bombay.

¹David Menhennet and John Palmer. *Parliament in Perspective*, Delhi Siddhartha Publications, n. d., pp. 11—12.

regulated for this purpose. The two functions of Parliament—talking and law-making—are basically related. Should laws must emerge in response to public opinion but that is not enough for, as everybody knows, public opinion might be at any given time, neither public nor opinion. In a developing society like India traditional forces get organized for the maintenance of the *status quo* and pressure groups strive to protect their own interests. Parliament must be responsive to the winds of opinion but it must not be swayed solely by the prevailing winds at any given time if it is to function in the long-term interest of the country. Parliament must also seek to guide and direct opinions outside and not merely be influenced by them. This aspect of Parliament's function is forgotten by those who glibly assert that Parliament must respond to public opinion.

The idea that the functions of Parliament have a direct bearing on the changing trends of public opinion has, however, been slow in developing. This is mainly because universal education came very late in Western democracies and the revolution in communications, as it has come to be known, is relatively a recent phenomenon. The scientific revolution, as I shall point out in this article, has rapidly outstripped political developments. Consequently, parliamentary procedures often appear dated and Parliaments in many countries have been slow in adapting themselves to the changes brought about by the revolution in communications. This is as true of a developing country like India as it is of the technologically advanced nations.

The Indian Parliament must be viewed in the context of political developments before independence. Considerable progress was made in education, journalism and law and the changes which took place in these fields were much more rapid than those concerning the reform of the legislatures. This is why public opinion in the half century before independence was always dissatisfied with the constitutional reforms which were half-heartedly introduced by the British. By the time the Central Legislative Assembly began to function after World War I, Indian public opinion had already become articulate. What was happening in the legislature received wide publicity in the Press. This trend contributed greatly to the political consciousness of the inter-war years. Indian journalism became a vehicle of nationalism, a powerful weapon which the leaders used against the government. The Press became conscious of its power and its privileges. It is worth recalling that the first powerful plea for the freedom of the Press was made early in the nineteenth century in the days of Ram Mohun Roy. Nobody those

days talked of the "Jute Press" and even the foreign government did not wholly suppress the volume of criticism which the press was generating.

One cannot examine the role of the Indian Parliament today without taking into account the fact that more than 70 percent of the people are illiterate. It is true that the circulation of several newspapers in the country has greatly increased but so has the population and the number of illiterates actually gone up. Newspapers reach less than 10 percent of the population. A great change has undoubtedly come through the 'transistor revolution' and elections are widening the basis of political involvement but it is difficult to exaggerate the role of the press. The government is right in seeking to provide facilities to smaller newspapers and this is important given the size of the country but this can be done without harming the larger newspapers.

Thomas Jefferson once said that if he had to choose between a government without a Press and Press without a government, he would unhesitatingly prefer the latter. This was Jefferson's way of underlining the importance of the Press. It is relevant to stress here that in a democracy, government needs the Press just as the Press needs the government. And people need both. The Press performs many functions in the modern State and one of the most important of these is what I may call a link function of interpreting the government and the governed to each other. Thus Press, Parliament and People constitute important links in a process. Incidentally, *Press, Parliament and People* was the title of an interesting book written many years ago by Francis Williams describing the cooperation which existed in wartime Britain. Such a relationship ought to exist in a developing country where the problems of nation-building and the eradication of poverty must be dealt with on a war-footing. However, this does not mean that the Press should not expose the weaknesses of the administration and the corruption which takes place or be critical of policies.

It must be admitted that on the whole the Indian Press has played its role creditably. It has brought to people the day's events in Parliament, the debates on bills and the discussion of the working of the departments of government. From time to time it has highlighted the findings of the financial committees of Parliament including the Committee on Public Undertakings. It has given publicity to government policies and reported the criticism levelled by opposition parties. Foreign policy matters receive much attention and evoke considerable popular interest. Further, the Press covers

national and international news which provide the background to the debates. Indeed, so important is this link function of the Press that it is inconceivable that debates can ever be carried out effectively without the information now made available by newspapers. The Press is the medium through which the responses and reactions of people towards government's policies are expressed. In fact, the capacity to respond to popular reactions and, to a degree anticipating them, is now considered a crucial factor in the stability and survival of democratic governments.

The Image of Parliament

We live in a world in which we are terribly preoccupied with image-building. What about the image or images of Parliament? Since no studies have been made of this aspect it is difficult to make any kind of meaningful generalization. However, one also notes some dissatisfaction with the institution of Parliament and its working. One may attempt to conjecture the reasons for this. Perhaps, most important of all is the belief among radicals that in an underdeveloped country far-reaching changes cannot be brought about through Parliament. Secondly, the nature of party organization, it is said, renders much of parliamentary discussion unreal. It is believed that Parliament merely rubber stamps decisions arrived at in the party or in the Cabinet. Thirdly, it is argued that Parliament is not really effective in controlling the administration. Fourthly, it is alleged that many members of Parliament do not really do their home-work, that discussions do not provide evidence of careful study. Although there is some truth in these charges it is easy to exaggerate their effect on the image of Parliament. The weakening in the controlling power of Parliament is a phenomenon widespread in the twentieth century and not something unique to the institution of Parliament as it functions in India. It is inherent in the very nature of Big Government. Again, the decline in the quality of debate is perhaps inevitable in a situation where new social forces are arising and leaders are emerging from classes which have not greatly benefited from education.

on the other hand, it is also true that Parliament has become a forum for the ventilation of grievances by individuals and groups. Members of Parliament are persuaded to ask questions in the House and through them matters which concern sections of the people receive the attention of government. The prestige of Parliament has also been enhanced by the leadership of the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister today enjoys an unrivalled support in Parliament and in the country. Parliament has asserted its supremacy in the political life of the nation, Members of Parliament are intensely conscious of their privileges and important decisions are taken by keeping Parliament informed. The prestige of Parliament is linked up with its capacity to legislate on social and economic matters. Perhaps it is regrettable that progressive legislation should frequently suffer in implementation. This administrative aspect is immensely complex in a federal system such as ours.

The Functions of Parliament and Public Opinion

Parliament performs several functions. Apart from being a legislative body it has also to ensure the accountability of the departments of government. It represents the nation but it is also, as we have seen, a forum for the expression of opinion by diverse interest groups. These functions have a direct bearing on the formation of public opinion. The importance of the Question Hour, Interpellation, Adjournment Motions, Calling Attention Notices, Short Notice Questions before lunch time (The Zero Hour in the language of journalism) have been stressed over and over again. The debates in Parliament are addressed to the members as well as to the nation which acts as an 'invisible audience.' The questions put to government and the answers given have a direct bearing on the political thinking of people who form their own estimate of the competence of individual Members of Parliament.

Thus Parliament functions as the nerve-centre of a growing system of political information. The Press conveys to the public only a fraction of what happens. It naturally concentrates on matters of news value. Speaking at the Second International Symposium on Parliament and Public Opinion (Geneva, 1968) Durga Das, the doyen of Indian journalism, said that on any given day of Parliament some 300,000 words are spoken and what the Press does is to reduce everything it considers important to about 5000 words. From the point of view of the Press, Parliament is an important, but by no means the sole, source of news. Thus, according to Durga Das, of all the information which comes into a newspaper office of any single day, only 5 to 10 per cent is actually utilised. The problem is rendered even more difficult by the acute shortage of newsprint. Perhaps this is a blessing in disguise for if newspapers are obliged to print everything that is said in Parliament, they would become very dull indeed! Compression and selection are necessary for intelligent communication.

Role of Radio and Television

In India, as in Britain, the actual debates are neither relayed nor televised and the reasons for this are both technical and political. An obvious difficulty is to select the time when the debate is interesting and it is impossible to predict it. After a stretch of dullness the debate might suddenly come to life. The use of television cameras into the House might hinder the work of the House. Apart from this inconvenience, it might not be desirable from the point of view of the image of Parliament and State assemblies. It is bad enough that newspapers should be reporting about the disorderly conduct of members; it would be much worse for television to make the scenes visible to the entire nation. Against this, it has been argued that the medium could function as a great restraining force on members who would give more attention to what they said and how they said it. It is argued that the prospect of appearing on TV would be an incentive to histrionics and playing to the gallery. But this is partly the result of ability and partly of temperament and Members of Parliament have indulged in it long before TV was dreamt of. Who has not heard of Edmund Burke concealing a danger on his person and flinging it on the floor of the House of Commons at the appropriate moment declaring that this is what the country would get in their dealings with America? We must not forget that Parliament even provides for a gallery and the Member of Parliament also knows that it is important for him to catch the attention of those in the House and outside. Yet no politician would long enjoy the admiration of his constituents if he played to the gallery all the time and his behaviour became highly stylized.

It is yet too early to say what effect television would have on the formal character of representative democracy. I have mentioned that the revolution in communication has outstripped the adaptability of Parliament. In an earlier period there was stiff opposition to the printing of the debates but that was eventually got over. And now the opposition is to television. Maybe, television may yet provide a means for bringing participation indirectly into the political process; it may at least help in breaking down the impersonal character of representative institutions. We have to come to terms with the media and we need a mental revolution before communications can help us.

There is another aspect of the role of radio and television which is important. Parliament's concern with public opinion does not being and end with the passing of laws. In a developing country

the public has to be prepared for accepting laws which may seem to run counter to established ways of thought and behaviour. As Professor M. Ruthnaswamy has rightly argued, if day by day the media are used as communication between government and people, laws like the Child Restraint Marriage Act and the Dowry Abolition Act would have a much better chance of being successful². He also points out that there is a gap between the growth of scientific knowledge and our laws because Science has not yet pervaded the minds of the masses.³ Here too, the media have an educative role to play. At the moment, however, these are far from playing such positive roles. Radio listeners and television viewers regard it as a means of entertainment and no more.

The Quality of Parliamentary Debate

Perhaps the great ages of parliamentary oratory are behind us and no purpose is served by lamenting their departure. However, one is justifiably concerned with the quality of debates in Parliament and State Assemblies. As already noted, this has been a factor in the decline of popular interest in Parliament. There are several reasons for this and some are related to the styles of political leadership in different countries. Much also depends on the style of each politician. Further, with the growth of grounds and lobbies and the articulation of competing interests—inevitable in the process of modernization—the Member of Parliament today needs to develop skills in dealing with these new forces which are compelling his attention. The social commitments of the average parliamentarian, whilst in the capital leave him with little time for the preparation of studied speeches. Most Members of Parliament are probably inclined to believe that more can be acquired in the hard school of experience than in books. Further, a learned speaker who marshals all the facts on an issue may command respect but he probably does not make an impression on most of his hearers; the pressman also finds it difficult to give a gist of a weighty speech. Roger Bernheim writing on India's Parliament has observed that Mr. M. R. Masani's way of enumerating hard facts seems to have had less appeal than the "vague and somewhat sentimental socialistic phraseology of Mr. Nehru's school of thought."⁴

M. Ruthnaswamy, *Legislation, Principles and Practice*, Delhi, S. K. Publishing House, 1974, p. 245.

³*Ibid.*, p. 49.

⁴Roger Bernheim, "Parliament and Democracy in India", in S. P. Aiyer and R. Srinivasan (Ed.) *Studies in Indian Democracy*, Bombay, Allied Publishers, 1965, p. 156.

Parliamentary Government in the Age of Science

The growth of science and technology has totally altered the setting of the modern legislature. It is now a common-place to speak of the positive State and the need for progressive legislation. But Parliament cannot function effectively and place relevant laws on the statute book until legislators discuss matters with full knowledge of the facts. Questions relating to air and water pollution, adulteration of food and drugs, agriculture and industry, transport and communications, and politics, domestic and foreign, cannot be settled until law-makers are well-informed. What the public thinks is sometimes less important than what the situation demands and as I have mentioned earlier, the public needs to be educated. A modern society—and here it includes a modernizing society as well—has not only to take into account the existing knowledge but also interpret it for the public so that decisions and laws become intelligible to the people. Democratic government implies society's freedom to make its choice regarding goals and methods of achieving them. But this choice cannot be exercised wisely in the absence of information relating to competing goals. Information must be both authentic and timely and it cannot come into existence without our fully recasting the work at Indian universities and research bodies.

Further, there is the problem of bringing knowledge within the grasp of the average educated man. Under a system of universal suffrage Members of Parliament would inevitably come from a wide variety of educational and professional backgrounds. Knowledge relevant to policymaking must be readily available to them. The Member of Parliament is not a technical decision-maker but a politician. As such, he needs both objective data on situations as well as an idea of what people think, about them. The able politician will seek to balance these elements in his intuitive understanding of problems. But he cannot make people's reactions the sole criterion of policy-making for they can often be short-sighted, governed as they are by the persuasions of political parties and pressure groups. No Parliament can have too many of those able parliamentarians who raise the quality of leadership of the House. It is an absurd view of Parliament which describes it merely as a mirror of popular interests.

The Time Perspective

It is characteristic of our age that decision-makers can never get all the time they desire for equipping themselves with information even when they restrict their areas of interest. This is equally true

of a Member of Parliament. He cannot be concerned with each and every matter that comes up for discussion in Parliament. He must restrict his areas of interest and seek to cultivate his own little garden. Parliament is well served by its Library and its reference work. The Lok Sabha has a good system of clippings and a printed index to them. The Library also publishes its *Abstracts and Index of Reports and Articles* and other periodicals. The Secretariat of Parliament also brings out pamphlets on various topics and the information they provide is factual in nature. There are specialists to help members with information on topics of interest to them.

The relationship between Parliament and Public Opinion must be viewed as part of constantly changing situation. Neither the social background of the members nor the state of public opinion is static. Parliament's role today is not what it was a quarter century ago when the country became independent and it will not be the same with the passage of time. Great parliamentarians may vanish from the scene and political parties once strong may be reduced to a mere shadow. Politicians with new debating and negotiating skills, supported by new sources of power, may replace those who are in the House today. These ups and downs are part of the history of democratic nations but they continue to be democratic so long as public opinion remains not merely articulate and vigilant but also enlightened. As literacy rates go up and education spreads among the masses as a wholesome leaven, Parliament and public opinion will continue to interact more vigorously. But much will also depend on developing a viable and responsible opposition which will make it difficult for ruling parties to ignore criticism.

SOME THOUGHTS ON ELECTION PROCESSES

The formidable size of the Indian electorate exceeding 300 million over the country is without a parallel in the democratic world. It presents, as it ought to, many baffling problems. These problems are likely to gain in intensity with the growth of population. At the end of the decade, a parliamentary constituency, which now comprises a million residents, will go up by 25 per cent. With sprawling constituencies, limited means of communication and paucity of resources at the disposal of members, the essence of democracy that is the live touch between the people and their representative, which is already thin, will grow thinner. It is worth noting that in Britain a parliamentary constituency ranges between 48000 and 75000 voters against 500,000 to 600,000 in India. Maybe that with new developments in mass media, radio and television, a member of the future Parliament is enabled to reach his voters more frequently. But as yet, it is a dream and not reality.

The electoral system in India based on single member constituencies of more or less equal size in population holds good both for Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies. Article 81 of the Constitution of India lays down that the Lok Sabha shall consist of¹ (1) not more than five hundred members chosen by territorial constituencies in States and (2) not more than twenty-five members in Union territories. Each of the States is allocated a number of seats in proportion of its population to the population of India at the last census. Thus the population of a parliamentary constituency over the country is, as far as possible equal. The State is then divided into equalized constituencies on the population basis. The Constitution does not rule out plural constituencies; but at present all parliamentary constituencies are single-member constituencies. For State Assemblies there are corresponding provisions based on territorial divisions and equality of size.

The system of adult franchise and periodical elections are the two distinctive features of our political set up. Every five years, the voters are given an opportunity to retain the existing Government or

*Shri Ajit Prasad Jain is a former Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha).

replace it by a new one. We have held not less than five general elections and many mid-term and bye-elections. By and large they have been free and fair, untainted by a major evil like the Watergate. They reflect the general wishes of the people. Besides, constant efforts are being made to improve hustings so that weaker sections of the society—especially the Harijans kept oppressed and depressed for many millenniums by the caste Hindus—are not deterred from exercising their free vote. Effective arrangements made in certain critical areas of Uttar Pradesh during the recent election, including installation of separate booths in the vicinity of Harijan habitations go to the credit of the Election Commission. This time there have been few genuine complaints, if any, that imposters have cast votes for Harijans. However, the complete eradication of the evil would depend not upon the police *bandobast* but growth of the inner strength and consciousness.

The adult franchise is an unmixed blessing. It has opened new hopes and new vistas for weaker sections. It has awakened and given them a sense of personality and dignity. It has been the greatest leveller of inequalities. No political party whatever be its economic interest or social outlook, can afford to anger the Harijan voters. I remember of the 1957 General Election, when a highly respected Brahmin candidate, enjoying a countrywide reputation, lost at the poll because he would not take water touched by Harijans. Time is not far off when caste and social barriers in India will break and yield place to a politically conscious nation.

Our election results are determined by the plural system of voting, that is by relative majority but not necessarily absolute majority. There have been cases where candidates losing security have been declared elected. Naturally it has evoked some criticism, but the critics forget we are not the only democratic country which is some times ruled by persons representing minority of voters. It is possible to hold repeated elections eliminating candidates at the bottom until the top one received a majority, but the time, labour and money needed will not be commensurate with the gains. Ideologically the system suffers from the defect of the possibilities of minority rule, but democracy is based on compromises and spirit of give and take. Neither a majority nor a minority can afford to overlook the opinion of its opponents.

Voices are sometimes raised that the parliamentary system in India has proved inadequate and should be replaced by a Presidential system of the American type where the head of the executive is not responsible to the legislature and is elected to rule for a term of

four years, except in rare cases of impeachment. He rules the country with nominees of his choice. The idea behind the system is to maintain stability. The proposal may look attractive at the first sight but we should not forget that it is not possible to transplant the political system of one country to another. Political systems grow out of experience, practice and genius of the people. Whatever validity the arguments in support of the Presidential system may have had before, the last ditch battle raging between Richard Nixon for the maintenance of law and morality should make us think twice over.

In the twenty-five years since Independence the voters have gained in experience, maturity and confidence. The recent election in Uttar Pradesh is positive proof of his understanding. In spite of multiplicity of candidates, sometimes as many as twenty, including large numbers of independents, he has voted for stability. He has outright rejected independents, often unprincipled, who distort the political picture by introducing an element of uncertainty. On an average, one independent has been returned for every 300 independent candidates. He has also expressed dislike for minor parties, who often indulge in horse-trading. The electorate has overwhelmingly voted for the three major parties—the Congress, Bhartiya Kranti Dal and the Jan Sangh who have won 90 per cent of seats. It has given a bare majority to the Congress, as if it is returned on probation. This is warning that if matters do not improve, the Congress may have long before to face grave consequences.

In its Report on the Fifth General Election, the Election Commission examined the question of replacing the existing plural system of voting by what is known as 'List System'. The two main objects of democratic elections are to give a legislature representing opinion of different sections of electorate accurately and a stable government. It is said of the plural system that it denies representation to voters who did not vote for the winning candidate. The 'List System' eliminates waste of votes and represents the opinion of different elements and groups more accurately. However, so far no big country has adopted the system. It has been tried with varying degrees of successes in small countries like Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium and Holland. In any event it tends to polarise small parties which makes coalition government inevitable. Coalition Governments are weak and indecisive. The sad experience of a number of S.V.D. Governments after the 1967 election is too recent to be forgotten.

The growing expenses of fighting elections and flagrant violation of the statutory limit has been a matter of constant concern for Government, political parties and the public. That the bulk of expenses come from the big business and industrial houses admit of no doubt. It would be wrong to single out the ruling party and put the entire responsibility on it. Every political party draws its resources either from industrialists or business and must share the responsibility. Its worst feature, however, is that since the imposition of ban on company donations to political parties, the flow of resources has diverted from open channels exposed to public gaze to hidden channels invisible to the common man.

In a forthright analysis of the impact of black money on the country's economy, the Direct Taxes Inquiry Committee, chaired by Justice K.N. Wanchoo, retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, found that there were two parallel economies running—one of the official monetary system and the other of the 'black market' depending upon the support of groups of defiant, secretive and unscrupulous people. Nobody knows the exact amount of 'black money' operating in the country, but according to a rough estimate it may run to Rs. 7000 crores (1968-69). Black money is a cancerous growth, which if left unchecked, may disrupt our economic and moral system. Regarding the role of black money in hustings, the Committee wrote:

"It has been represented before us that the political climate in India is none too conducive to checking black money transaction. Rather, it is contended that it provides opportunities for generations of black money. In this connection, it has been pointed out that large funds are required to meet election expenses and it is common knowledge that these are financed to a great extent by wealthy persons with lots of black money".

With a view to control election expenses, the maximum limit of expenses before 1971 for a parliamentary constituency was fixed at Rs. 25,000 and for Assembly constituencies it ranged between Rs. 6000 and Rs. 9000. In that year the limit for parliamentary elections was raised to Rs. 35,000 and for Assembly constituencies by 50 per cent. It has remained at that level since. There is no law on our Statute book so defiantly and flagrantly violated as the one fixing election expenses. Due to the recent increase in the costs of transport, petrol, paper and printing which constitute the principal items of election expenses, the statutory limit has become farcical. No candidate can contain expenses within the legal limits and hence the plausible argument that the limit has a sobering influence at any rate on honest candidates has lost all its force.

Another argument that such limits are found in the electoral laws throughout the world has likewise lost its validity. The price-hike is a world-wide phenomenon and it remains to be seen whether other countries would retain on their statute book a wholly untenable law. In fact the limit has the effect of legalising dishonesty, fudged 'up account and false returns. No amount of improvement in the system of keeping accounts or making returns or clarification of the definition of election expenses as envisaged by the 'Joint-Committee on Amendments to Election Law' can meet the situation.

The Committee has summarily rejected without giving any cogent reason the Election Commission's recommendation that election expenses incurred by political parties should be brought within the purview of accountability like those incurred by the candidates. Black money is so overwhelmingly overshadowing hustings that unless something radical is done, it may eat into the vitals of our electoral processes. The Committee did, however, render a service by accepting the principle 'that all election expenses ought to be a legitimate charge on public funds and efforts should be made to achieve that end'.

Meanwhile, a three-fold programme of action is called for: (a) repealing the law imposing ban on company donations to political parties, (b) increasing assumption of financial responsibilities for election by public funds and (c) strict supervision on party and candidates' accounts. The limit on election expenses should be removed, but if that is not considered feasible, it should be suitably and liberally revised upwards.

COMMITTEE REFORM IN THE U.S. CONGRESS—A PROGRESS
REPORT

Overshadowed by the current political conflict over the Watergate affair, important developments have been taking place within Congress itself which could have a vital influence on the future course of legislative-executive relations in the United States. For the first time since the Legislative Reorganisation Act of 1946, Congress, in particular the House of Representatives, is considering a comprehensive revision of committee organization and responsibilities. This is the latest in a series of attempts at reform which began in the early 1960s, the major formal development being the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970.¹ Though this legislation contained a so-called 'committee bill of rights' intended to change patterns of committee organization and lessen the powers of committee chairman it did little or nothing to change the number, size or jurisdiction of committees in the House and Senate.

The compromise nature of this legislation, and its limited effect on the internal distribution of influence within committees, produced new pressures for reform. Before 1971, while the efforts of groups such as the Democratic Study Group within the Democratic party had helped to produce changes, most of the reforms relating to committees had been changes in the House rules, which had to be considered by the full house on the floor. After 1971, further reforms occurred through resolutions passed by the House Democratic Party caucus. The major reason for this was that the Caucus offered a greater chance of success for reform effort. Moreover, one of the principal practices attacked by reformers, the seniority rule as it affected committee appointments and the selection of committee Chairmen, was a device used by the parties and could only be changed by action within the parties. As a result of pressures put on the House Democratic party caucus by reformers, the individual selec-

*Professor Jhon D. Lees is in the Department of American Studies, University of Keele (U.K.)

¹For a summary of these reforms, see J. D. Lees, 'Reorganization and Reform in Congress—Legislative Responses to Political and Social Change', *Government and Opposition*, Spring 1973, pp. 195-216.

tion of committee chairmen was subject to ratification by a secret ballot vote if 20 per cent of caucus members demanded this, and a new subcommittee bill of rights drawn up by which the jurisdiction and organization of subcommittees would be determined at the beginning of each Congress by a caucus of Democratic members in the House.

There were also other wider political factors which in January 1973 led to the most important decision of recent years, the creation of a House Select Committee on Committees. The first of these was the Executive Reorganization legislation presented to Congress by President Nixon in 1971. This sought to reorganise governmental departments along functional lines, creating four new super departments. While Congress refused to accept the legislation, public discussion of the proposals served to point up the extent to which the existing jurisdictional responsibilities of committees in Congress paralleled current departmental divisions. A major factor in the opposition in Congress was the extent to which acceptance of the executive recommendations would require a major reform of the jurisdiction of existing committees and might require a total recasting of the committee system. Also, the extreme actions of President Nixon in challenging the authority of Congress by excessive use of his veto power (sometimes in dubious constitutional circumstances) and his defiance of the traditional Congressional powers of the purse by impounding or refusing to spend (for policy reasons) funds appropriated by Congress, strengthened the hand of reformers in Congress pressing for changes to consolidate the authority of committees, while also making them more responsible to the control of party or the parent body as a whole. Later in 1972 the House began to reform its committee practices and procedures for consideration of the federal budget, setting up a Joint Study Committee on Budget Control.

Following further pressure by Democratic reformers through their party caucus, in January of 1973 the Speaker of the House, with the support of the minority leader, initiated the creation of a select committee on committees. This was approved by the House and the committee was authorised to conduct a thorough and complete study with respect to the implementation of Rules X and XI of the House, including committee structure, the number and optimum size of committees, their jurisdiction, the number of subcommittees, committee rules and procedures, staffing, space, equipment, and other committee facilities, and media coverage of committee meetings. Rule X designates the names and numbers of standing committees, while Rule

XI establishes the jurisdiction of the 21 standing committees of the House. The latter was revised in the 1946 Legislative Reorganization Act, but had become out of date and unclear. Subject categories such as energy or crime which were not national issues in 1946 but are in the 1970's were not covered by the rule. This had led to committees competing for jurisdiction of new national issues. Furthermore, the system of committee jurisdiction was imbalanced in that workloads varied tremendously between Committees, some having little to do, others overburdened with responsibilities.

It should be noted that the creation and composition of the select committee itself is of some significance. The choice of the select committee as a device reinforced the desire to use a body independent of the existing committee structure, and its special composition of ten members, five Democrats and five Republicans, rather than the normal tradition of committee composition reflecting the ratio of the majority and minority parties in both houses, emphasized the importance of bipartisan attitudes and support for committee activities. Selection of the committee members was made with an eye to appointing members with a wide range of committee experience on different committees, headed by a chairman, Richard Bolling (Democrat from Missouri) and vice-chairman Dave Martin (Republican from Nebraska), who were both senior members of the Rules Committee. Legislative recommendations of the committee, however, were to be subject to clearance by the Rules Committee before being debated and acted upon by the House itself.

Pressures for similar reforms in the Senate have generally been less strong. However, in April 1973, following the initiatives of Republican Senators Mathias (Maryland) and Brock (Tennessee), both former members of the House of Representatives, a resolution was introduced to create a select committee which would conduct a thorough and complete study with respect to the operation and implementation of Rules XXIV, XXV and XXVI of the Senate (the equivalents of Rules X and XI in the House). The resolution was almost identical to that submitted to and accepted by the House. The resolution was referred to the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, but almost a year later no action had been taken.

The initial activities of the House select committee showed a healthy concern for both tradition and innovation in the gathering of evidence. Though their central concern was the matter of com-

mittee jurisdiction,² evidence was taken on committee organization in general from members of Congress, representatives of interest groups, and academic experts on various aspects of congressional activities, and the hearings provided testimony on a wide range of reform matters relating to the role of standing committees of the House. An interesting variation on the normal pattern of committee hearings was a series of panel discussions, where academic and governmental experts were invited to prepare papers on a variety of topics, and many of them participated, with committee members and their professional staff, in twelve small panel discussions on their particular areas of expertise. These areas included committee dynamics, committee structure and party, the budgetary process, committee staffing, committee oversight, committee information, state legislative committees and executive organization.

The hearings provided a massive source of valuable information, but also revealed the complexities and difficulties inherent in basic questions such as defining criteria by which changes in committee jurisdiction might be recommended, the number and types of resources available to committees, and assessing the nature and scope of the oversight role which committees might perform.³ A range of staff and consultant reports were printed in the record of the hearings, providing a unique insight into the development of the thinking of the committee as a whole about reforms, and the organization of staff responsibilities to provide alternative sets of recommendations and proposals for the committee to consider, especially over the major questions of the number of committees, the number of committee assignments for members, and the broader matter as to whether greater or less specialisation is needed. The committee appears to have consciously chosen to operate in an open manner, stimulating informal debate and discussion at the risk of allowing opposition to organise and develop early.⁴

²For an evaluation of the criteria and goals of the Select Committee on Committees, see the valuable comments of its Chairman, Representative Richard Bolling in 'Committees in the House' *Annals*, January 1974, pp. 1—14. This edition of the *Annals* contains a valuable series of articles on the contemporary committee system in Congress.

³See U.S. House of Representatives, *Select Committee on Committees, Hearings on Committee Organization in the House*, Vols. 1-3, 93rd Congress 1st Session, 1973.

⁴On this point see the discussion of the membership and activities of the committee in Congressional Quarterly, *Weekly Report*, November 24th. 1973, pp. 3083—3088.

In December 1973 the Select Committee released a report outlining tentative recommendations.⁵ This included a scheme for revising the existing network of committee jurisdiction. As was evident in earlier staff reports, the chairman Richard Bolling stressed that several factors in committee reforms had an interlocking effect, and so changes in one area necessitated other changes. The report, however, recommended the creation of twenty House standing committees (one less than at present), but fifteen of these would be exclusive, with no member able to serve on more than one of them. Furthermore, the jurisdiction of almost every committee would be changed, some dramatically. Three committees with light workloads would be abolished, including the House Internal Security Committee (formerly the House Un-American Activities Committee). One of the most powerful committees, Ways and Means, would have its jurisdiction changed. Currently this committee has wide authority to legislate in many important economic areas, and it has been criticised by some for its slow pace (a factor increased by its lack of sub-committees) in dealing with a heavy workload. Its control over foreign trade would be given to the Foreign Affairs Committee, and its control over most aspects of health insurance go to a new committee on Commerce and Health. In return certain minor matters would be transferred to it from other committees.

A major innovatory recommendation was the creation of a new Energy and Environment Committee, which would be an expanded and consolidated version of the existing Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. The emphasis of the committee would shift from one on rural conservation to a focus on modern air and water pollution, both urban and rural. One recommendation which had been discussed at the time of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 was reiterated, that the Education and Labour Committee should be divided into two. Other committees would be given new and increased responsibilities, such as the Foreign Affairs Committee, Government Operations and the Agriculture Committee, while the Public Works Committee would give up certain jurisdiction over water pollution but would obtain more extensive control over transportation matters, and would be renamed the Public Works and Transportation Committee. The only new committee called for was Committee on the Budget, affirming a proposal in congressional budget reform legislation recently passed by the House. The newest of the existing standing committees, that on standards of Official Conduct, because of its light workload, would be given charge of elections and

⁵For a summary of these recommendations, see *Congressional Quarterly, Weekly Report*, December 22, 1973, pp. 3358-3366.

campaign finance, a matter likely to be of considerable legislative importance in the immediate future.

Although changes in committee jurisdiction constituted the principal recommendations of this report, other reforms were outlined. The Committee proposed that members of Congress convene in Washington before a new Congress is formally opened and decide organizational matters which normally occupy them for some time at the beginning of official sessions. Recommendations were also made for improving the oversight activities of standing committees, such as the creation of special oversight sub-committees and the establishment of a special oversight agenda drawn up either by the House leaders or by the Government Operations Committees. Plans were also outlined to improve contacts and links between committees who exercised oversight over similar areas of administrative activity, and to strengthen staff and information resources available to help committees conduct administrative oversight.

Not surprisingly these tentative recommendations provoked immediate opposition, especially from senior members of committees likely to be abolished, but many opponents preferred to begin to organize interest group and other powerful support to challenge specific recommendations when they finally came before the House as a whole. Attention also shifted in the early months of 1974 to more immediate political concerns as the House Judiciary Committee began to assemble the possible articles of impeachment of President Nixon.

On March 13, 1974, after much hard work in open sessions, refining and rewording the initial recommendations, the Select Committee unanimously reported a resolution which it submitted to the House Rules Committee. Chairman Bolling was confident that the House Democratic Caucus would endorse the resolution and that it would soon be available for consideration by the House. The final resolution contained some revisions, but the basic framework of the initial draft recommendations was retained. House Ways and Means Committee members were clearly prepared to challenge the recommended shift of some of the jurisdiction of their committee in order to increase the influence and workload of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. However, appeals not to recommend abolition of the

Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee and the Select Committee on Small Business were accepted, and the final resolution preserved these committees, the former with a narrowed jurisdiction, the latter with new legislative authority. Some changes were made in the allocation of environmental matters to particular committees, and an initial proposal limiting members to one major committee was modified in that members currently on more than one such committee could choose for themselves which committee assignment they might give up. Fifteen committees would be designated as major, and seven additional committees designated on which members could serve in addition to their assignment on one of the major committees. The Select Committee also endorsed a procedure permitting the Speaker to refer bills and resolutions to more than one committee, and, subject to the approval of the House, to constitute special *ad hoc* committees from the membership of the committees with legislative jurisdiction to consider matters that might best be handled by such a special unit.

Important recommendations were made concerning oversight responsibilities. Each standing committee except that on Appropriations should establish a separate sub-committee on oversight, and specific recommendations were outlined to strengthen the role of the Government Operations Committee. It was also proposed that proxy voting be banned on all committees and sub-committees, and specific standardised procedures be drawn up concerning the use of subpoena powers by committees. Increases were recommended in the number of standing professional and clerical staff members, and that House Commissions on Information and on Administrative Services and Facilities be set up to report to the House on necessary support services. Other general proposals included the creation of an Office of Law Revision and continual consideration of the question of committee jurisdictions by the House members of the Joint Committee on Congressional Operations.

Whatever may be the final outcome of current attempts to check and possibly impeach the President, any long-term efforts by Congress to reassert and exercise their legitimate constitutional authority require speedy efforts to improve the internal organization of the House and Senate. In this respect the work of the House Select Committee on Committees may be of considerable importance. Comprehensive reform has never been easy to achieve in Congress, yet the need may never have been greater than it is today. The

work of the Select Committee has been impressive in the thoroughness, range and openness of its procedures and enquiries, and the final response to its work will be an important indicator of the will of the House of Representatives to exercise a more responsible and positive influence on governmental policy-making and its effective implementation.

THE QUESTION HOUR

The question Hour in the Parliament of India (and also in the State Legislatures) is a most interesting and informative hour. The questions are given precedence over all business except the oath taking of members and the condolence resolutions. The House and the galleries are usually crowded. It is the first hour of business, and there is always an atmosphere of freshness.

To determine *inter se* priority of notices of questions received in the Lok Sabha Secretariat at the same time on any day between the first and the last dates of receipt of notices, a ballot is held daily. On the basis of this ballot questions of those members who obtain priority appear in the Starred List for particular days. A member must not only be vigilant to send in the question at the earliest time, but must also be lucky to get the priority in the ballot. In India, in the Lok Sabha 20 questions are listed each day for oral answers but unfortunately, generally five to ten questions (on some days as few as four questions) are orally answered within the allotted one hour. Replies to the remaining questions are laid on the Table like answers to unstarred questions.

In the British House of Commons, the House is able to dispose of a very large number of starred questions. I had the privilege of watching the proceedings of the House of Commons during Question Hour one afternoon in July 1968. More than sixty starred questions were covered that day during the Question Hour for oral answer. By tradition and practice, hardly more than one supplementary question is asked on any starred question. On some replies no supplementary question is asked. Usually, only the person in whose name the starred question stands asks a supplementary question. Other members rarely join to start a discussion. This facilitates the speedy disposal of the list of starred questions in the British Parliament.

*Shri Supakar is a former Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha).

Sir Ivor Jennings in his book entitled *Parliament*, has quoted some statistics of the number of questions covered in the House of Commons on some days in the 'thirties and 'forties.¹ It is seen from the statistics that on one day ninety-two questions could be answered in the Question Hour. Such a figure would be unthinkable for the Houses of Parliament or the State Legislatures in India.

In the Indian Parliament, if the initial answer to a simple starred question is lengthy, the Honourable Minister may lay on the table a statement in answer to such a question. Lengthy statements may raise many doubts in the minds of the members and therefore, the number of supplementary questions becomes large. A dozen or more of supplementary questions on the first question is not unusual. And the Honourable Speaker may find that fifteen minutes have already elapsed before he can reach the second starred question in the list. The supplementary questions and the answers thereto are also usually lengthy. Preambles to supplementary questions, and suggestions of formidable length often sandwich the real question sought to be put.

On receipt, the notices of questions are examined to decide their admissibility or otherwise under the rules. This restricts their number. But such rules are not applied rigorously on the floor of the House, when inadmissible questions or questions heavily loaded with suggestions for action are sought to be put as supplementary questions. If the Speaker (or the Presiding Officer of the House) seeks to restrict or disallow a supplementary question on the ground of inadmissibility it may lead to needless discussion and loss of valuable minutes of the precious Question Hour. Sometimes, a supplementary question or the answer thereto or both assume the length of a short speech or long paragraph. Members accustomed to making long speeches are frequently carried off their feet by a wave of emotion and forget the distinction between a supplementary question and a public speech. Then it becomes as risky for the Presiding Officer of the House to restrain the flow of speech as it would be for him to stop the flow of lava from an erupting volcano.

Changes in the Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business, from time to time, have helped to solve only to a very limited extent the problem of economy in timing the question during the Question Hour. Though on an average more than six hundred notices of

¹See Ivor Jennings *Parliament*, 2nd Edition, paper back 1970, page 101.

questions are received in the Lok Sabha for each sitting, not more than twenty questions are put down for answer in the List of Starred Questions. Not more than two names can appear on a starred question under the existing practice.

In May's *Parliamentary Practice*, it has been stated:—

“Supplementary questions, without debate or comment, may, within due limits, be addressed to them (ministers), which are necessary for the elucidation of answers that they have given. The Speaker has called the attention of the House to the inconvenience that arises from an excessive demand for further replies, and to hinder the practice, he has frequently felt it necessary to call upon the members, in whose name the next question stands upon the notice paper to put his question...”²

In the Indian Legislatures, we often find the supplementary questions, instead of seeking elucidation of the reply given, start a debate, sometimes involving matters of fundamental principles. This should be checked.

In recent years, half-an-hour discussions are held on points arising out of answers given to questions. Such a discussion is held on a matter of sufficient public importance which has been the subject of a recent question in the House—irrespective of the fact whether the question was answered orally or the answer was laid on the Table of the House—and the answer to which needs elucidation on a matter of fact. But in spite of this facility provided to members, during the Question Hour replies to many starred questions give rise practically to half-an-hour discussions to the detriment of perhaps more important questions, which appear later in the List and which cannot be reached for answer by the end of the Question Hour.

Since questions are meant to “turn a searchlight upon every corner of public service” it is desirable that every attempt is made to cover more starred questions during Question Hour than is done at present. A change in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business may be helpful giving a wider power to the Speaker|Presiding Officer to control the length and the number of supplementary questions on a starred question. An upper limit to the total time for a starred question may prove to be a tool (and not a fetter) in the hands of the Speaker in affording an opportunity to a larger number of questions being taken up during the Question Hour.

²Erskine May, *Treatise on the Law, Privileges, Proceedings and Usage of Parliament*, 18th edition, p. 330.

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES*

A. SYMPOSIA AND CONFERENCES

Inter-Parliamentary Conference of Coastal States on the Control of Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea—(Rome—April, 1974)

The Inter-Parliamentary Conference of Coastal States on the Control of Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea was held in Rome from March 29 to April 3, 1974. Dr. G. S. Dhillon, Speaker, Lok Sabha and President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council presided over the Conference. Shri Om Mehta, Minister of State in the Department of Parliamentary Affairs and in the Ministry of Works and Housing attended the Conference as a delegate from India.

Third International Parliamentary Conference on Environment (Nairobi, Kenya—April, 1974)

The Third International Parliamentary Conference on Environment was held in Nairobi (Kenya) from April 7 to 11, 1974. Shri Om Mehta, Minister of State in the Department of Parliamentary Affairs and in the Ministry of Works and Housing attended the Conference as a delegate from India.

Spring meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Bucharest, Romania—April, 1974)

The Spring Meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union were held in Bucharest (Romania) from April 15 to 20, 1974. Dr. G. S. Dhillon, Speaker, Lok Sabha and President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council presided over the meetings. The composition of the Indian delegation to the above meetings was as under:—

1. Shri Godey Murahari, M.P.
2. Shri A. P. Sharma, M.P.
3. Shri B. N. Banerjee, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha.

*Contributed by Conference Branch, Lok Sabha Secretariat.

The Indian delegates also attended the meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Council held there. The Council discussed the following subjects and adopted resolutions thereon:—

- (i) Intensifying efforts for the limitation and cessation of the armaments race and for subsequent disarmament in the conditions of the International Detente now in progress
 - (a) Achieving a Complete Ban on Nuclear Tests
 - (b) Prohibiting the Development and Production of Chemical Weapons
 - (c) Reducing Military Budgets of States
- (ii) The problem of torture in the world
- (iii) The Energy Crisis
- (iv) Economic and Social consequences of the World Population Explosion
- (v) Education of Youth, with a view to International Undertaking, Co-operation and Peace
- (vi) Study of the Principles and Measures that should serve to prevent and eliminate all forms of Racial Discrimination, in particular that of apartheid.
- (vii) Results of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference of Coastal States on the Control of Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea.

B. FOREIGN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS IN INDIA

Visit of Czechoslovak Parliamentary Delegation to India

In response to an invitation from India, a 19-member Czechoslovak Parliamentary Delegation led by H.E. Mr. Alois Indra, Chairman of the Federal Assembly of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic visited India in March, 1974. On March 19, 1974, the delegation called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha at Parliament House and watched the proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. A meeting between the delegation and Members of Parliament was also held on that day. The Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted a dinner in their honour on March 19, 1974. Besides Delhi, the delegates were taken to some places of cultural and industrial interest *viz.*, Chandigarh, Pinjore, Agra, Madras and Bombay.

Transit halt of the Speaker of Kuwait National Assembly at Delhi

H.E. Mr. Khaled Saleh Al-Ghunaim, Speaker of the Kuwait National Assembly accompanied by his wife and party made a transit halt at Delhi airport on March 7, 1974. They were cordially received and seen off at the airport by the Speaker, Lok Sabha.

*Transit halt of the Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament at Delhi.
Supreme Soviet of the USSR at Delhi*

H.E. Mrs. Nasriddinova, Chairman of the Soviet of the Nationalities of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and party made transit halts at Delhi airport on March 7 and 15, 1974 on their way to and from Kuala Lumpur. They were cordially received and seen off at the airport by the Speaker, Lok Sabha.

Visit of a Team of French Senators

A team of four French Senators visited India in March, 1974. They called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha and watched the proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on March 12, 1974. The Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted a luncheon party in their honour on March 12, 1974.

*Transit visit of Arab Republic of Egypt Parliamentary Delegation to
India*

A ten-Member Arab Republic of Egypt Parliamentary Delegation to Bangladesh led by Dr. Gamal Oteifi, Deputy Speaker of the People's Assembly of Arab Republic of Egypt visited India on its way to and from Bangladesh in April-May, 1974.

En route to Bangladesh, the delegation made a halt at Delhi on April 26, 1974 and was received at Delhi airport by the Speaker, Lok Sabha. The delegation watched the proceedings of Lok Sabha and also drove round the city. The Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted a dinner in their honour on that day. The delegation left for Bangladesh on April 27, 1974 and was seen off at Delhi Airport by the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha.

On its way back from Bangladesh, the delegation made a halt at Delhi on May 1, 1974. Dr. Oteifi, Leader of the Delegation visited Agra on that day and other delegates left for Arab Republic of Egypt. On May 2, 1974, Dr. Oteifi called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha at Parliament House. On the same day, he left for Arab Republic of Egypt and was seen off at Delhi airport.

Transit halt of the Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament at Delhi

On their return journey from Bucharest (Romania) to Dacca, H.E. Mr. Abdul Malik Ukil, Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament and party made a transit halt at Delhi on April 28, 1974. On April 29, 1974, they called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha at Parliament House. On the same day, they were seen off at Delhi airport by the Speaker of Lok Sabha and some Members of Parliament.

PRIVILEGE ISSUES*

LOK SABHA

(i) *Shouting of slogans and attempt to throw leaflets from the Visitors' Gallery on the Floor of the House*

On December 21, 1973, at 12.02 hours, two persons shouted slogans and attempted to throw some leaflets from the Visitors' Gallery on the Floor of the House. They were immediately taken into custody by the Watch and Ward Officer and removed from the Visitors' Gallery. Later in the day, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri K. Raghu Ramaiah, moved the following motion:—

“This House resolves that the persons calling themselves Shyam Charan and Ram Murti Pandey who shouted from the Visitors' Gallery and attempted to throw same leaflets from there on the Floor of the House at 12.02 hours today and whom the Watch and Ward Officer took into custody immediately have committed a grave offence and are guilty of the contempt of this House.

This House further resolves that they be sentenced to simple imprisonment till 6 P.M. on the 22nd December, 1973 and sent to Central Jail, Tihar, New Delhi.”

Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu, a member, moved an amendment to the effect “That the persons involved be set free at once.”

After some discussion, the amendment was put to vote and negatived. The motion was then put to vote and adopted.

In pursuance of the above decision of the House, the Speaker issued a warrant of commitment addressed to the Superintendent,

*Contributed by Committee Branch I, Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Central Jail, Tihar, New Delhi to take into custody the said Shyam Charan and Ram Murti Pandey, and to keep them safely in the Central Jail, Tihar, New Delhi, till 6 P.M. on Saturday, the 22nd December, 1973. Shri Shyam Charan and Ram Murti Pandey were, accordingly, taken by the Watch and Ward Staff to, and lodged in the Central Jail, Tihar, Delhi, where they served out their sentence of imprisonment.

(ii) *Issue of a warrant of arrest against a member*

On December 18, 1973, Shri Madhu Limaye, a member, complained in the House that a warrant of arrest had been issued against Shri S. A. Shamim, another member, by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, for writing an article in the annual number of the *Illustrated Weekly of India*. The Speaker, Dr. G. S. Dhillon, observed *inter alia* as follows:—

“A member is at par with any other citizen when there is a breach of the law....It is only when he has a privilege not to be obstructed from coming to this House that the position is different....There is no question of privilege.... I am not allowing you to bring any matter before the House unless I have proper information and notice in advance and unless I had examined it.

A member is like any other citizen. He cannot claim protection like this....If a member commits a crime, he cannot come here and say that he has the privilege not to be arrested....If the police arrest without any justification, you raise it in the Court, not in this House.”

On December 19, 1973, Shri Madhu Limaye again sought to raise this matter as a question of privilege and contended that during the Sessions of Lok Sabha a member could not be arrested in that way. The Speaker disallowed the question of breach of privilege and ruled, *inter alia*, as follows:—

“....So long as Shri Shamim is speaking in this House, he is protected. But if he does something outside the House, he is not protected. After writing that article, he can come to this House. No body will arrest him so long as he is sitting in this House.”

When a suggestion was made that the Speaker might go through the impugned article in the magazine and determine whether a warrant of arrest could be issued on that basis, the Speaker observed that he could not assume judicial functions and that was a matter for the courts to decide.

(iii) *Alleged assault on a member by some demonstrators at a public meeting*

On November 19, 1973, Shri Madhu Dandavate, a member, sought to raise a question of privilege regarding alleged assault by some demonstrations on Shri Samar Guha, another member, while he was addressing a public meeting at Calcutta. The Speaker, Dr. G. S. Dhillon, disallowed the question of privilege and ruled, *inter alia*, as follows:—

“If Shri Samar Guha was there in connection with the performance of some service to this House, certainly I will take note of this. But if he was just addressing a meeting and then something happened, he will be treated like any other citizen under the ordinary administration of law. Of course, I would be the last man to approve of any assault even otherwise in a public meeting which has nothing to do with the performance of the duties of the House, because that is not in consonance with the democratic spirit in the country. But to make it a question of privilege it has to be proved that he was there in the performance of his duties towards this House. We have a number of meetings going on throughout the country and all the time members address such meetings and sometimes may be facing such situations. They should not be brought to this House in the form of a privilege because they are dealt with in the ordinary administration of law”.

(iv) *Alleged reflections on a member for his speech in the House*

On September 5, 1973, Shri Madhu Limaye, a member, sought to raise a question of privilege against the J.K. Organisation, Kanpur, for issuing a press statement as reported in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 1st September, 1973, which, *inter alia*, read as follows:—

“J. K. ORGANISATION

‘wrongly named’

New Delhi, August 31. The Secretary J. K. Organisation, Kanpur, has issued the following press statement:

‘It has been reported in the press that Mr. Madhu Limaye, M.P., while speaking in Parliament about the alleged frauds in the Bank of Baroda, stated that a number of cheques issued by J. K. Organisation, an industrial group, ‘bounced’. The Organisation has no account with the Bank of Baroda, either at Bombay or Kanpur. The said allegation appears to have been made wrongly and the Organisation has incorrectly been named by the hon. Member in this context’.

Shri Limaye stated that the above press statement referred to the exchanges in Lok Sabha during the discussion on the Calling Attention Notice regarding fraud in the Bank of Baroda, Bombay, on August 24, 1973. He added that he had never mentioned the "J.K. Organisation" at all in Lok Sabha but only mentioned companies belonging to the 'J.K. Group'. He alleged that by publishing the above press statement, the "J.K. Organisation" had not only made a misleading statement but also cast reflections on him. The Speaker, Dr. G. S. Dhillon, observed, *inter alia*, as follows:

"...we will enquire as to which J. K. Organisation approached *Hindustan Times*. We will enquire all about it from *Hindustan Times* as to who are the people who gave this news, how they gave it and all that."

The Editor, *Hindustan Times*, who was asked to intimate the name and address of the person who had issued the press statement, intimated that it was based on a statement issued by the Secretary, J.K. Organisation, Kanpur and received by him through an advertising agency.

On November 19, 1973, the Speaker informed the House that the Secretary, J.K. Organisation, Kanpur, who was asked under his direction to state what he might have to say in the matter, in his reply dated the 7th October, 1973, had started *inter alia* that he had issued the impugned press statement on the basis of a news item published in the *National Herald*, dated the 25th August, 1973. The Speaker added that the Secretary, J.K. Organisation, had further stated:

"...It now appears that the press note published in the *National Herald* was incorrect and misleading...Like every one else, I assumed the news item in the *National Herald* to be correct version of what Shri Limaye had said in the House and proceeded on that basis...The press statement was issued by me in the honest and bonafide belief, that the news item published in the *National Herald* was correct...."

In the end I would, on behalf of the J. K. Organisation, again like to express regret in case any inconvenience or misunderstanding has been caused to Shri Limaye as regards this matter. I would like to assure him that the press statement was issued in good faith for the protection of the reputation of the J. K. Organisation without any intention of affecting in any way the image and reputation of Shri Limaye and without the least idea that it will in any way involve any question of privilege."

The Speaker observed that in view of the explanation and regret expressed by the Secretary, J.K. Organisation, the matter might be treated as closed.

Shri Madhu Limaye thereupon drew the attention of the House to the following two paragraphs in the impugned press statement, which according to him, were irrelevant and uncalled for on the part of J.K. Organisation:—

“At times, the banks unilaterally make debits to the account of the constituents which information is passed on to them very late. Cheques drawn on banks are based on the account appearing in the books of the constituents from day to day. Due to this reason, if any cheque remains unpaid, the same is paid subsequently by replenishing bank's account immediately on receipt of the information from the bank.

In cash credit account, the banks advance only to the extent of 70 to 75 per cent of the value of the goods. Thus the banks always hold 30 to 25 per cent by way of margin. Where is then the criminal offence or necessity for further protection?”

Shri Limaye desired that the J.K. Organisation might be asked to clarify as to why they had included the above paragraphs in their statement when, according to them, no cheques issued by that Organisation were bounced by the banks. The Speaker then observed *inter alia* as follows:

“I have laid it before the House. I think we should accept it. But, at the same time, I will convey that this part, which is brought to our notice by Shri Madhu Limaye, is also there which is highly regrettable. I think we should drop this.”

Accordingly, the observations of the Speaker were conveyed by a letter to the J.K. Organisation and the matter was closed.

(v) Reflections on a Parliamentary Committee contained in a written Statement filed by Government before a Commission of Inquiry and certain reported statements made by Government Counsel before that Commission

On April 7, 1972, Shri Indrajit Gupta, a member, raised¹ a question of privilege regarding certain reported statements relating to the 66th Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings (Fourth Lok Sabha) alleged to have been made before the Pipelines Inquiry Commission (Takru Commission) by the Counsel appearing for the

¹L.S. Deb., April 7, 1972, cc. 168—82.

Government. Shri Gupta stated that according to the following news report circulated by the U.N.I. and published in the *Patriot*, New Delhi and *Hindustan Standard*, Calcutta, in their issues dated the 2nd April, 1972, the Counsel appearing for the Government made derogatory remarks about the Parliamentary Committee:—

“They (Counsel) argued that the Commission should pay no heed to the ‘feelings and comments’ expressed in the report. For instance, the Committee on Public Undertakings’ charge that instead of holding the officials responsible for lapses, the Government had made ‘persistent effort to slur over their dereliction of duty’ and that a departmental inquiry should be held against them, was ‘merely a finale on an emotional note’ and no action had been recommended.”

While raising the question of privilege, Shri Indrajit Gupta stated² *inter alia* as follows:

“I would just quote the relevant paragraphs from the recommendation of the Committee on Public Undertakings which are being referred to as being something based on emotion and, therefore, not worthy of being taken into consideration....

‘The Committee also feel compelled to record their feeling that, instead of holding the officers responsible for their lapses, there appears to have been a persistent effort to slur over their dereliction of duty and to fix the responsibility, though copious facts to substantiate such lapses have come on record. The Committee would, therefore, like the Government to take immediate steps to bring to book the guilty officers on the basis of the evidence that is already available. The least that could be done is to proceed departmentally without delay against the officers concerned under the relevant Government servants Conduct Rules. The Committee feel that Government, in the larger interests of the public sector, should not allow a feeling to go around that officers can commit such grave lapses and indulge in dereliction of duty with impunity and go unpunished.’

They (Counsel) have exceeded their prerogatives and their rights, and this amounts to a definite breach of privilege of the Committee and, therefore, breach of privilege of Parliament. And I would request you to take this into consideration and forward it to the Committee of Privileges so that they may go further into the details of the matter.

In the reply of the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals, Government of India, to the application dated 21st March, 1972 of the National Committee and Shri Arun Roy

²*Ibid.*

Chowdhury, for reconsideration of the terms of reference and their scope, which is a published document, it is stated at page 7, para 18:

"The Committee on Public Undertakings' Report merely records a feeling that a section of officers slurred over the illegal actions of the guilty officers who were involved in the two contracts. The word 'feeling' is significant. The Committee on Public Undertakings has not formed an opinion. The P.U.C. Report has not recommended to the Government to investigate and enquire into the slurring over by certain officers of Government|LRL|ICC'."

The Minister of Law and Petroleum and Chemicals, Shri H. R. Gokhale, stated³ *inter alia* as follows:

"Much that the hon. Member and would have some substance if the newspaper report to which reference was made was correct. It is true that two counsel are appearing for the Ministry before the Takru Commission, and the two counsel are Mr. K. V. Dadachanji and Mr. Ram Panjwani... I have asked both the counsel as to the facts in the matter. Both have stated that the newspaper report in question is wrong and distorted and that they never uttered the expressions imputed to them in the newspaper report or any expressions derogatory to the Committee on Public Undertakings...."

I would submit that the Counsel certainly had the right to interpret what was the recommendation contained in the 66th Report. The paragraph to which reference was made by the hon. Member is certainly the relevant paragraph. There the word used is that they have a 'feeling' etc. The argument before the Commission was that this was only a record of an impression which the Committee had formed, but this was not a positive finding or a recommendation, because it was argued, wherever the Committee wanted to make a recommendation or a positive finding, they have specifically said so. But in this paragraph, they have only recorded a feeling, which means it was not a recommendation or a finding but an impression which the Committee had formed on the basis of the evidence placed before them. This was the only thing said before the Commission according to the two counsel.

... At no time had the Government taken up the position that the 66th Report was irrelevant and should not be looked into and so on. Even in the written reply filed in

³*ibid.*

answer to an application of Mr. Arun Roy Chowdhury and the National Committee by one of the counsel appearing for the Government the position taken was the same, viz. the basis of the whole enquiry is the 66th Report of the Public Undertakings Committee. The difference was only this: which part of it is the recommendation or finding and which part is merely recording an impression. Surely, the Counsel had the right to argue this before the Commission.

....My enquiry about what they told the Court shows that they (Counsel) did not tell the Court what is reported in the newspapers. They categorically denied it....It could never have been the attitude of the Government to say that the Committee on Public Undertakings Report should be brushed aside or should not be looked at or it is only an emotional finale of what they have said earlier....The only thing they have said was the interpretation of that particular paragraph, saying it is not a recommendation. It is for the Court to decide whether it was a recommendation or not. That is all I have to submit. So, I would say that there is no basis for the complaint which the hon. Member has made".

After some discussion in the House, the Speaker observed⁴ *inter alia* as follows:—

"....We have a convention,...that whenever a newspaper report is contradicted and there is a dispute about the veracity or the truth about the newspaper report, we refer that to the paper concerned and invite their comments.

....I fail to understand how all the three newspapers could be wrong and only the Counsel could be correct. That is the reason. We have to listen to them....

I have not relished what was said by them (Counsel). They are taking shelter under certain words that it was the feeling. The report, as it appears, is that all of them who were members of the Committee made these observations under emotional stresses. I happened to be the Chairman of the Committee on Public Undertakings before. I took over as Speaker, and this matter was taken over by them.

....after a lot of discussion and consideration, we came to certain conclusions and those conclusions were cast in a very polite language. But that does not mean that, if we expressed in a fine language, in a very cultural language, you could relegate it to the position of 'feelings'. This is an august Committee of the House. All these Committees represent the whole House and they have the same privileges, the same protection, as the House itself....

⁴Ibid.

...if the observations of the Committee were to be treated so lightly and if the sovereignty of the House was to be subjected to the whims of the bureaucrats. God help us. So, what I am proposing to do is that I will have the version from those papers."

On April 18, 1972, when Shri Indrajit Gupta again raised the matter in the House, the Speaker while referring the matter to the Committee of Privileges observed⁵ *inter alia* as follows:

"I have received the information from the news agency correspondent concerned, in which he says that the information published was correct; he has just reproduced the proceedings in the Commission. I asked the Minister concerned. Of course, besides the information he gave to us, he said that the advocates deny it. So I expressly told him to get this information from the Chairman of the Commission. The Commission has informed us that they do not keep detailed regular records or reports of the proceedings.

I have been very seriously considering the matter. This is a unique case in which three important parts of society were concerned...ourselves that is, this House...We claim certain freedoms and also privileges...the press... they too claim certain freedoms and privileges...and the legal profession...

The Minister said that the advocates did not say what they are alleged to have said. Even if he had just said, he did say it, we were bound to review the matter in its proper perspective. The field of advocacy is very wide with a lot of latitude and freedom. Even when we go in appeal from a lower Court to a High Court or from a High Court to the Supreme Court, we say, the judgment is erroneous, fallacious, and very often, we say the judgment is perverse. In respect of these law courts against whom an appeal goes to higher Courts, they have their own privileges and protections also. The field of advocacy is so wide that they too have full protection.

So, I think, considering all these various aspects of the question, the best thing is that the Privileges Committee should examine all these issues, not with a view to finding out facts. It is not essential that they must give their findings.

They can consult the Speaker also, if they think that I can be helpful to them—of course, I do not bind them by saying this and they can examine various aspects of the matter as they think proper.

⁵L.S. Deb., April 18, 1972, cc. 146—48.

The Minister said that the advocates had not said it. Even if they had said it, they were advocates—it is the profession of advocates to interpret, before a Court or a Commission. Of course, they act with freedom in the field of their own profession.

I think the Committee will keep this in view and not encroach upon the liberties which their profession claims. So, I entrust it to the Privileges Committee for examination.”

The Committee of Privileges after hearing Shri Indrajit Gupta, in person, in their Fourth Report, presented to the House on May 11, 1973, reported *inter alia* as follows:—

“(i) The Committee decided, in the first instance, to call for the opinion of the Ministry of Law and Justice on the question of the professional privileges enjoyed by the Counsel before a Commission of Inquiry and by the Press Correspondents in reporting the proceedings of a Commission of Inquiry *vis-a-vis* the powers, privileges and immunities of Parliament and its members, particularly in the context of the present case.

(ii) The Committee, thereafter, examined in person Shri Indrajit Gupta, M.P.

(iii) Shri Indrajit Gupta, M.P., in his evidence before the Committee stated that the impugned remarks made by the Counsel, appearing on behalf of the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals, before the Takru Commission, amounted to a breach of privilege as they tended to denigrate and ridicule the recommendations contained in the 66th Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings. The Counsel was speaking before the Takru Commission according to the brief supplied by the Ministry and he was elaborating the arguments contained in the written statement filed by the Ministry before the Takru Commission. His complaint was, therefore, not against the Counsel who had the liberty to elaborate the arguments in his own language, but against the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals who had supplied to the Counsel the brief or statement which contained the following objectionable paragraph which the Counsel was elaborating:

“The PUC Report merely records a feeling that a section of officers slurred over the illegal actions of the guilty officers who were involved in the two contracts. The word ‘feeling’ is significant. PUC has not formed an opinion. The PUC Report has not recommended to

the Government to investigate and enquire into the slurring over by certain officers of Government/IRL/IOC.'

[Paragraph 18 in the Statement of the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals, dated the 30th March, 1972 filed before the Takru Commission]

(iv) In fact, Shri Indrajit Gupta stated before the Committee *inter alia* as follows:—

'My quarrel is not with the Counsel, because, I believe that Counsel was speaking to a particular brief and in doing so, he is entitled, as an Advocate to use certain language and all that. But the basis brief is also available. It is a public document; it is a Written Statement filed before the Takru Commission as the reply of the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals....

I am not concerned with what Mr. Dadachanji said. He has got that much liberty to elaborate the arguments and use such expression. But, what was the argument which he was elaborating? The argument was contained in the brief given to him by the Ministry.... My quarrel is not with his argument but with the attitude of the Ministry towards the Committee on Public Undertakings.'

(v) After discussing the matter with Speaker, the Committee requested the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals to appear before the Committee and to apprise the Committee of his views in the matter. Shri Dev Kanta Borooah, the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals accordingly appeared before the Committee on the 13th March, 1973 and made the following statement:—

'I have gone through the papers of this case. I have no hesitation in saying that the following paragraph contained in the Statement of the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals dated the 30th March, 1972, filed before the Pipelines Inquiry Commission (Takru mission) was not properly worded:—

'The PUC Report merely records a feeling that a section of Officers slurred over the illegal actions of the guilty Officers who were involved into the two contracts. The word 'feeling' is significant. PUC has not formed an opinion, the PUC Report has not recommended to the Government to investigate and enquire into the slurring over by certain officers of Government/IRL/IOC'.

I offer my sincere apology to the Committee of Privileges and the House for the inadvertent use of the

words in the above paragraph based on incorrect appreciation of the findings of the Committee, which are not in consonance with the dignity of a Parliamentary Committee. There was no intention either to belittle the Committee on Public Undertakings or its recommendations contained in the 66th Report (4th Lok Sabha) of that Committee or to cast any aspersions on the Committee.

I hope the Committee will accept my apology on behalf of my Ministry and agree to close the matter.'

(vi) The Committee appreciate the readiness with which Shri Dev Kanta Borooah, the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals, conceded that the impugned paragraph in the Statement filed before the Takru Commission by the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals was based on incorrect appreciation of the findings of the Committee on Public Undertakings.

(vii) In view of the explanation and the sincere apology tendered by the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals on behalf of his Ministry, the Committee are of the opinion that the matter does not require any further action by the House and may be dropped.

(viii) The Committee recommend that no further action be taken by the House in the matter and it may be dropped."

No further action was thereupon taken by the House in the matter.

(vi) Alleged reflections on the Deputy Speaker by a newspaper

On June 23, 1971, Shri Era Sezhiyan, a member raised⁶ a question of privilege against the Editor, Printer and Publisher of the *U Kyrwoh Ka Rilum*, a Khasi language news weekly of Shillong, for publishing⁷ in its issue dated the 12th June, 1971, the following news item:

Rs. 750|- per month for Refugees Chairman

It is learnt that Mr. G. G. Swell has been appointed Chairman of Bangla Desh Refugees on a salary of Rs. 750 per month. Friends, how do you feel about it? It is because of this that the A.P.H.L.C. world is now quiet? This is the real patriot, is he not?"

Shri Era Sezhiyan contended that it was a false and defamatory imputation and cast a reflection on the office of the Deputy Speaker

⁶L.S. Deb., June 6, 1971, cc. 143—45.

⁷Original in Khasi.

of Lok Sabha and brought it in disrepute and, therefore, constituted a breach of privilege and contempt of the House.

After some discussion, the Speaker, Dr. G. S. Dhillon, observed* :—

“I will refer this to the Editor of the paper. After I receive the reply, I will consult Mr. Sezhiyan and the Deputy Speaker. If they are satisfied, I will drop it. Otherwise, this will go to the Privileges Committee.”

On August 5, 1971, the Speaker informed the House *inter alia* as follows:—

“In reply to a letter sent to the Editor of the said newspaper, Shri U. LL. D. Basan, describing himself as the ex-Editor of the said newspaper, stated that he had resigned as the Editor, Printer and Publisher of the paper since 22nd June, 1971 due to ill-health. He added *inter alia* as follows:—

‘...the news item was really a letter to the Editor from G. M. Lyngdoh dated 10th June, 1971 and the letter was published as a news item instead of a letter to the Editor....’

...It is not my intention to ridicule or speak contemptuously against the dignity of the House of the People or of the office of the Deputy Speaker. I am very sorry, I caused pains to the Hon'ble Member of the House of the People.

I am sorry also I hurt the feelings of Prof. G. G. Swelll and apologise for the same as well as the delay in sending my reply.

In the above circumstances, I fervently appeal and pray that the hon. Speaker may be pleased to drop the matter and for which act of kindness, I shall remain ever grateful.’

A letter was addressed to Shri Basan on 20th July, 1971, to have his contradiction and regret in respect of the impugned news item published prominently in the next issue of the U Kyrowh Ka Rilum and to send a copy thereof for my information. Another letter was addressed to Shri G. M. Lyngdoh, the alleged author of the impugned news letter C/o Shri Basan, asking him to submit by 31st July, 1971, for my consideration what he might have to say in the matter.

No reply, has, however, so far been received from either of them.

In the circumstances, if the House agrees, the matter may be referred to the Committee of Privileges.”

The Committee of Privileges, in their Second Report presented to the House on August 6, 1973, reported *inter alia* as follows:—

“The Committee decided to give an opportunity to Shri U. LL. D. Basan, ex-Editor of the *U Kyrwoh Ka Rilum*, Shillong, and Shri C. M. Lyngdoh, the alleged author of the impugned news letter, to appear before the Committee to have their say in the matter.

(ii) Since Shri U. LL. D. Basan, had in his letter, dated the 13th July, 1971, stated *inter alia* that he had resigned as the Editor, Printer and Publisher of the *U Kyrwoh Ka Rilum*, from the 2nd June, 1971, on account of his ill-health, an enquiry was made from the Government of Meghalaya. The Government of Meghalaya in their reply dated the 7th October, 1971, stated that one Shri S. R. Mokasha, Member, District Council, Jaiaw Pdeng, Shillong, had taken over as the new Editor, Printer and Publisher of the *U Kyrwoh Ka Rilum* and that approximately one thousand copies only of the said newspaper were circulated which indicated a below average popularity of that weekly newspaper.

(iii) Shri U. LL. D. Basan, in his letter dated the 8th September, 1971, stated that in spite of his best efforts he had not been able to trace Shri C. M. Lyngdoh and that he himself was unable to appear before the Committee due to his poor health and lack of financial resources to come to Delhi. He had further stated that he had published prominently his earlier letter, dated the 13th July, 1971, containing his contradiction and regret, in another Khasi language newspaper *Ka Pyrta U Riewlum*, dated the 25th July, 1971. He requested the Committee to accept his apology.

(iv) Subsequently, the Civil Surgeon, Shillong, who examined Shri U. LL. D. Basan at the instance of the Committee, stated in his medical certificate that Shri Basan could travel to Delhi by Railway journey only with difficulty and with escort and that even if Shri Basan travelled by Air, an escort would be advisable.

The Committee felt that in view of Shri Basan's poor health, it was not necessary to enforce his attendance before the Committee.

(v) The Committee considered a suggestion that as Shri U. LL. D. Basan had not got his letter, dated the 13th July, 1971, containing his apology, published in the *U Kyrwoh Ka Rilum* and as he was no more its Editor, Printer and Publisher, the present Editor of *U Kyrwoh Ka Rilum* might be

asked to publish Shri U. LL. D. Basan's said letter of apology in that newspaper.

The Committee, however, observe that the new Editor, Printer and Publisher of the *U Kyrwoh Ka Rilum* cannot be held responsible for the publication of the impugned news report by the former Editor, Printer and Publisher, Shri U. LL. D. Basan, and that the new Editor, Printer and Publisher cannot be compelled to publish in his newspaper the letter of apology of Shri U. LL. D. Basan in respect of the impugned news report. The opinion of the Ministry of Law and Justice on the matter is also the same.

(vi) As the letter of apology, dated the 13th July, 1971, written by Shri U. LL. D. Basan, to the Speaker, Lok Sabha, was published in the *Ka Pyrta U Riewlum*, Khasi newspaper of Shillong, dated the 25th July, 1971, without Shri Basan's signature underneath (although his name was mentioned in the caption and introduction thereto), the Committee desired Shri Basan to republish his aforesaid letter in the *U Kyrwoh Ka Rilum* or any other newspaper of Shillong under his signature.

Shri U. LL. D. Basan in his letter dated the 21st March, 1973, to the Committee stated *inter alia* that he had tried his best to get a press for printing all relevant papers in connection with the case, but without success.

(vii) The Committee observe that Shri U. LL. D. Basan has apologised for publishing the impugned news item in his newspaper and has also published his letter of apology in a Khasi newspaper *Ka Pyrta U Riewlum* of Shillong. The Committee also note that Shri Basan has made efforts to get a press for printing the relevant papers, including his letter of apology, but his efforts have not been successful.

(viii) Taking into account all the circumstances of the case and also the apology tendered by Shri U. LL. D. Basan, the Committee feel that no further action need be taken in the matter.

The Committee recommend that the matter be dropped".

No further action was thereupon taken by the House in the matter.

RAJYA SABHA

Making of an important announcement by Government outside the House when it was in Session

On March 4, 1974, Shri Lal K. Advani, a member, raised the point that the Government had made an important announcement

regarding increase in the prices of petroleum products outside the House while the House was in session. Shri Advani contended that it was an established practice that when the House was in session, all important decisions taken by Government should be announced first in the House. He further stated that by making the said announcement, the Government had acted in a *mala fide* manner and had tried to bypass the House and had shown discourtesy to the House.

The Chairman, Shri G. S. Pathak, informed the House *inter alia* as follows:—

“...First I received a letter from Shri Borocah informing me that the Government has arrived at a decision regarding the raising of the price of petrol. In that letter he said that he wanted to make a statement in the House. But 2nd and 3rd were holidays and therefore he could not make the statement and he might be permitted to make a statement on Monday. That permission I gave him. He is making a statement in the House in accordance with the permission.

Now, so far as any alleged default on his part is concerned, I may inform the House that I am taking the view that he is not in default because as soon as the Government arrived at a decision, he informed me as the Chairman of this House. The House was not sitting at that time and there were two holidays and today he is making the statement.”

After some discussion on the matter, the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals, Shri D. K. Borooah, stated *inter alia* as follows:—

“In this case, the question is how was it announced? It was not really announced. It was implemented. With your permission, I may read out from a note which we had prepared in answer to what Mr. Advani has raised, that there was, if not a legal contempt, but certainly a constructive contempt of the House. I may tell you that such a thing was farthest from my mind. I have had long innings in parliamentary procedure including for a period as a Speaker. Therefore, I would have been the last person to do such a thing. The point which has been raised is something different. It is an administrative point of view. It is an administrative matter which has to be looked from that point of view.

It is likely that the hon. Members will raise the question of revision of prices and try to establish that a contempt of Parliament has been committed. Notices to this effect

have already been received. There is indeed a well established and a very appropriate convention that decisions on major Government matters of policy should be announced in Parliament when it is in session rather than in the ordinary course. However, for compelling reasons of raising the price of petroleum the decisions had to be taken after fullest deliberation and in utmost secrecy. Past experience has shown that any leakage of the revisions would result in a massive run on stocks leading even to law and order problems at the retail outlets. As it has been the expectation that the oil prices would be revised with the Budget, there have been persistent reports of widespread stocking or hoarding of petroleum products. If the matter were to be handled by making an announcement in Parliament, even a few minutes before normal closing time, namely 6 P.M., the prices would have to be enforced from midnight and in a relatively short period of five hours."

The matter was thereafter closed.

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Display of a toy gun in the House

On September 19, 1973, Shri K. Lingappa, a member, displayed a toy gun in the House and stated that he was presenting it to the Chief Minister as a symbol of police firings in the State on unarmed people. On objection being taken by the Deputy Speaker, who was then in the Chair, the member explained that he had no intention to show any disrespect to the House and tendered his apology.

On September 20, 1973, the Speaker, Shrimati K. S. Nagarathamma, observed as follows:—

"... The Chamber of the House is not meant for such demonstration or exhibition of articles by the members. In this connection, I may invite reference to a ruling given in the House of Commons, on the 9th April, 1952, when the the Speaker held that according to usage, it was out of order for hon. members to bring into the Chamber articles like weapons, sticks, umbrellas and despatch cases.

If a member is subject to any physical infirmity, he will be permitted to bring a walking stick.

As the hon. member has regretted for the incident yesterday, I do not propose to pursue the matter. However, I would like to impress upon the hon. members that with a view to maintain the decorum and dignity of the House and to prevent any untoward incidents, hon. members may avoid bringing into the House such articles and make any demonstrations in future."

RAJASTHAN VIDHAN SABHA

(i) *Shouting of slogans and throwing of papers from the Visitors' Gallery on the Floor of the House*

On November 7, 1973, at about 3.33 P.M., one Shri Kedarnath Parikh, shouted slogans and threw papers from the Visitors' Gallery on the Floor of the House. He was immediately taken into custody by the Watch and Ward Staff. Later in the day, the Speaker, Shri Ram Kishore Vyas, *inter alia*, observed:—

"I called Shri Kedarnath to my Chamber and enquired from him about it. He stated that about a year and half back a theft was committed in his house but the Police had neither recovered the stolen goods nor made any investigation into the matter. He has committed this act with a view to draw the attention of the House to his difficulties. Otherwise, it was not his intention to commit a contempt of the House. He only wanted to draw the attention of the House to his difficulties. He is sorry for his act and he has also apologised for the same. Now, the House may decide as it thinks fit."⁹

The Chief Minister, Shri Harideo Joshi, then suggested that the concerned person might be set free in view of the apology tendered by him. This was accepted by the House and the offender was set free.

(ii) *Shouting of slogans and throwing of a chappal from the Visitors' Gallery on the Floor of the House*

On October 3, 1973, at about 3.15 P.M. one person calling himself Chairanjib Sagar, shouted slogans and threw a *chappal* from the Visitors' Gallery on the Floor of the House. He was immediately taken into custody by the Watch and Ward Staff. Later in the day, the Speaker, Shri Ram Kishore Vyas, informed¹⁰ the House *inter alia* as follows:—

"I have to inform the House that today at 3.15 P.M. while the House was sitting, one person calling himself Shri Chiranjib Sagar, son of Shri Sujarata Berwa, resident of Jaipur, shouted slogans and threw chappal from the Visitors' Gallery on the Floor of the House."

⁹Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Debates, November 7, 1973. (Original in Hindi).

¹⁰Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Debates, October 3, 1973 (Original in Hindi).

The House then adopted a motion moved by the Chief Whip Shri Khet Singh which said that the shouting of slogan and throwing of *chappal* by Shri Chiranjib Sagar had obstructed the proceedings of the House and a grave contempt of the House had been committed and the dignity of the House had been lowered. The House further resolved that the said Shri Chiranjib Sagar be sentenced to two days' simple imprisonment and he be sent to Central Jail, Jaipur.

In pursuance of this decision of the House, the Speaker issued a warrant of commitment addressed to the Superintendent, Central Jail Jaipur to take into custody the said Chiranjib Sagar and to keep him safely in the Central Jail, Jaipur, for two days. He was classified as 'B' class convict.

HOUSE OF COMMONS (U.K.)

(i) *Alleged misleading statement made by Minister in the House*

On June 29, 1972, Miss Devlin a member, sought to raise¹¹ a question of privilege against the Minister of State for Defence (Lord Balniel) for making an allegedly misleading statement in the House on June 22, 1972 regarding settlement of certain claims for compensation received from the relatives of those killed in Derry. Miss Devlin said that the Minister of State for Defence had *inter alia* stated in the House that negotiations were taking place in the matter, which according to the telegram and letters received by her from the legal representatives of the families concerned, was not correct, as proceedings had already been started against his Department to settle those claims and an appearance had also been entered into for the Department on June 22, 1972 itself. According to Miss Devlin, the Minister must have been aware of that fact while making the impugned statement in the House, and he had, therefore, either misled the House or he was acting out of culpable ignorance not in keeping with his position. She added that the Minister was either a fool or a liar.

The Speaker Sir Selwyn Lloyd, asked Miss Devlin to bring to the Table the letters and documents, which was done. He then

¹¹H.C. (1971-72) Vol. 839, cc. 1696—98.

reserved his ruling till the next day. On June 30, 1972, the Speaker, disallowed the question of privilege and ruled¹² *inter alia* as follows:

"Yesterday the hon. Member for Mid-Ulster (Miss Devlin) made a complaint of breach of privilege arising from certain correspondence affecting the Ministry of Defence and referring particularly to statements in the House by the right hon. Member for Hertford (Lord Balniel). It is not for me to pronounce on the complaint raised by the hon. Lady. My duty is only to rule whether in my view the hon. Lady's complaint should be given precedence as a privilege issue over today's business. In my opinion, having taken account of the statements and the letters on which she founds her complaint, I do not think the matter can be given that priority now."

(ii) *Publication of findings of Committee of privileges before printed copies of its Report were available to Members of the House*

On June 22, 1972, Mr. Hugh Fraser, member, sought to raise¹³ a question of privilege regarding an article published by the *Daily Mail* in its issue dated the 22nd June, 1972, purporting to report the findings of the Select Committee of Privileges contained in their Third Report.¹⁴ Mr. Fraser stated that the said report of the Committee had neither been typed as a document nor printed till the 21st June, 1972. It was, therefore, a gross discourteous and vicious breach of confidence by some member of the House.

Mr. C. Pannell, another member, drew the attention of the Chair to the fact that it was reported in the Votes and Proceedings of the House dated the 20th June, 1972, that the Leader of the House had reported from the Committee of Privileges on the matter. He stated that such reference in the Votes and Proceedings caused confusion in the minds of the Press that it had a right to use something which had appeared in the Order Paper. Therefore, the Speaker, at the end of every day, might indicate to the Press about the exact point at which it could publish the proceedings, etc. without fear of consequences. The Speaker, Sir Selwyn Lloyd, reserved his ruling till the next day.

On June 23, 1972, the Speaker disallowed¹⁵ the question of privilege and ruled as follows:

"Yesterday the right hon. Member for Stafford and Stone (Mr. Hugh Fraser) drew attention to an article in

¹²*Ibid.*, c. 1949.

¹³H. C. Deb., (1971-72), Vol. 839, cc. 731-33.

¹⁴H. C. (1971-72) 324.

¹⁵H. C. (1971-72), Vol. 839, c. 889.

yesterday's *Daily Mail* which purported to state the findings of the Select Committee of Privileges made to the House on Tuesday evening, 20th June.

The House knows that any publication of a draft report before the report has been agreed to by a Committee and presented to the House is treated as a breach of privilege. On the other hand, when the report as in this case, has been presented to the House, although not yet available to hon. Members in a printed form, it is not an offence against the law of privilege to publish the findings of a Select Committee. It is, however, very discourteous to the House when this is done, as my predecessors have frequently said. All I can do on this occasion is to express my displeasure but to state, as my predecessors have ruled, that no question of privilege is involved."

When Mr. Harold Wilson enquired whether, if a statement appeared somewhere purporting to give the findings of a Select Committee in between the period of its mention on the Order Paper and its actual publication, no action could be taken by the House in the matter, the Speaker observed¹⁶, *inter alia* as follows:

"I think that there is great substance in what the right hon. Gentleman has said, but I am bound by the rulings of my predecessors. Even if the report had been made in dummy and reported in the Votes and Proceedings, that would mean that a report had been made to the House and publication would not be a breach of privilege or contempt. But certainly I should be most willing to see that practice altered by the House in some way, because it seems a monstrous discourtesy to the House that this should happen."

(iii) *Right of a citizen to have access to Parliament House*

On May 2, 1972, Mr. A. W. Stallard, a member, sought¹⁷ to raise a point of order regarding an order issued by a Court remanding one Mr. Eric Camp, who was on hunger strike outside the House of Commons, on bail on condition that he would not enter the City of Westminster. Mr. Stallard contended that the said order affected the right of a citizen to have an access to the House. The Speaker, Sir Selwyn Lloyd ruled¹⁸ that it was not a point of order.

¹⁶*Ibid*

¹⁷H.C. (U.K.) Deb., (1971-72) Vol. 836, cc. 204—205.

¹⁸*Ibid*.

Mr. Harold Wilson, another member, thereupon, requested the Speaker to consider and report to the House his views on the constitutional question of an order of a Court preventing a citizen from having an access to the House. The Speaker observed¹⁹ that he would consider the matter and rule upon it, if necessary.

On May 3, 1972, the Speaker ruled²⁰ *inter alia* as follows:—

“...I was asked to consider the question of Mr. Eric Camp and the matter of an order of a Court preventing any citizen from having, in effect, access to this House, Mr. Camp's case is before a court and I have no hesitation, in the general interest and in his particular interest, in invoking the *sub Judice* rule.

As to the validity of a condition imposed by a court when granting bail which in effect, prevents the person charged from having access to this House, and as to interference with what is called the right of access to this House, there is, in my view, no such general right of access. Sessional Orders impose a duty on the Commissioner of Police so far as Members of this House are concerned.

It is obviously sensible and convenient that everyone with any responsibility should do his best to ensure that constituents and others are able to come here to talk to hon. Members. The Services Committee has considered this matter. But, in my view, there is no such right of access, the infringement of which involves privilege. That is my view, firmly held, but I may be wrong, and I would welcome consideration of the matter when convenient, by the appropriate Select Committee.”

19*ibid.*, c. 392.

20*ibid.*

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

LOK SABHA

(i) *Inadmissibility of adjournment Motion*

On April 18, 1974, a member, Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu, gave notice of an adjournment motion regarding the alleged raping of women and girls by the B. S. F. (Border Security Force) personnel in Manipur Hill areas. The notice of adjournment motion was disallowed by the Deputy Speaker who permitted the member to raise the matter under Rule 377 of the Rules of Procedure.¹ After the Member had raised the matter, the Deputy Speaker observed as follows:

"Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu had given notice of an Adjournment Motion on this question. When I looked into it I was convinced that it was a serious subject but not of that magnitude to be brought in as an adjournment motion. Certain heinous things are alleged to have happened, but I decided that it was not really the failure of the Government of India as such but the misdoings of certain individuals who may be employees of the Government of India. Therefore, I decided not to admit the adjournment motion. But I felt that the matter is serious enough and therefore it should be raised in the House. Therefore I decided to admit it under Rule 377."

(ii) *Shouting of slogans from the Visitors' Gallery*

On April 11, 1974, at 14.24 hours, a visitor Shri Ratan Chandra Gupta shouted slogans from the Visitor's Gallery. He was immediately taken into custody by the Watch and Ward Staff and on search of his person, two pistols and an object which looked like a bomb and some leaflets were found. At 16.37 hours, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs informed the House of the facts of the matter and moved the following motion:

*Contributed by Table Office, Lok Sabha Secretariat, For Speaker's ruling regarding laying of the President's Order in regard to the authorisation of expenditure out of the Consolidated Fund of the Union Territory of Pondicherry see note on "The Pondicherry Appropriation (vote on Account) Bill, 1974" under the section "Constitutional and Legal Matters" post.

¹Rule 377 relates to raising a matter which is not a point of order.'

"This House resolves that the person calling himself Ratan Chandra Gupta who shouted slogans from the Visitor's Gallery of the House at 14.24 hours today and whom the Watch and Ward Officer took into custody immediately and on search of whose person two pistols, one object which looks like a bomb and some pamphlets were found, has committed a grave offence and is guilty of the contempt of this House.

This House further resolves that without prejudice to any other action to which he may be liable under the law, Ratan Chandra Gupta be sentenced to rigorous imprisonment till 6 p.m. on the 10th May, 1974, for the aforesaid contempt of the House, and sent to Central Jail, Tihar, New Delhi."

Two amendments to the motion were moved by Sarvashri Madhu Limaye and Samar Guha. The amendment of Shri Limaye was negatived after a division. The amendment of Shri Samar Guha was also negatived. The motion was adopted after a division. Thereafter the visitor was sent to Tihar Jail, Delhi by the Watch and Ward Officer under warrant signed by the Speaker.

On April 15, 1974, a member, Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu, raised a point regarding the motion moved by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and adopted by the House. Alleging irregularity in the procedure he said that the Speaker had never reported the matter to the House and that the Police were doing things which were not quite proper in regard to the criminal offence allegedly committed by Shri Ratan Chandra Gupta. Several other Members also made submissions in this regard. The Deputy Speaker, who was in the Chair, agreed with a member, Shri S. N. Mishra, that the Speaker was in overall charge of the discipline of the House and, therefore, he should be fully seized of the matter. It would be more proper if the Speaker himself informed the House of the incident and, thereafter the motion could be moved by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. The Deputy Speaker then read out a communication from the Watch and Ward Officer, addressed to the Speaker, seeking his permission to send his (Watch and Ward Officer's) report to the police and informed the House that the Speaker had accorded his permission.

(iii) *Discussion of the actions of the State Governor or Speaker*

On April 10, 1974, a member, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpavee, joined by several other members, referred to the adjournment *sine die* and prorogation of the Bihar Legislative Assembly. They contended that it was a case of constitutional crisis in the State and the matter might

be allowed to be discussed in the House. The Speaker, thereupon, observed as follows:—

“The position is like this. The Assembly was adjourned by the Speaker. The relevant question is whether the Speaker, Lok Sabha can decide that it was an improper use of his authority and, therefore, it should be discussed in Lok Sabha. The second question is this. The Governor prorogued the House. Is the Speaker, Lok Sabha, competent enough to judge whether he had any authority to prorogue or not and then say that we can discuss it here? There is no questioning of his authority to prorogue... Everything is done in the name of the Governor. The right of prorogation and summoning is with the Governor. The right of adjourning the House is with the Speaker of the House. I fail to understand where we come in the picture. After all, they are masters of their own procedures... There is a procedure. A report has to be received about constitutional breakdown. It is brought before the House. We cannot do it in this way. I am sorry... I cannot allow any discussion on this subject.”

(iv) *Information on secret or confidential documents*

On March 13, 1974, during clarificatory questions on the Minister's statement on a calling attention notice regarding reported distribution of a private factual report on deepening crisis in Indian economy by the office of the President of the world Bank, the Minister of Finance, Shri Y. B. Chavan, said that the Report which was said to have leaked out, was a confidential report of the World Bank. He could, therefore, neither lay that on the Table of the House nor discuss contents thereof. Several members raised objection. The Speaker, agreeing with the Minister's view and quoting an earlier ruling on the subject given by the former Speaker, Sardar Hukam Singh on February 26, 1965, observed that the Report of the World Bank was confidential and the Minister could not be compelled to give information asked for by the members.

(v) *Important announcements outside the House*

On March 4, 1974, several members made submissions over the Government's announcement on March 1, 1974 regarding price hike in respect of petrol, kerosene, gas and other petroleum products, without informing the House when the Parliament was in session. They showed their resentment and contended that it was a contempt of the House. The Speaker then observed that he had received a letter dated the 1st March, 1974 from the Minister stating that he would like to make a statement on the subject in the House on Monday (March 4, 1974) and he was allowed to do so. The Speaker

enquired from the Minister as to why the House could not be informed when it was sitting on the 1st March. It was improper to take such decisions without informing the House when it was sitting. The Speaker further observed that the Minister had ignored previous observations from the Chair in this regard as also the sentiments of the House.

(vi) *Advising the Speakers of the State Legislatures*

On February 28, 1974, the Speaker had permitted a member, Shri Madhu Limaye to raise under Rule 377 of the Rules of Procedure of Lok Sabha, a matter regarding the reported resignation by certain members of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly. When the item was reached, the member concerned was not present in the House. The Speaker, clarifying his position in the matter, observed as under:

"I just want to make this point clear. I had allowed Shri Madhu Limaye to raise this question about the resignation of certain Members of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly... I thought that when he speaks I would have the opportunity to make the matter clear.

Sometime back I read it in the papers that the Speaker of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly had indicated that he wanted to consult me on certain matters concerning the resignations... Then the Secretary of Congress-O, my old friend Mr. Manubhai Patel met me. He was an hon. member of the last Lok Sabha and an old friend of mine. He met me; he wrote to me. I wrote to him that normally the Speakers met in the Presiding Officers' Conference and they can discuss about the procedures. But so far as this matter of the resignation is concerned, the Speaker of the Gujarat Assembly neither telephoned to me, nor met me. I had been expecting him and I told him that if he met me, I would have advised him on the right lines. But, normally, it is very embarrassing for the Speaker of the Lok Sabha when such things are stated in the Press, as if they are seeking my instructions. I am the last person to issue any instructions on such matters or give any guidance. They are purely within the State Speaker's jurisdiction and the rules are laid down on it; they are very clear rules. And, if he had met me, I would have just invited his attention to the rules. If he had taken any action on the matter, which may not have been pleasing to you, that would have been attributed to me, as to what had transpired between us... I am going to advise our Speakers that on such matters, when the rules are very clear, I should not be involved in that."

(vii) *Dissolution of a State Assembly by the Governor during the President's rule*

On February 9, 1974, the President issued a proclamation under article 356 of the Constitution, assuming to himself all functions of the Government of Gujarat and all powers vested in or exercisable by the Governor of that State. On the same date, he also issued an Order, delegating to the Governor of Gujarat all the powers of the Governor which the President had assumed to himself under the proclamation. Under the proclamation provisions of a number of articles of the Constitution, except that of clause (2) of article 174, were suspended in relation to the State of Gujarat.

On March 18, 1974, the Governor of Gujarat, in exercise of the powers conferred by article 174(2) (b) of the Constitution, issued an Order, dissolving the Gujarat Assembly. On the same day, a member, Shri Phool Chand Verma, raised the matter under Rule 377 of the Rules of Procedure, alleging that the Governor of Gujarat had violated the provision of article 356(2), of the Constitution by dissolving the Gujarat Assembly. In his view a subsequent proclamation should have been issued by the President in that regard.

Later on at 6 p. m., the Minister of Home Affairs, made a statement in the House saying that the President's Order, delegating to the Governor all the powers of the Governor which the President had assumed to himself had already been laid on the Table of the House. The President's Order clearly stated that the powers exercisable by the Governor of Gujarat which had been assumed by the President, shall be exercisable also by the Governor. In view of the President's Order, there was no constitutional or legal infirmity in the Order of the Governor, dissolving the Gujarat Assembly.

STATE LEGISLATURES*

ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

(i) *Delegatoin of Business Standing in the name of Chief Minister to other Ministers*

The Assembly Bulletin No. 1 dated 19th January, 1974 informing the Hon'ble Members that the business in the Legislative Assembly

*Contributed by the Research and Information Service, Lok Sabha Secretariat on the basis of the material received from the Secretariats of the State Legislatures.

standing in the name of the Chief Minister will be attended to by the Ministers given in the Bulletin in respect of the subjects noted against each during the current sitting of the Assembly was circulated to members of the Assembly on January 21, 1974. Shri C. V. K. Rao, a member, called the attention of the Speaker that this practice of delegating the business standing in the name of Chief Minister to other Ministers should be done away with. He requested the Speaker to examine the matter and give his considered opinion. The Speaker gave the following ruling on January 23, 1974.

“Article 164(3) of the Constitution provides that the Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly of the State.

In the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly ‘Member in-charge of a Bill’ means in the case of Government Bill, the Minister introducing the Bill or any other Minister on his behalf. Thus it is made clear that any Minister can pilot the Bill even though the Bill was introduced by some other Minister. Likewise any Minister can lay papers on the Table of the House on behalf of another Minister, of course with the consent of Hon’ble Speaker. There have been precedents also where even questions of Ministers are answered by other Ministers after taking permission from Hon’ble Speaker. Previously, there have been precedents according to which the Chief Minister had delegated the business standing in his name to other Ministers with the permission of Hon’ble Speaker.

In the *Practice and Procedure of Parliament* by Kaul and Shakhder at page 802 it is mentioned that ‘whenever a Minister goes out of Delhi on official business or otherwise, he is required to inform the Speaker in advance and intimate to him the arrangements made by him to attend to his business in the House during his absence. A Minister need not be present in the House when a Minister of State or a Deputy Minister attached to his Ministry is present in the House to answer for him’.

It may be mentioned here that the Chief Minister is the Leader of the Majority Party in the Assembly and usually functions as Leader of the House in the Assembly. As regards the duties and functions of the Leader of the House, the Page Committee observed:—

‘He should be present in the House for most of the time and during the Question Hour and thereafter, at the beginning of the normal business of the House.

His foremost duty is to assist the Speaker in the conduct of the business. He should be at all times prepared to intervene in the discussions, respond to the demands of the Opposition in the matter of giving opportunity for debate, fixing time and dates for discussion, control unruly behaviour of members and help the Speaker in arriving at decisions in regard to matters before the House. If the Leader of the House is unavoidably absent or otherwise busy, he should nominate a Deputy Leader who should in the absence of the Leader of the House perform the above functions at any time. Thus either the Leader or the Deputy Leader should be present in the House."

Thus it is quite clear that only in unavoidable circumstances the business standing in the name of the Minister or Chief Minister may be transferred to other Ministers but it should not be made a regular practice. Though there have been precedents of delegating the business standing in the name of the Minister or Chief Minister to other Ministers, I feel that it would be better to avoid it generally and such a delegation of business should be done only under special circumstances."

(ii) *President's assent to State Bills*

When the Andhra Pradesh Land Reforms (Ceiling on Agricultural Holdings) Amendment Bill, 1974 was taken up for consideration on January 31, 1974, Shri Nallapareddi Srinivasul Reddi a member, raised a point of order stating that the assent of the President given to the Andhra Pradesh Land Reforms (Ceiling on Agricultural Holdings) Bill, 1972 was subject to certain amendments to be brought by the State Government in the said Bill. He also suggested that the Government had brought in only some amendments to the Bill but not all; in case all the suggested amendments were not brought, whether there was any possibility of the President not giving assent to the whole enactment and whether the President had got any power to give such directions to the Legislature. The Speaker gave the following ruling in the matter on February 1, 1974:

"I have gone through the proceedings carefully, I have also gone through the entire file relating to the Andhra Pradesh Land Reforms (Ceiling on Agricultural Holdings) Bill, 1972. The concerned Bill was passed by the Andhra Pradesh State Legislature by September, 1972 and was reserved for the consideration and assent of the President by the Governor on 19th September, 1972, and the President gave his assent to the Bill on 1st January, 1973 with the following endorsement. 'I ASSENT TO THE BILL'. With

the assent and publication of the Bill in the Official Gazette, the Bill has become an Act of the Legislature.

The Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs intimated through their letter dated 2nd January, 1973 to the Secretary, Legislature, that the accord of sanction by the President to the Bill was being given subject to certain amendments to be made by the State Government.

Under Article 201 of the Constitution, either assent to the Bill may be given or the Bill may be returned with certain recommendations for consideration by the Legislature. In the present case, the Bill was assented to by the President and it had become an Act of Legislature on publication in the Andhra Pradesh Gazette. The recommendations might be viewed only as advisory in nature. The amendments recommended in the Government of India's letter are matters for consideration by the Legislature. Hence, it is for consideration for the Legislature either to agree to the amendments now proposed or reject them."

MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Lt. Governor's Address to the Assembly

Since the Lt. Governor (Administrator) was unable to address the House in person due to this confinement in a Hospital at Calcutta, the Speaker, as ordered by the President of India under Section 56 of "The Government of Union Territories Act, 1963" read out the Address after a copy was handed over to him by the Secretary to the Lt. Governor.

RAJASTHAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Continuation of a discussion from previous session

On April 3, 1974, a point of order was raised when discussion on a private member resolution discussed in the previous session and not decided was resumed. The objection was that the resolution discussed in a session cannot be taken up for discussion in the ensuing session unless a fresh notice of the resolution is given and priority is decided by ballot. The member raising the point of order also cited rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of business in the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker observed "that rule 257, fresh notice for a resolution which is under consideration of the House is not required. Rule 27 is not relevant in this case and under rule 26 a resolution which is under discussion at the end of a day shall be set down

for the next day allotted for business of that class. The question of deciding priority by ballot does not arise in such cases." The point of order was rejected.

TRIPURA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

(i) *Consideration of Bills without being published in the Gazettee*

On March 22, 1974 when the Finance Minister moved the motion for consideration of the Tripura Land Revenue and Land Reforms (Second Amendment) Bill, 1974, Shri N. Chakraborty, Leader of the Opposition opposed the motion raising a point of order that the Bill could not be taken up for consideration until and unless it was published in the Gazette after introduction. The Speaker, giving the following ruling, rule out the point of order.

"As per rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Tripura Legislative Assembly, a Bill is to be sent as soon as may be after its introduction in the House for publication in the Gazette. This had been complied with on the 15th March, 1974. Rule 116 states that after the Bill is introduced or on subsequent occasion motion for consideration may be moved. Similarly, a member can also move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee or circulated for purpose of eliciting opinion thereon. Only bar to move this above motion is that the member should receive copies of the Bill, 5 days before such motions are made. In this connection member's attention is drawn to proviso under rule 116. Bills have already been circulated to members on 15th March, 1974. Therefore I rule that there is no objection to the motion being moved and the opinion of the House taken thereon today. Here I would like to draw the attention of the Minister in-charge of the Press to issue suitable instruction to the Press Superintendent to comply with the requests sent by the Assembly Secretariat for publication, printing etc. promptly. In case of failure I hope the Minister concerned will take suitable action against those who are responsible for non-compliance of such orders."

(ii) *Laying of Papers*

During the Question Hour, on March 25, 1974 Shri N. Chakraborty, Leader of the Opposition requested the Chief Minister to lay on the Table of the House the letter of the West Bengal Government referred to by him in connection with the reply to a

question. The Chief Minister refused to lay the same on the ground of public interest and security. Then Shri Chakraborty requested the Speaker to call for the file and satisfy himself, if the gist of the letter stated by the Chief Minister was substantially correct. On the next day the Speaker informed the House that he had examined the file made available to him by the Chief Minister and the gist of the letter stated by the Chief Minister was substantially correct. The Speaker further ruled that the Minister may claim privilege not to lay any paper on the ground of public interest and security.

(iii) *Discussion on Demands for Grants*

On April 4, 1974 during discussion on the Demands for Grants for 1974-75, Shri T. M. Dasgupta, a member of the ruling party raised a point of order regarding grouping of Demands for Grants in the List of Business and repetition of the same major Heads in various Demands. The Speaker in his ruling on the point of order stated that the Demands for Grants had been bracketed according to the portfolios of each Minister and repetition of the Major Heads was due to re-arrangement of the proforma of placing of the Budget which had been done under the provisions of article 150 of the Constitution.

(iv) *Functions and authority of the Secretary to the Assembly*

On April 2, 1974, the Speaker gave the following ruling:—

“Recently I have noticed a tendency of some of the Members questioning the functions and authority of the Secretary of the Assembly. Here I would like to give in brief the position and the function of the Secretaries of Assemblies. Secretary is responsible for the efficient and proper working of the House. He acts under the authority and in the name of the Speaker. Secretary is the person who can advise the Speaker regarding interpretation of rules and also precedents and previous rulings of parliamentary authorities etc. His functions are broadly classified in two categories—parliamentary and administrative. In functioning in parliamentary character, Secretary occupies a seat below the dais of the Speaker in the Chamber of the House in order to be constantly available for consultations. During discussion in the House new facts emerge and new information comes forth. In the light of such circumstances it is the duty of the Secretary to immediately advise the Presiding Officer regarding what rules would be attracted so that Speaker may give prompt ruling.

Besides this, Secretary's advice is available to all members who seek any clarification and interpretation of rules of procedure and parliamentary convention etc. He, however, never volunteers advice unless sought for. Secretary's parliamentary duties are laid down in the rules but many others are performed by practice and convention. He is also responsible for arrangement of Government Business in such order as the Speaker may determine and preparation of List of Business etc. In his capacity as Secretary of the House he enjoys certain privileges. If anybody obstructs him in execution of his duties, it amounts to contempt of the House.

Lastly, members may please take note that the Secretary is answerable only to the Speaker and his actions cannot be discussed either inside or outside the House.

In view of above position, I expect the members to allow us to follow the above parliamentary practice."

(v) *No-confidence motion—Acceptance, Rejection or Withdrawal are within the jurisdiction of the House*

On March 29, the Speaker gave the following ruling:

"To-day in the list of business, a motion expressing No-confidence in the Council of Ministers has been shown which the House is to dispose of. The House on 27th March, 1974 granted leave for disposal of the motion. According to Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Tripura Legislative Assembly as well as in the Lok Sabha, on the appointed day for discussion, the Speaker is either to put the question or he may also allow discussion on the motion. I am sorry that the Members of the Opposition including their Leader are not present in the House, to exercise their rights to take part in the debate. I may express my sorrow and regret at the state of affairs but I cannot interfere in the jurisdiction of the House. The House granted leave to the motion of No-Confidence in the Council of Ministers and accordingly the motion has been the property of the House and now the House is to dispose either by accepting or by rejecting; it is to be determined by the House.

The other question which comes is as to its withdrawal. But as the leaves was granted by the House, the question of withdrawal also rests with the House. I think the House may decide on this question. If the House does not agree

with the withdrawal, the motion must be proceeded with according to parliamentary practices."

(vi) *Refusal of consent to Censure Motion*

On April 1, 1974, the Speaker gave the following ruling:—

"I have not given consent to the Censure Motion of Shri Nripendra Chakraborty on the ground that Censure Motion expressing no-confidence against the Council of Ministers headed by Shri Sukhamoy Sengupta and the Motion expressing No-confidence in the Council of Ministers headed by Shri Sukhamoy Sengupta are identical. Both the motions, if accepted by the House have the same effect. According to May's *Parliamentary Practice*, under caption "Matters already decided in the same Session" cannot be raised again in the House. (Vide p. 396, 17th Edition). No-confidence motion on the other day was negatived by the House and as such the Motion for censure of the Council of Ministers headed by Shri Sengupta has not been allowed. Besides, the Motion given notice of by Shri Nripendra Chakraborty contravenes Rule 93 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Tripura Legislature Assembly."

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

THE PONDICHERY APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL, 1974*

Making a statement in Lok Sabha regarding "dissolution of the Legislative Assembly of Pondicherry", on March 28, 1974, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha said that at the last general elections to the Legislative Assembly of Pondicherry, Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam secured the largest number of seats and formed the Government with the support of the CPI members. When the Vote-on-Account for the year 1974-75 was taken up in the Assembly on March 27, 1974, the motion was defeated by 15 votes against 14 in favour. The Chief Minister submitted the resignation of his Ministry. While recommending acceptance of the resignation tendered by the Chief Minister, the Lt. Governor reported that there was no possibility of a stable alternative Government being formed in the Union Territory. He, therefore, suggested suspension of the provisions relating to the Assembly and the Council of Ministers and also dissolution of the Assembly.

On March 28, 1974, the President issued an Order** under the provisions of the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 imposing President's rule in the Union Territory of Pondicherry and suspending the Legislative Assembly. Since, before its dissolution the Assembly had not passed the Vote-on-Account for the year 1974-75, another President's Order authorising withdrawal of Rs. 5 crores from the Consolidated Fund of Pondicherry was issued on March 29, 1974.

On April 2, 1974, when the item regarding laying a copy of Notification No. S.O. 22(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th March, 1974, containing the President's Order in reagr to the authorisation of expenditure out of the Consolidated Fund of the

*Contributed by the Research and Information Service, Lok Sabha Secretariat.

**Notification No. S.O. 217(E) dated March 28th, 1974, published in Gazette of India Part II Section 3(ii).

Union Territory of Pondicherry on the Table of the House by the Minister of State for Finance was reached in the Lok Sabha, Shri Era Sezhiyan and several other members made submissions regarding the constitutionality and legality of President's Order contained in the Government's notification sought to be laid on the Table. The Minister of Law stated that he would reply to points raised by the members the next day. The Speaker then observed that he would not allow the notification to be laid on the Table before hearing the Minister of Law.

Replying to the points raised by members on the subject on the previous day the Minister of Law, Shri H. R. Gokhale said on April 3, 1974:

"The situation with which we were concerned was both unprecedented and somewhat peculiar. We had to act in a legal way and in a proper way. Hon. Members will remember that President's rule was invoked in Pondicherry on 28th March, 1974 and the Assembly was dissolved. They were to pass the Vote on Account but they did not, as a result of which the Government fell. The budget and financial statement was forwarded by that Government to the Central Government on the 29th. It reached here sometime in the forenoon of 29th when Parliament was in session. The following of the procedure which is incumbent for laying financial matters before the House was practically impossible on the same day, because it is not a question of merely bringing a Bill for vote on account. We have to place the financial statement before the House, bring the full budget and for a shorter duration bring a vote on account Bill also in the form of an Appropriation Bill which is to be passed by Parliament. 29th March was the last working day for Parliament in March as Parliament was not sitting on 30th and 31st March and 1st April. So, if the vote on account had to be passed by the House, it had to be passed on the 29th, which for reasons I mentioned just now, was not practicable at all. When it was forwarded from there, it is not as if we accept mechanically all the proposals which had been made by the Union Territory for incorporation in the financial statement to be laid before the House. The proposals have to be scrutinised and a proper financial statement has to be prepared and a full budget has to be laid before the House, and for the interim period, in order that expenditure from the Consolidated Fund may be incurred, a vote on account Bill has to be placed before the House. Doing it on the 29th would have meant printing of at least 1600 copies if both Houses were in session. If only one House was in session, it would have meant printing of at least 600 copies for distribution among the

members, which was a physical impossibility on the 29th. But before the 31st, action had to be taken to see that the administration of the Union Territory does not come to a standstill".

The Minister said that the facts relating to Orissa could not be comparable at all with the facts prevailing in the present situation. In Orissa the situation had arisen as early as on the 23rd February, or at any rate on the 25th February, 1961, that is quite some weeks before the financial year came to an end on the 31st March, 1961. So, it was proper and right that the Ordinance was considered to be a wrong step to be taken at that time, and Government decided the matter to be brought before the House, which was in session, and it was passed by the House. As there was enough time, the Rajya Sabha was summoned and the proper procedure was followed in getting the business passed by the Rajya Sabha on the 30th March, 1961. But in the case of Pondicherry the practical difficulties were so insurmountable that on the 29th the Parliament could not have passed the Appropriation Bill in any case. Even from the legal action taken by Government it was very clear that there was no intention to by-pass Parliament. This point was clear from the Proclamation itself.

Article 239(a) of the Constitution provided that, when Parliament passed a law in respect of the governance or administration of a Union Territory, that law, even though it might contain provisions that were inconsistent or repugnant to other provisions of the Constitution, would not be regarded as an amendment and it would not be attached on the ground that it was unconstitutional. The Union Territories Act, for all legal and practical purposes, was the constitution which governed the administration of a Union Territory.

Under section 51 of the Union Territories Act, the President had been given the power to suspend the operation of all or any of the provisions of the Act for such period as he thought fit and to make such incidental and consequential provisions as might appear to him to be necessary or expedient for administering the Union Territory in accordance with the provisions of article 239.

By virtue of this power, the President had in fact suspended some provisions of the Act in his Proclamation. It was important that there was never any intention to by-pass the Parliament because the President in his Proclamation did say that whenever

there was any reference made to the Union Territory legislature that reference would mean a reference to Parliament.

Section 29 of the Union Territories Act dealt with financial matters. This section was quite in conformity with the idea that the Parliament would not be by-passed. Section 29 was not suspended. The idea was that the Parliament should exercise the financial powers in place of the legislature of the Union Territory.

The Minister added that granting of powers to the President for appropriation of monies was not unusual so far as the scheme of the Act was concerned. But the other provisions of the Act, of course, referred to section 51 and to section 56 also. Now, section 56 was specifically meant for a situation which had actually arisen on this occasion. Section 56 said that for removal of difficulties, the President could exercise the power. The President could do anything to remove a difficulty for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act. The President exercised his power to remove the difficulty, which was unprecedented and of a special type. This power was given to the President under section 29 read with sections 51 and 56.

He further said that the action taken by the President was perfectly legal and fully justified under the circumstances of the case. What Government had done was not only correct under the circumstances, but was also legal and constitutional. The President's Order itself took into account the fact that Parliament had to deal with this matter. It said, 'Pending the sanction by Parliament'. That is to say, this was only an interim order for removal of difficulties and not to by-pass Parliament.

Several members, then, expressed their views on the statement of the Minister of Law and contended that the Order of the President was unconstitutional and illegal and the paper sought to be laid by the Government might not be allowed to be laid on the Table of the House. The Speaker, thereupon, observed that after hearing the members, as also the Minister of Law, he was of the view that the financial procedures were purely within the jurisdiction of Parliament. In case there was some lapse or omission, as contended by the members, he would not allow the paper to be laid on the Table for the present. The Speaker further observed that to find a way out, he would call a meeting of the Leaders of Parties in which the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Law would also participate.

Accordingly, the Speaker convened a meeting with Leaders of Parties and Groups which was held on April 5, 1974. The Minister of Finance, Shri Y. B. Chavan, and the Minister of Law, Shri H. R. Gokhale, also attended that meeting. The matter was discussed in the meeting at length, but no decision was taken.

On April 11, 1974 the item regarding laying of the Notification was again included in the List of Business for that day. When the item was reached, several members raised objections contending that the Order of the President was unconstitutional and illegal. It was also pointed out that the legality of the document had been challenged and was pending before the Madras High Court. When the matter was *sub-judice*, a paper relating thereto could not be allowed to be laid on the Table.

Ruling out the objections raised by the members, the Speaker observed that it had always been the practice that the Speaker did not give his pronouncement about the legality or the constitutionality of the case. When papers were laid on the Table, it was not for him to determine whether they were legal or not. Regarding the matter being *sub-judice*, he had seen relevant provisions in the books on procedure. The matter had also been referred by the Presiding Officers to a Committee known as the Page Committee. The Committee after careful examination of the matter held that where a legislation had to be brought the rule of *sub-judice* did not apply. More so, papers relating to matters which were to be referred to in the House and which were to be the basis of any discussion, had to be laid on the Table of the House. He was, therefore, allowing the paper to be laid on the Table.

The Minister of State for Finance, Shri K. R. Ganesh, then laid the Notification in question on the Table of the House.

SESSIONAL REVIEW

FIFTH LOK SABHA—TENTH SESSION*

The Budget session of Lok Sabha commenced on February 18, 1974 with the address by the President of India. A resume of some of the discussions held and other business transacted by the House during the session is given below.

A. DISCUSSION

Bangladesh-India-Pakistan Agreement: Making a statement regarding the Bangladesh-India-Pakistan Agreement,¹ signed in New Delhi on April 9, 1974, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Swaran Singh said on April 10, 1974 that the question of 195 prisoners of war had been resolved to the mutual satisfaction of both Bangladesh and Pakistan Governments and India had welcomed the development. The bilateral Agreement between India and Pakistan on the release and repatriation of pre-war detainees envisaged that all Indian and Pakistani nationals of that category would be released and repatriated by both countries latest by the 14th August, 1974. The humanitarian problem of military and para-military personnel reported missing following the conflict of 1971 had also been tackled. It was agreed that the two countries would afford necessary facilities to the tracing agency of the International Committee of the Red Cross to enquire into such cases with the help of the local authorities.

The progress in the implementation of the Simla Agreement, particularly the implementation of normalisation measures envisaged in paragraph 3, was reviewed.

*Contributed by the Research and Information Service, Lok Sabha Secretariat. For detailed statistical data regarding the work transacted by Lok Sabha during the session see Appendix I.

1. The Minister also laid on the Table of the House a copy each of the following documents:—

- (1) Bangladesh, India, Pakistan Agreement signed in New Delhi on April 9, 1974.
- (2) Agreement between India and Pakistan on release and repatriation of persons detained in either country prior to conflict of 1971.
- (3) Joint Communique regarding the review of the progress on normalisation between India and Pakistan under the Simla Agreement.

Fourth Meeting of the Indo-Iran Joint Commission: In a statement on February 22, 1974 the minister of Foreign Affairs, Shri Swaran Singh informed the House that an agreement had been reached with Iran for expansion of the capacity of the Madras Refinery from 2.8 million tons to 3.5 million tons per annum. Iran had also agreed to extend financial facilities for covering the existing supplies to the refinery. It had also been agreed that India would supply Iran Pellectfeed to the extent of 2.5 million tons per annum. Iran would receive supplies for a period of about 20 years and had agreed to extend a credit of upto U.S. \$300 million for the project.

Reported Order of U.S. Government to its Nuclear-powered Aircraft Carried "Kitty Hawk" to Sail into the Indian Ocean: Replying to a Calling Attention Notice,² on March 12, 1974 the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Swaran Singh said that the Government had received the information, which had been confirmed by the Indian Embassy in Washington about the arrival of the aircraft carrier "Kitty Hawk". Any large scale presence of the navy of one big Power was bound to attract the navies of other big Powers. Such rivalry would create problems for littoral countries the overwhelming majority of whom desired to maintain the Indian Ocean as an area of peace. Government of India had strongly supported the UN General Assembly Resolution of December 16, 1971 declaring the Indian Ocean a zone of peace for all time and calling upon the Great Powers to halt the further escalation and expansion of their military presence in the Indian Ocean.

Motion of Thanks on President's Address: Replying to a five-day debate on a Motion of Thanks on the President's Address on March 1, 1974, the Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi said that it was true that in the last few months, the difficulties of the people had been aggravated because of price increases and scarcity of essential commodities which were themselves due to a variety of factors, domestic as well as foreign. The question before the Government was to find out ways and means to face the crisis and to lessen those burdens. This could not be done merely through anger, by giving vent to helplessness and by condoning and encouraging violence. On the other hand a sense of responsibility and a grim determination to act was necessary. Although democracy

²The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri Mukhtiar Singh Malik, Hari Kishore Singh, Joytirmoy Bosu, C. K. Chandrappan and Birender Singh Rao.

by its very nature was a slower process, it was a process which strengthened the people as a whole, and “was as a party and as a country are deeply committed to the democratic process”. The ultimate solution would be to remove shortages and scarcities. The Greater production, particularly of articles of daily consumption and more equitable distribution would improve the situation. The Budget for the year 1974-75 was an anti-inflationary budget designed to stimulate production in essential sectors. The deficit had been kept low.

Dealing with the situation in Gujarat, the Prime Minister said:—

“There is no doubt that there has been much suffering due to scarcity, rioting, the firing... It has been said that Gujarat's case was one of spontaneous combustion of people's anger expressing itself... What is needed is a frame of mind in which all discussions can take place without anger, bitterness, recrimination... We are not against dissolution of Assembly on principle or as a matter of policy. But the point is whether it can be accepted under coercion...”

Welcoming Pakistan's recognition of Bangladesh she said.—

“...It is a step towards further normalisation on the sub-continent. There will soon be tripartite talks to devise further measures of cooperation...”

General Budget—General Discussion: Replying to the general discussion on the General Budget for 1974-75 on March 19, 1974, the Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwantrao Chavan said that during the last three years the deficit financing came to nearly Rs. 1752 crores. The problems of deficit financing and money supply could not be dealt with effectively unless the forces of production and the process of growth in the economy of the country was strengthened. The basic outlays of the budget were production-oriented. The relief given in direct taxes was investment-oriented.

The problem of black money could be dealt with only if the problem of tax-evasion was successfully tackled. The shortage of commodities was also responsible for creating black money. The problem could be dealt with by producing on a mass scale commodities of mass consumption. Demonetisation was not one of the permanent methods of dealing with the problem of black money.

The exports were the major areas in which solution could be found for problems of balance of payments particularly, as a result of the rise in the prices of crude oil and other important items like fertilizers and steel. A strategy was thus being worked out for increasing exports.

Railway Budget—General Discussion: Replying to 4-day debate on Railway Budget³ on March 13, 1974, the Minister of Railways, Shri L. N. Mishra said that the Financial health of the Railways had to be restored not only in the interest of the premier public sector undertaking but also in the interest of general economy. In framing the proposals two objectives had been borne in mind; adjustments in fares and freights had been formulated on a selective basis and they were in line with the socialistic concept that weaker and vulnerable sections of society should be protected. As against the steep increases proposed for the upper class travel, the increase in the case of Third Class Passenger was modest and had been kept down to the utmost extent possible. The Railway Budget also amply reflected a new deal for the backward regions of the country. It was a bold attempt to carry forward the socialist and development policies of the Government.

In respect of accident compensation, a system of uniform payment of compensation had now been adopted. It was proposed to bring the freight rate for coal into the standard freight structure. The proposed adjustments in the coal freight would have a very small impact on prices of end products.

Nothing abnormal had been found about the working of Railway Board so far. If the Railway Board was abolished, it would be difficult to face the situation, especially in the present state of crisis. The Railway Board should be considered as a part of the Railway Ministry. Two important Committees, viz., the Administrative Reforms Commission and the Kunzru Committee, had supported the continuation of the Railway Board.

The RPF (Railway Protection Force) was unavoidable. It was proposed to increase their present strength of about 60,000 to one lakh and to bring them on par with the CRP (Central Reserve Police) in the matter of amenities, facilities, uniform, salaries etc.

Supplementary Demands for Grants relating to Pondicherry: Making a statement in response to a question raised in the House

³The Budget (Railways) 1974-75 was presented to the House by the Minister of Railways on February 27, 1974.

on April 23, 1974, the Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwantrao Chavan on May 2, 1974 said that following the dissolution of Pondicherry Legislature on March 28, 1974, information about the Union Territory's Supplementary Demands for 1973-74 was received on March 29, 1974. It was not feasible to get them all passed the same day, which was the last working day of Lok Sabha before the end of financial year. Rajya Sabha was not in session and, therefore, even if the Lok Sabha had passed the Demands and the connected Appropriation Bill, the latter could not have become a law within the year.

The expenditure that might have been incurred in Pondicherry in excess of the appropriation for 1973-74 as might be revealed in the accounts for that year would be regularised in the manner prescribed in the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 and that would have to be processed in due course in the Appropriate Legislature.

Motion of No-Confidence in the Council of Ministers: Initiating the discussion on the Motion moved by Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu (CPI-M) on May 9, 1974, Shri Samar Mukherjee (CPI-M) said that the Government had forced the railwaymen to go on strike. Government should without pre-condition start negotiations, on the basis of which the strike might be called off.

Participating in the debate, the Minister of Defence, Shri Jagjivan Ram said that the Government had no enmity towards the employees and it would try its best to keep them satisfied as far as possible. But the employees who had gone on strike should realise the difficulties of people and trace their steps.

Speaking on the Motion, the Minister of Railways, Shri L. N. Mishra said that the Government wanted a negotiated settlement. During the earlier negotiations, barring the demands for bonus and parity of pay scales with other public undertakings, all the other demands of railwaymen had been conceded.

Intervening in the 10-hour debate, the Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi said on May 10, 1974 that the country was presently passing through an extremely difficult situation and the undivided energies of the nation should be devoted to overcome the economic crisis. Dealing with the present railway strike, she observed:

“... Today, we are not considering just what is to be given to the Railways. We are considering whether we go

along this road of giving more and more at a time when we have less and less."

There was no indication at any time of any desire on the other side to withdraw the strike.... We are doing our utmost to try and prevent it till the very last moment.... The Railway Minister has explained the extra burden which we have agreed to bear. That increase is over and above that which was due to the pay revision and the grant of D.A. to neutralise the rise in price. But some of the demands made were far more sweeping."

Commenting on the wage structure in the country, she observed:

"....It is riddled with anomalies and contradictions.... We had done a great deal to correct this.... I do realise that it is absolutely necessary to bring about some rationality. But, this is a tremendous task, which cannot be done overnight...."

Summing up, she *inter-alia* said:

"We have full sympathy with the sufferings of the railway people. We do not want them in any way to suffer or their families to suffer. We have always been prepared to talk about their grievances...."

After Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu replied to the discussion the No-Confidence Motion was put to vote and negatived.

Amendment of Constitution for lowering the voting age: Replying to Half-an-Hour discussion raised by Shri C. K. Chandrappan on March 15, 1974, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Shri Nitiraj Singh said that the Government was considering the various implications of the matter in detail and would come to a decision as soon as the difficulties were solved.

Conduct of free and fair elections: Initiating the discussion on March 1, 1974, on a resolution moved by him on December 21, 1973, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that free and fair elections were the pre-requisite of a parliamentary democracy. It was regrettable that the elections were not fair. The Wanchoo Committee in its report had recommended that political parties contesting the elections should be given grants for fighting the elections. The Joint Committee on Amendment of Election Law had also recommended that major expenses of the political parties during elections should be borne by the Government and had also recommended the constitution of an expert committee for that purpose. That had not been done so far.

Speaking on the Resolution, on March 15, 1974 the Minister of State in the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Shri Nitiraj Singh Chaudhary said that the Wanchoo Committee had recommended that as in West Germany and Japan, the political parties in India should be given election grants. But that was not feasible in India due to its large size and electorates as also multiplicity of political parties. The proposals made from time to time for providing broadcasting facilities to the political parties had to be abandoned for want of consensus among the political parties.

As most of the voters in the country were illiterate, it would not be possible for Government to accept the list system prevailing in certain small countries.

Proclamation in relation to Gujarat: Moving the Resolution "that this House approves proclamation issued by the President on February 9, 1974 under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Gujarat", on March 11, 1974, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs and in the Department of Personnel, Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha said that the whole country had been passing through a phase of acute shortages of essential commodities, foodgrains and economic hardship on account of rise in prices, and Gujarat had not been an exception. Some political parties had been seeking systematically to exploit for their own ends the difficulties experienced by the people. It was under these circumstances that the Central Government had to ask the Chief Minister to resign. In doing so, the Government was guided only by the larger interests of the State and not by any narrow, political considerations.

As the normal constitutional machinery had broken down at the State level the Governor recommended that the provisions of Article 356 should be invoked in relation to Gujarat.

Replying to the debate, lasting for more than six hours, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Uma Shankar Dikshit reiterated that on the issue of the dissolution of the Assembly there was no question of policy or principle involved and that the Government did not stand on any false sense of prestige. What the Government were trying to do was not to be a party to a precedent which for generations to come would be regretted. A legislature could not be dissolved directly as a result of pressures, intimidations, terrorism and open insults on duly elected Members of the Legislature.

Situation in Bihar: Making a statement on March 20, 1974 regarding "situation in Bihar", the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri

Uma Shankar Dikshit said that in spite of threatened boycott of the Governor's Address by various Opposition parties and threat by the large crowd assembled in the vicinity of the Legislature complex to obstruct the entry of the Governor and Legislators into the Assembly, the Joint Session was held as scheduled, and the Governor delivered his Address. That made the mob restive and they indulged in arson and loot of public and private property and attacked and damaged a number of offices and buildings including some newspaper establishments. The violence was politically motivated by some of the Opposition Parties and other forces such as the R.S.S. and the left adventurists who did not have any faith in parliamentary democracy.

The matter was raised again on March 21, 1974 under Rule 193 by Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu who demanded that the Assembly should be dissolved and fresh elections be held in Bihar. All the demands of the students should be accepted and all the persons arrested in the recent movement should be freed. Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Home Affairs said that no patriotic person in India and no one wishing the good of the people would raise a violent movement like the present one in the hope of correcting either the prices or removing the shortages or even increasing the supplies. The Chief Minister had already given the students a categorical assurance on all their demands which were directly connected with the academic issues.

Police firing in Gujarat: Replying to a Calling Attention Notice⁴ on February 21, 1974, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Department of Personnel, Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha said⁷ that the State was facing difficult problem arising out of shortages and high prices and the undivided attention of the administration would have to be bestowed on seeking satisfactory solutions to the pressing economic problems of the State. The food-grains situation had, of late, improved a lot and prices were coming down. Food was also being rushed from other States.

Order of Gujarat Governor Dissolving the Assembly: Making a statement⁵ on March 18, 1974 regarding the "order of Gujarat Gov-

⁴The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvasbri Prasannbhai Mehta, M. C. Daga, Mohammad Ismail, Biren Dutta and Hukam Chand Kachwai.

⁵See also the Minister's statement in Rajya Sabha on February 22, 1974, p. 645 post.

ernor dissolving the Assembly”, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Uma Shankar Dikshit said that when the President made his proclamation in relation to Gujarat on February 9, 1974, he also made an order delegating to the Governor all the powers of the Governor which the President had assumed to himself. In view of the President's Order there was no constitutional or legal infirmity in the order of the Governor dissolving the Assembly.

Situation in Bihar and Gujarat: Making a statement on April 17, 1974, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Uma Shankar Dikshit said that the police had to resort to firing on April 11, 1974 when the mob observing dharna on Telephone exchange in Gaya turned violent. 8 persons were killed and 10 injured in the police firing.

The police had also resorted to firing at Anand and Borsad in Kaira district, Gujarat on April 10 and 11 respectively.

Replying to the discussion raised under Rule 193 on April 19, 1974 regarding the situation in Bihar, the Minister of Home Affairs stated that the allegation that hundreds of people were killed or hundreds of people were injured was entirely without foundation. Every rule was followed in the matter of giving warnings, using other measures for persuading people, using tear gas, lathi charge etc. Finally when the Police forces were completely compelled, they resorted to firing under the orders of the SDO or a responsible officer of the CRP or BSF. The firing was controlled and almost invariably aimed low and minimal.

Legal aid to the poor: Replying to a Half-an-Hour discussion raised by Shri C. K. Chandrappan on April 8, 1974, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Shri Nitiraj Singh said that the scheme was ready and would be circulated to the State Governments for their concurrence and comments and thereafter necessary legislation would be brought forward.

Presidential Election: Making a statement on April 28, 1974, the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Shri H. R. Gokhale said that the term of office of the present President of India would expire on August 24, 1974. Under article 62(1) of the Constitution an election to fill a vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of office of the President was required to be completed before the expiry of the term.

Questions of far-reaching importance had arisen as to the composition of the electoral college where Legislative Assemblies of one or

more States stood dissolved. Accordingly the Government had decided to recommend to the President to obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court under article 143 of the Constitution as regards the true and correct interpretation of articles 54,62,71 and the relevant provisions of the Constitution so far as they concerned the election of the President to fill up the vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of office of the President.

Reported increase in the activities of Rebel Nagas and Mizos: Replying to a Calling Attention Notice⁶ on March 14, 1974, the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri F. H. Mohsin said that there had been some increase in the activities of the underground Nagas as evidence by an increase in the number of violent incidents in February and March, 1974. There had also been violence by miscreants in Mizoram. Some Mizo miscreants ambushed and opened fire on the convoy consisting of Lt. Governor, Mizoram and his escort at about 0915 hours on March 10, 1974, about 37 Kms. from Aijal, when the Lt. Governor was returning from tour. He sustained bullet injuries on the right leg.

Alleged assault on Shri Ram Hedao, M.P. on 28th February, 1974 at Nagpur: Making a statement on March 6, 1974, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs and in the Department of Personnel, Shri R. N. Mirdha said that the Police did not detain or arrest Shri Ram Hedao, M.P., who had tried to prevent Field Marshal Manekshaw from placing wreath on the newly constructed Martyrs' Memorial in Nagpur on February 28, 1974. The allegation that Shri Ram Hedao was beaten up by the police as a result of which he was not in a position to attend the Lok Sabha was not true.

Reported increasing violent attacks on linguistic minorities in Maharashtra by Shiv Sena: Replying to a Calling Attention Notice⁷ on March 5, 1974, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Uma Shankar Dikshit said that the Government felt deeply concerned over recent reports of some activities of the Shiv Sena in Bombay and some other parts of Maharashtra which had caused apprehension in the minds of the linguistic minorities, living in Maharashtra. It was hoped

⁶The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashi Tarun Gogoi, Nihar Laskar, Hukam Chand Kachwai, S. M. Banerjee and Arjun Sethi

⁷The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri A. K. Gopalan, Vayalar Ravi. C. K. Chandrappan, M. K. Krishnan and Dinesh Chandra Goswami.

that with continued effective action by the State Government, the linguistic minorities would be enabled to pursue their normal activities without any fear or inhibition and the forces that threaten communal harmony would be adequately contained.

Failure to avert riots in Sadar Bazar Area in Delhi: Replying to the discussion lasting for more than four hours on an Adjournment Motion moved by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on May 7, 1974, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Uma Shankar Dikshit said that the violence and arson had occurred on a large scale in certain areas on the afternoon of May 5, 1974 in which 10 persons had died and 131 were injured. Investigations were in progress to ascertain the cause of the disturbances. Meanwhile the Government had decided to appoint a fact-finding inquiry body of a comprehensive character as high a level as possible with the idea that such a Committee would be able to unearth the facts quickly.

The recommendation of the Tandon Committee Report, which had enquired into riots in the Sadar Bazar area earlier related to effective preventive action against the bad characters. The recommendations were seriously considered by the Administration and a well coordinated strategy was evolved for effective and sustained action against bad characters and criminals throughout Delhi.

After Shri Vajpayee replied to the debate, the Adjournment Motion was put to vote and negatived.

Ownership of the Land below the Sea within the Territorial Waters of the country: Making a statement on May 2, 1974, the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Shri H. R. Gokhale said that the question of ownership of land below the sea within the territorial waters of the country had been raised and it had been stated that the Maharashtra Government was encroaching on the rights of the Union of India.

The area between the high-water mark and low-water mark of the coast which had been brought under the Maharashtra Legislation could not be treated as underlying the ocean within the meaning of article 297 of the Constitution. Neither the Presidential Proclamation of 1967 nor the accepted rules and principles of International Law warranted the conclusion that such areas came within the territorial waters. The reclamation of the foreshore by the Maharashtra Government under the scheme of reclamation formulated by them did not contravene article 297 of the Constitution.

*Interim Reports by the National Commission on Agriculture*⁸
Making a statement on April 22, 1974, the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Fakhrudding Ali Ahmed said that the National Commission on Agriculture set up by the Government of India had been asked to make interim recommendations on such items of the terms of reference given to them as it might deem fit. The Commission had presented on April 19, 1974 to the Government of India three interim reports on (i) Desert Development (2) Forest Research and Education (3) Certain Important Aspects of Selected Export-oriented Agricultural Commodities. The Department of Agriculture had been directed to examine the recommendations quickly before the Government took further action in the matter.

Procurement and Pricing Policy of Wheat for 1974-75 season:
Making a statement regarding "procurement and pricing policy of wheat for 1974-75 season" on March 28th, 1974, the Minister of agriculture, Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed said that it had been decided to continue the procurement of wheat by the public agencies in all the States and, in addition, to allow whole salers, both private and cooperative societies, to operate under a system of licensing and control. The existing single State zones would be continued. There would be no restrictions on the movement of wheat within the States on trade account.

In the surplus States of Punjab, Haryana, U.P., Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, 50 per cent levy would be imposed on the foodgrains traders including cooperative societies on their daily purchases in the mandis|purchase centres, to be given to Government at a fixed price of Rs. 105 per quintal. After the levy obligation had been discharged, the traders including cooperative societies would be permitted to sell the levy-free wheat within the State or outside the State on the basis of a permit. In the wheat other producing States, the State Government might undertake procurement by a graded levy on producers. Consequent upon the increase in the purchase price, the Central issue price of wheat would be revised to Rs. 125|per quintal for all varieties of wheat.

A discussion under Rule 193 on a matter of urgent public importance regarding the "procurement and pricing policy of wheat for

⁸The Reports were laid on the Table.

the 1974-75 season" was raised in the House on April 3, 1974 by Shri B. V. Naik Singh.

Initiating the discussion, Shri Naik said that the pricing for wheat and also the policy in regard to procurement could be described as a sort of a realistic step and a compromise with the realities that had been prevailing in the sub-continent.

Replying to the discussion which lasted for more than six hours, the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed said, that while fixing the procurement price of wheat, suggestions made at the Consultative Committee meeting and at the Chief Ministers' Conference were taken into account. Besides, the basis on which the procurement price of rice had been fixed earlier was followed in the case of wheat also. In the case of rice 33 1/2 per cent rise had been given. Similarly by giving the same rise in the case of wheat, the new procurement price worked out to Rs. 105/- per quintal. (The procurement price of wheat during the last year was Rs. 80/-, which included Rs. 4/- as bonus). The Government would ensure that the growers under no circumstances received less than the amount so fixed.

Reported Inadequate Central Food Assistance to Maharashtra: Replying to a Calling Attention Notice⁹ the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed said on February 28, 1974 that in view of the widespread drought conditions which prevailed in Maharashtra in 1972-73, the Central Government took special care to supply the maximum possible quantities of foodgrains from the Central Pool to Maharashtra. With the increase in production, there was increased availability of foodgrains in the open market. In order to mitigate the hardship to the consumers in the deficit States, restrictions on the inter-zonal movement of coarse grains had been relaxed since January, 1974.

Removal of Restrictions on the Movement of Coarse Grains:— Making a statement on March 6, 1974, the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed said that after a further review, the Government had decided to allow free movement of coarse grains throughout the country without any restrictions whatsoever, with immediate effect.

⁹The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvasi Madhu Dandavate, Samar Mukherjee, M. C. Daga, Rajaram Dadasaheb Nimbalkar and Jagdish Bhattacharya.

Shortfall of 5,00,000 tonnes of Fertiliser:—The matter regarding “reported shortfall of 5,00,000 tonnes of fertilizer in 1973-74” was raised in the House on March 22, 1974 by Shri Samar Guha through a Calling Attention Notice.¹⁰

Replying, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals, Shri Hhahnawaz Khan said that during the Rabi Season, as against an assessed requirement of 24.31 lakh tonnes of nutrients, the total availability from all sources was only 16.05 lakh tonnes. Despite persistent attempts to contract for as much quantity of fertilizer as possible to bridge the gap, it had not been possible to import the required quantities on account of the global shortage of fertilizers. Every effort was being made to overcome the various operational and other problems and maximise production.

Earlier replying to Half-an-Hour discussion regarding “production and import of fertilizers” raised by Shri Samar Guha on March 18, 1974, the Minister had stated that the Government were fully seized of the problem of shortage of fertilizer and was sparing no effort to ensure that the domestic production was increased as far as possible. A Committee had been appointed to look into the aspect of basing fertiliser projects on coal and their location. As soon as it came to any conclusive arrangements, further action in the matter would be taken.

Price of Naphtha:—Making a statement on March 25, 1974 regarding “the decision of the Government to reduce the price of Naphtha when used for purposes other than manufacture of fertilisers”, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals, Shri Shahnawaz Khan said that the price of naphtha used for industries other than fertilisers manufacture had been raised from Rs. 446|- tonne to Rs. 2,320|- tonne with effect from March 2, 1974. But, in view of the far-reaching and very wide implications of this increase to the chemical industry, employment, production and exports, Government had reconsidered the matter very carefully and had decided that the price of naphtha for use in industries other than fertilisers manufacture might be fixed at Rs. 1000|- tonne with effect from March 26, 1974.

Reported Non-Payment of the minimum Cane Price to Cane-Growers in U.P., Bihar and Other States:—The matter regarding

¹⁰The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri Samar Guha, Ramavatar Shastri, Jyotirmoy Bosu, Madhu Dandavate and Shankar Dayal Singh.

“reported non-payment of the minimum cane price to cane-growers in U.P., Bihar and other States” was raised by Shri Jagannath Mishra on March 18, 1974 through a Calling Attention Notice.¹¹

Replying, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Shri B. P. Maurya said that under Clause 3 of the Sugarcane (Control) Order 1966, issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the payment of the cane price to the growers had to be made within 14 days of the delivery of cane. The Government were also thinking of effecting reduction in the period of payments by factories from 14 to 7 days. Some of the State Governments, Particularly U.P. and Bihar, had already necessary legislative powers to enforce timely payment of cane prices as if they were revenue arrears. Other State Governments which did not have similar legislation of their own were being periodically advised to undertake it.

Shortage of Dalda:—Replying to Half-an-Hour discussion on March 25, 1974 raised by Shri C. K. Chandrappan (CPI-M), the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed said that as a result of fall in the production of groundnut oil, from April to September in 1973, the average production was only 33,000 tonnes. After the good crop, production improved in October, November and December. But, unfortunately, in the month of January, 1974 it went down to 35,000 tonnes. When some steps were taken by the Government in the month of February, it rose to 43,400 tonnes and it was hoped that it would go up to 44,000 tonnes shortly.

Reported Distribution of a private factual report on Deepening Crisis in Indian Economy by the office of the President of World Bank:—Replying to a Calling Attention Notice¹² on March 13, 1974, the Minister of Finance, Shri Yeshwantrao Chavan said that it had been checked up with the World Bank and had been assured that there was no substance in the report that the office of the President of the World Bank had distributed the report in question to newspapers. What seemed to have happened was an unauthorised

¹¹The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri Jagannath Mishra, Bibhuti Mishra, Hari Kishore Singh, Mukhtiar Singh and Narsingh Narain Pandey.

¹²The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri Madhu Limaye, Samar Guha, Shanker Rao Savant, Bhogendra Jha and Ramsahai Pandey.

leakage, the origin of which was under investigation by the World Bank.

Increase in prices of Petroleum Products:—Making a statement on March 4, 1974, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals, Shri Shahnawaz Khan said that increase in prices of petroleum products to match the price of crude oil from time to time had become inevitable. In order to compensate Oil Companies for increases in crude oil prices, it had been decided that effective from March 2, 1974, product prices would be revised upwards to reflect a national f.o.b. crude oil price of \$8.43 per barrel.

Shortage of Kerosene Oil in States:—Replying to the Half-an-Hour discussion raised by Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu on March 13, 1974, the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals, Shri D. K. Borooah said that the supply of petroleum products in the country had been reduced because of shortfall in supplies of crude indigenously and shortfall in availability from the Arab Countries as also delay caused in the receipt of supplies from the Soviet Union. In all there was a shhrt fall of one million tonnes.

Coal supply position to power houses:—Replying to Calling Attention Notice¹³ on March 15, 1974, the Minister of Steel and Mines, Shri K. D. Malviya said that even though the production of coal had been increasing since 1972, but consumers all over the country had been experiencing shortages of coal at various times mainly due to the supply position being not satisfactory. No major power station, however, had actually closed down even though the stock position in several power stations, such as Harduaganj, Kanpur river-side, Nasik Paras and Ennore was not very satisfactory.

A Joint Cell was functioning at Calcutta with the representatives of the Railways and the coal producing agencies to ensure proper co-ordination in maximising coal supplies. In the headquarters of the Railway Board, a Control Room had been set up to take emergency action to rush coal supplies to power stations, which were facing a critical stock position.

¹³The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri Vasant Sathe, Prasannbhai Mehta, S. M. Banerjee, Laxminarayan Pandey and Nawal Kishore Sharma.

Power shortage in certain States:—The matter regarding “the reported acute power shortage in Uttar Pradesh, Faridabad Industrial Complex of Haryana, Gujarat, West Bengal and several other States”, was raised in the House on April 2, 1974 by Shri S. M. Banerjee through a Calling Attention Notice.¹⁴

Replying, the Minister of Irrigation and Power, Shri K. C. Pant conceded that large parts of the country were currently facing a power shortage. The Central and State Governments had been making concerted efforts to relieve the situation by measures designed to maximise availability of power from the existing power stations, speeding up the commissioning of new generating units, construction of transmission lines etc. However, in view of the uneven distribution of the addition to capacity and increases in the anticipated demands, the power shortages would exist in some States.

Reported major power failure in the Northern Region of the country:—Replying to the Calling Attention Notice¹⁵ on April 18, 1974 the Minister of Irrigation and Power, Shri K. C. Pant stated that power supply to Delhi as well as to Haryana and Chandigarh had been interrupted as one of the angle towers of the Delhi-Bhakra Nangal transmission line had fallen on April 16, 1974. According to the Punjab Government, that act of sabotage was suspected to be related to a strike by some of the employees of the Punjab State Electricity Board. The Punjab Government had taken all necessary steps for the protection of the transmission lines and substations against sabotage.

Breakdown of Electric Power Supply in West Bengal: Replying to a Calling Attention Notice¹⁶ on April 24, 1974, the Minister of Irrigation and Power, Shri K. C. Pant said that against the actual demand of 900 MW, the power generation in West Bengal during the month of March, 1974 had been about 638 MW. The failure to create the targetted generating capacity, coupled with the reduction in the output of the existing stations, while loads continued to grow,

¹⁴The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri S. M. Banerjee, N. K. Sanghi, Bhogendra Jha, D. D. Desai and Shyam Sunder Mohapatra.

¹⁵The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri M. C. Daga, Bhaosahib Dhamankar, Ramavatar Shastri, Mukhtiar Singh Mali and Birender Singh Rao.

¹⁶The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri Tridib Chaudhuri, Dinen Bhattacharya, Dinesh Chandra Goswami, Sakti Kumar Sarkar and A.K.M. Ishaque.

resulted in creating a shortage of power in the State. Consequently, the State Government had to impose a 15 per cent cut in the demand of power in the State, including Calcutta. Besides, load shedding had to be resorted to from time to time in accordance with the actual availability of power.

*Reported abrupt stopping of airconditioning plants at Delhi Airport:—*Replying to a Calling Attention Notice¹⁷ on April 17, 1974, the Minister of Supply and Rehabilitation, Shri R. K. Khadilkar said that according to the report of the inspection team, the airconditioning plant installed at the Palam Airport was not up to the specifications. The question of taking appropriate action against the defaulting firm in terms of the contract was under consideration.

*Reported stoppage of booking fresh cargo at Indian Air-Ports:—*The matter regarding the "reported stoppage of booking fresh cargo at Indian Air ports by almost all the International Airlines for want of space, especially on West-bound flights resulting in the fall in export of cargo and the steps taken by the Government to meet the situation" was raised in the House on April 10, 1974 by Shri Madhu Limaye through a Calling Attention Notice.¹⁸

Replying, the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Shri Raj Bahadur said that the shortage of capacity for airfreighting cargo from India had become very acute recently because of the worldwide shortage of fuel and rise in prices. There was shortage of capacity on Air India also as compared to the volume of cargo offered. Air India had, therefore, to restrict bookings except vegetables and newspapers. There was no embargo as such at Delhi, Calcutta and Madras airports. With a view to meeting the increased demand for cargo traffic, effective April 1, 1974 Air-India had made arrangements to operate two round-trip all-cargo services on the India-UK-India route.

*Reported non-availability of berthing facilities at Madras and Bombay Ports:—*Replying to a Calling Attention Notice¹⁹ on March

¹⁷The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri Prasannbhai Mehta, Nihar Laskar, Shrikishan Modi, M. C. Daga and Sardar Mohinder Singh Gill.

¹⁸The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri Madhu Limaye, D. D. Desai and Madhu Dandavate.

¹⁹The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri Madhu Dandavate, Madhu Limaye and Samar Guha.

27, 1974, the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Shipping and Transport, Shri Pranab Kumar Mukherjee said that two of the berths at Bombay Port were upgraded in 1969 and since then tankers upto 53,000 DWT (70,000 tons displacement) and of an overall length of 750 ft. had been accommodated. In spite of such limitations, the Bombay port handled tanker 'Netaji Subhas Bose' (87,000 DWT: 106245 tons displacement and length of 780 ft.) on her maiden trip on February 17, 1974 and later on provided a berth to a foreign tanker 'Emma Maersk' with a length of 775 ft.

Diffusion of ownership of newspapers:—Replying to Half-an-Hour discussion raised by Shri C. K. Chandrappan March 6, 1974, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri I. K. Gujral said that the Government, wanted to bring before the House a comprehensive Bill which met the commitment of delinking the newspapers from big industry.

Reported delay in lifting of newsprint by the S.T.C. from Bombay Port:—The matter regarding the "reported delay in the lifting of Rupees forty lakhs worth of newsprint by the State Trading Corporation from the Bombay Port" was raised in the House on April 5, 1974 by Shri Yamuna Prasad Mandal through a Calling Attention Notice.²⁰

Replying, the Minister of Commerce, Prof. D. P. Chattopadhyaya admitted that there was some delay in the clearance of one consignment of newsprint by the Customs authorities in Bombay pending certain clarifications. The clarification had since been furnished, and consignment had been cleared.

The S.T.C. had taken up the matter of waiving the demurrage charge with the concerned authorities. If there was any demurrage to be paid, it would not be passed on to the newsprint consumers.

Reported issue of newsprint quotas to fictitious newspapers and Periodicals:—Replying to a Calling Attention Notice²¹ on April 30, 1974, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri I. K. Gujral said that newsprint allocation to newspapers/periodicals was made by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports on the recommen-

²⁰The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri Ramsahai Pandey, Yamuna Prasad Mandal, Tarun Gogoi, Jyotirmoy Bosu and Ram Bhagat Paswan.

²¹The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Madhu Limaye, Bhaosahaib Dhamankar, Jyotirmoy Bosu and Samar Guha.

dation of Registrar of Newspapers in accordance with the Newsprint Allocation Policy announced in the form of a Public Notice each year. To prevent the misuse of newsprint by unscrupulous elements, Government had decided to decentralise the system and circulation officers had now been posted on each of the four regional centres, to make the circulation checks more effective.

*Production target of steel for 1974-75:—*Replying to Half-an-Hour discussion on February 28, 1974, raised by Shri D. D. Desai, the Minister of Steel and Mines, Shri K. D. Malaviya conceded that the figure of production, projected by Steel Authority of India under the Ministry of Steel and Mines was lower as compared to the 1973-74 figures. It was also a fact that the target of production for saleable steel of 5.19 million tonnes for the year 1974-75 fixed by the Steel Authority was lower than the target of 1972-73. It would be incorrect to evaluate the performance by relating the production year-by-year to the financial investment that the Government was making. Those were long term investments. The result of such investments could be reflected sometime in the second or the third year of the Fifth Plan. The Government were taking all necessary care to see that the tempo of production and the progress that had been set at Bokaro was not diluted or diffused in any manner.

*Coal Shortage in Steel Plants:—*Replying to a Calling Attention Notice²² on February 19, 1974, the Minister of Steel and Mines, Shri K. D. Malaviya said that due to non-availability of cooking coal in requisite quantity at the steel plants the production of steel and pig iron had suffered a set-back. The dislocation of railway movement had also resulted in the building up of large stocks of finished steel at all the steel plants.

*Supply of Machinery to Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi:—*Replying to Half-an-Hour discussion raised by Sardar Swaran Singh Sokhi on April 5, 1974 on the above subject, the Minister of Heavy Industry, Shri T. A. Pai said that the Soviet collaborators had supplied the entire equipment for HMBP in conformity with the Detailed Project Report. There was thus no question of asking them for payment of any compensation for the losses.

*Dealership for Scooters Manufactured by Scooters India, Ltd., Lucknow:—*Replying to Half-an-Hour discussion raised by Sardar

²²The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri S. M. Banerjee, Yamuna Prasad Mandal, Ramsahai Pandey, Jyotirmoy Bosu and C. K. Chandrappan.

Swaran Singh Sokhi on March 22, 1974, the Minister of Heavy Industry, Shri T. A. Pai said that the Scooters India Ltd. would start production from August, 1974 and during 1974-75, a production of 40,000 scooters and subsequently one lakh scooters per year was expected.

Automobile Tyres and Tubes:—Making a statement on April 26, 1974, the Minister of Industrial Development and Science and Technology, Shri C. Subramaniam said that on the basis of current prices of raw materials and as per the formula evolved by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices for the automobile industry, prices of various categories of tyres would have to be increased by anything between 1 per cent and 52 per cent compared to the November, 1973 prices. At the same time, the distribution arrangements for the categories of tyres that were in short supply were being streamlined.

Acute shortage of yarn supply to weavers:—Replying to a Calling Attention Notice²³ on March 7, 1974, the Minister of Commerce, Prof. D. P. Chattopadhyaya said that at present there was no price or distribution control on cotton yarn upto 80s counts. In respect of counts above 80s also, there was no price control; however distribution control over such yarn continued. With the removal of the controls, the normal trade channels had started functioning. There had been some set back on account of the strike in Bombay and Coimbatore mills in the months of January and February, 1974, but now that the mills had resumed full working, the level of production was expected to be normal. Meanwhile Sivaraman Committee had been set up with wide terms of reference and it was going into all aspects of the handloom industry.

Revised controlled cloth policy:—Making a statement regarding the revised controlled cloth policy on March 29, 1974, the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce, Shri A. C. George said that the main features of new policy were that the quantum of controlled cloth would be increased from the present level of 400 million meters to 800 million meters per annum, and the varieties would now include the medium 'A' category of cloth also in the commonly used five varieties of sarees, dhoties, drill, shirting and longcloth. It had been decided that an increase of 30 per cent over the May 1968, prices would be allowed. The distribution margin had been

²³The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri Narsingh Narain Pandey, Madhu Limaye, M. Ram Gopal Reddy, Laxminarayan Pandey and Shyam Sunder Mohapatra.

provided at 20 per cent of ex-mill prices to meet currently increased costs of transport and distribution. The penalty for non-fulfilment of controlled cloth obligation would be enhanced from the present level of Re. 1 per meter to Rs. 2.50 per meter.

Serious situation arising out of the mechanisation of Coir Industry:— Replying to a Calling Attention Notice ²⁴ on March 29, 1974, the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Industrial Development, Shri Ziaur Rahman Ansari said that Government were opposed to the substitution of men by machines merely for speeding up a certain operation or for providing greater returns to the owner. In the retting sector, certain units were using mechanical defibring machines requiring no licence. The use of such machines had certain impact on the employment situation. The Government of Kerala took steps and prohibited introduction of such machines some time ago. The Government was considering different aspects of nationalisation of coir industry and coir products.

Expansion of Coca Cola Export Corporation's activities in India:— Replying to a discussion under Rule 193 raised by Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu on March 14, 1974, the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce, Shri A. C. George said that so far as the Ministry of Commerce was concerned, there was nothing irregular from the point of view of foreign exchange rules and regulations and export. On the other hand it had been very clearly stipulated that for every rupee of the remittances, the Company from their own export had to earn Rs. 1.25 in terms of foreign exchange.

Speaking on the Motion, the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health and Family Planning, Shri A. K. Kisku said that according to the studies conducted by the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, the consumption of coca cola and other common beverages in moderate amount was not likely to lead to deleterious or toxic effects. Besides, coca cola did not show any significant damage to the enamel or the dentine.

Tax exemption to industries in backward areas:—Replying to Half-an-Hour discussion raised by Shri N. K. P. Salve on April 22, 1974 the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Shri K. R. Ganesh said that a scheme of concessional finance was available to all the districts identified as backward. The scheme also envisages

²⁴The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri A. K. Gopalan, Dinen Bhattacharya and C. K. Chandrappan.

low rate of interest on loans as also extension of the initial grace period for payment from three years to five years. Besides, transport subsidy was given and tax incentives were also available. The Direct Taxes (Amendment) Bill finalized by Select Committee further gave a concession of 20 per cent initial depreciation.

Salt crisis in West Bengal: Making a statement on May 10, 1974, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Industrial Development, Shri M. B. Rana said that the price of salt in West Bengal had gone up in the recent months due to non-lifting of full quota by the State Nominees and increase in the bunker surcharge. Under the existing Zonal Scheme, the requirement of West Bengal were met by sea from West Coast and Tuticorin Ports. A committee had been appointed to review the Zonal Scheme in order to improve the distribution and price of salt in all the North Eastern State including West Bengal.

Railway Accident near Moradabad: Making a statement on February 21, 1974 the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways, Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi informed the House that a serious accident took place near Moradabad on the Northern Railway on that day. At about 00.45 hours, 66 down Dehradun—Varanasi Janta Express collided with a stationary goods train at Kathgarh Left Bank Station. As a result of the accident the engines of both the trains derailed. According to the latest information available, 50 persons had been killed and 56 others injured, of whom 8 were reported to be grievously hurt. Compensation of Rs. 50,000 would be paid in the case of those who had died or suffered permanent total disablement as a result of the accident. Other injured would also receive compensation on the prescribed scale.

Reported decision of Southern Railway to cancel trains due to shortage of coal: Replying to a Calling Attention Notice²⁵ on February 25, 1974, the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways, Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi said that there was no cancellation of trains due to shortage of coal recently.

Electrification of Ernakulam-Trivandrum Railway line: Replying to a Half-an-Hour discussion on February 25, 1974 raised by Shri Vayalar Ravi the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways,

²⁵The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri Nihar Laskar, Prasannabhai Mehta, Hari Kishore Singh, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Jagannathrao Joshi.

Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi said that it was not correct that Kerala had been discriminated against so far as railways were concerned. The development of railway traction in the country was done on broader national considerations. Besides cheap electric power which was available in Kerala, there were other factors which had to be taken into consideration, viz the density and future prospects of traffic, gradients and the contiguity with other electrified sections etc. It had generally been found that 14 to 15 million gross tonne kilometres per route kilometre per annum made electrification schemes financially viable. The traffic in the Ernakulam-Quilon section was about 3.1 GTKM.

Reported cancellation of passenger trains from and to Madhubani on February 24, 1974: Making a statement on February 28, 1974, the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways, Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi said that for want of coal passenger trains on Sakri-Madhubani-Jaynagar section had to be cancelled in November, 1973 and February 1974. The cancellations were incidental and had no connection with the election.

Railway accident on Gwalior-Shivpur Kalan narrow gauge section of Central Railway: Making a statement on March 13, 1974, the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways, Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi said that a serious accident had taken place on the Gwalior-Shivpur Kalan Narrow Gauge section of the Jhansi Division of Central Railway at about 10.20 hours on March 9, 1974. As a result of the accident, 5 persons were killed and 8 injured.

Reported decision of over 100 Unions in Railways to go on an indefinite strike: Replying to a Calling Attention Notice²⁶ on April 25, 1974, the Minister of Railways, Shri L. N. Mishra said that the strike notice had been served by the recognised unions affiliated to the All India Railwaymen's Federation and some unrecognised unions. The Government was prepared for a negotiated settlement with the staff representatives and everything possible would be done to avert the strike. If the strike was forced upon the Railways, the Government would take all possible steps to keep up the movement of essential commodities required for the community.

²⁶The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri A. K. Gopalan, R. R. Sharma, M. Ram Gopal Reddy, S. M. Banerjee and Shrimati Savitri Shyam.

Suspension of booking of inland registered parcels and packets: Making a statement on April 26, 1974, the Minister of State for Communications, Shri Sher Singh said that consequent upon the cancellation of several trains from April 27, 1974 on various routes, it had become necessary to temporarily suspend the booking of inland registered parcels and packets, (including V.P. and Insured) in all Post Offices in the country with immediate effect. The step had to be taken to avoid accumulation of these articles, resulting in delay in delivering and inconvenience to the public.

Threatened Railway Strike: Making a statement on May 2, 1974, the Minister of Railways, Shri L. N. Mishra informed the House that at the meetings of the Negotiations Committee presided by the Deputy Minister of Railways, Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi on April 27, 29 and 30, 1974, all the demands of railwaymen were discussed at length. The minutes were finalized and accepted at the meeting held on May 1 and 2, 1974. The final stand on the demands had been taken.

One of the main demands, viz. revision of wages by about 75 per cent and change in the Dearness Allowance formula had not been accepted as it involved an expenditure of Rs. 400 crores. It would be premature to take a decision on the question of Bonus until the recommendations of the Bonus Review Committee were received by Government. The Government had already accepted the Miabhoj's Tribunal award in regard to the demand concerning working hours and decasualisation of casual labour. The demand for Scientific Job Evaluation of all jobs in the Railways had been accepted within the framework of the Pay Commission's recommendations. Similarly it had been agreed to open fair price shops where more than 300 staff were posted.

There were two alternatives for the Government—either to increase the fares and freight or to run the railways with a huge deficit, which would have been harmful to the nation. Therefore, only those demands which were considered could be met without seriously jeopardising the financial resources of the Railways.

Later replying to a six-hour discussion on an Adjournment Motion moved by Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu (CPI-M), regarding arrest of railway workers, the Minister of Railways said that the decision to arrest Shri George Fernandes and other leaders had been taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs with his knowledge and consent. It had been agreed that while negotiations were going on no other activity would be carried on. But there were reports to show that during the course of negotiations, preparations were afoot for the

strike on May 8, 1974. Shri George Fernandes through speeches at various meetings of railwaymen was openly inciting them to violence and even to setting fire to railway property. Therefore, they had to be arrested.

The Government was very keen for a negotiated settlement and if the AIRF and the workers withdrew their strike notice, he was prepared to negotiate and arrested persons would also be released.

Alleged Atrocities Committed at Lakhisarai by R. P. F. Personnel: Making a statement on March 29, 1974, the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways, Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi said that in the afternoon on March 19, 1974, a mob of about 3 to 4 thousand persons attacked Lakhisarai Railway Station, on Mokemeh-Kiul Section of Eastern Railway and started pelting stones and subsequently became more violent and set fire to the Booking and Parcel Offices and also looted some parcel consignments lying in the Parcel Office. As there was no alternative left with the police and the R.P.F. personnel, but to use force to save the lives and property, 3 persons died on the spot and 7 persons aged between 13—30 years were arrested by the Police with gun-shot injuries.

Revision of Pay Scales of University and College Teachers: Making a statement on March 29, 1974, the Minister of Education, Social Welfare and Culture, Prof. S. Nurul Hasan said that on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission, it had been decided to approve the revision of the pay scales of University and College teachers.

Members of the academic staff in Indian Institutes of Technology and other autonomous organisations maintained by the Central Government, who were presently in receipt of pay on the University Grants Commission scales, would also be entitled to the revised pay scales now approved.

The question of providing selection grade, if any, in the Colleges of Delhi University, and of the revision of the pay scales of librarians and physical instructors, would be considered by Government on receipt of the recommendations of the University Grants Commission, which were awaited. In the case of the State Universities and Colleges, Government of India would give special assistance to the State Governments for adopting the revised scales with effect from January 1, 1973.

I. I. T. Kharagpur: Making a statement on May 10, 1974, the Minister of Education, Social Welfare and Culture, Prof. S. Nurul Hasan said that there was neither a legal requirement nor had it been the practice that only persons possessing technical qualifications should be appointed as Chairman of the Board of Governors of IITs. The practice so far had been that a person of eminence connected with industry or education or science|technology was appointed in the capacity by the Visitor.

Government's Decisions on the Recommendations of the Third Pay Commission in respect of Class I Officers: Making a statement regarding "Government's decision on the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission in respect of Class I Officers", the Minister of Finance, Shri Yeshwantrao Chavan said on March 29, 1974 that the Government had come to the conclusion that it was not possible to make any material changes, except a few marginal adjustments in the recommendations relating to any particular service or category. Government had accordingly decided to accept broadly the recommendations of the Commission relating to pay scales of Central Class I Services, Cadres and posts subject to certain modifications.

Government had also decided that the recommendations relating to the All India Services too would be accepted except that in the case of IAS there would be no increase in the strength of the selection grade. In the case of IPS, the senior scale would be Rs. 1200-1700 instead of Rs. 1100-1600 recommended by the Commission and the selection grade would be at Rs. 1800 instead of Rs. 1650-1800 recommended by the Commission. The recommendations relating to the Senior Scale of the Indian Forest Service had also been accepted by the Government.

Junior Doctors' Strike in Delhi Hospitals: Making a statement²⁷ on February 19, 1974, the Minister of Health and Family Planning, Dr. Karan Singh said that the Government had made handsome increase in the emoluments of the Junior Doctors, going upto as much as 100 per cent in some categories over the last one year and had also made a number of other clarifications in their favour. If the striking doctors continued to default on their responsibilities, the Government would be left with no choice but to make permanent alternative arrangements so that the hospitals could be brought back to the normal level of functioning.

²⁷A note giving the background of the strike and the steps taken by the Government was also laid on the Table of the House.

The whole system of medical education needed to be restructured and streamlined in order to make it a more effective instrument for meeting the growing requirements of the people. With that intention, Government was actively considering the setting up of a high-powered Medical Education Commission which would look into the entire problem on a national basis and make a study in depth of the various aspects of restructuring medical education from the pre-medical right upto post-graduate standard.

Making another statement on April 2, 1974, the Minister of Health and Family Planning, informed the House that the Junior Doctors of the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences in Chandigarh, and the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Studies and Research in Pondicherry, had called off their strike and resumed duties. The Government, consistent with its policy of fairness and a genuine desire to avoid victimization of the strikers, had made several concessions with regard to the treatment of the strike period.²⁸

Unrest among Junior Doctors: Replying to Half-an-Hour discussion raised by Shri Ramavatar Shastri on March 4, 1974, the Minister of Health and Family Planning, Dr. Karan Singh said that the problem of the Junior doctors was a cumulative problem. It was the result of grievances that had accumulated over the last 10-15 years. As a long range solution to problems of Doctors, the Government had decided to set up a Medical Education Commission.

The Doctors had been offered more by the Government than recommended by the Kartar Singh Committee. It was also proposed to break up the proposed amount into graded pay scales with dearness allowance and CCA.

Reported Decision of Senior Doctors in Delhi Hospitals not to attend Out-patient Departments: The matter regarding "serious situation arising out of the reported decision of Senior Doctor in Delhi Hospitals not to attend Out-Patient Departments" was raised in the House on March 28, 1974 by Shri Prasannbhai Mehta through a Calling Attention Notice²⁹.

²⁸The Delhi Junior Doctors called off their strike in the after-noon of the 6th April, 1974. This was announced by Dr Karan Singh, Minister of Health and Family Planning on the 8th April, 1974.

²⁹The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri Prasannbhai Mehta, D. D. Desai, C. K. Chandrappan, Bibhuti Mishra and Smt. Savitri Shyam.

Replying, the Minister of Health and Family Planning, Dr. Karan Singh said that senior doctors of the Delhi hospitals had maintained hospital services during the last three months despite the junior doctors' strike, but they were under great strain. In the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, based on a representation from some of the faculty members, the Medical Superintendent felt that in order to reduce the load on the senior doctors, the speciality services in the OPD could be progressively curtailed. When the Minister contacted the Director and indicated to him that however great the strain, the services to the suffering public should be maintained at a reasonable and adequate level, the Director assured him that it would be done.

Death of Several Patients in Kanpur Hospital due to Spurious Glucose Saline Injections: Making a statement on April 16, 1974 the Minister of Health and Family Planning, Dr. Karan Singh informed the House that 21 persons had died in Kanpur Hospital as a result of administration of glucose saline injection. Enquiries made from the Government of U. P. indicated that a specific batch of 5 per cent glucose solution manufactured by Messrs. B. J. Pharma, Kanpur, was suspected to have caused the death of the patients. Drug adulteration was a criminal activity and the culprits would be brought to book immediately and deterrent punishment administered to them.

Reported Spreading of Malaria: Replying to a Calling Attention Notice³⁰ on April 26, 1974 the Minister of Health and Family Planning, Dr. Karan Singh said that the number of positive malaria cases had risen to almost 15 lakhs in 1973 from 49151 in 1961. Taking stock of the serious situation, the Central Council of Health which recently met in Delhi passed a special resolution with regard to the Malaria Eradication Programme containing a number of important recommendations for implementation.

Selection of Scheduled Castes Candidates for Recruitment by Dena Bank: Replying to a Half-an-Hour discussion raised by Shri Chandra Shailani on April 24, 1974, the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance, Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi informed the House that appointments of candidates including some Scheduled Castes in Dena Bank had been kept in abeyance as the Inquiry Committee, which had gone into the charges of malpractices and discrimination

³⁰The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri Shrikishan Modi, Mukhtiar Singh Malik, Naval Kishore Sharma, Shyam Sunder Mohapatra and Hari Kishore Singh.

levelled by the Employees' Union had found some element of truth in them. The matter was now being considered by the Government.

Unutilised Electronics Equipment at Electronic Radar and Development Establishment Unit, Bangalore: Replying to a Calling Attention Notice³¹ on March 24, 1974, the Minister of State (Defence Production) in the Ministry of Defence, Shri Vidya Charan Shukla said that the report was not correct. The Electronics Radar and Development Establishment currently had electronics equipment of original purchase value of about Rs. 4 lakhs, which were not utilisable due to either having become obsolete or due to their having become inaccurate after several years of use. Those items were purchased prior to 1966. Alternative use of equipment had been suggested by a Committee and their recommendations were being processed.

Reported Disappearance of a High Powered Sophisticated Telescope from Defence Installation at Chandipore, Orissa: Replying to a Calling Attention Notice³² on April 23, 1974, the Minister of State (Defence Production) in the Ministry of Defence, Shri Vidya Charan Shukla said that a special type of telescope was found missing on April 11, 1974 in the Proof & Experimental Establishment Balasore (Orissa). The equipment was imported at a cost of Rs. 36,000. The matter was immediately reported to the Police and a departmental Court of Enquiry had also been convened. Central Bureau of Investigation had also been requested to investigate into the matter. Their reports were awaited.

Reported Recovery of Live Bombs from a Godown in Kanpur: The matter regarding "reported recovery of thousands of the live bombs from a godown in Kanpur" was raised in the House on April 3, 1974 by Shri Shashi Bhushan through a Calling Attention Notice³³.

Replying, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Uma Shankar Dikshit said that according to reports received from the Government of

³¹The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri M. Ram Gopal Reddy, Ram Bhagat Paswan, H. M. Patel, R. K. Deo and Nihar Laskar.

³²The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri Ataj Bihari Vajpayee, Sat Pal Kapur, Vikram Mahajan, Mohan Raj and Madhu Limaye.

³³The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri Shastri Bhushan, Nawal Kishore Sharma, Jyotirmoy Bosu, Prasannbhai Mehta and Nihar Laskar.

Uttar Pradesh, it was learnt that both the premises in Kanpur District from where the ammunition was recovered were used as junk godowns and the owners thereof were reported to be junk dealers, who were engaged in obtaining such junk materials on disposal from Ordnance depots. The local army authorities were informed immediately and the investigation had been proceeding in cooperation with them.

Reported Firing at Sirathu Station on Northern Railway: Replying to a Calling Attention Notice³⁴ on March 6, 1974, the Minister of Railways, Shri L. N. Mishra informed the House that agitations had been organised by the people on March 2 and 3, 1974 at Sirathu Railway Station against the increase in railways fares by squatting on the railway track. The police was forced to use tear-gas shell to disperse the unruly mob. In the meantime, firing was resorted to by the mob from a house adjacent to the firing, in which 2 persons were killed and 9 injured. The Government would, examine the matter regarding payment of compensation to the relatives of those persons, who died on or near the railway track.

Reported Sealing of 20 Godowns of Delhi Municipal Corporation by C.B.I.: Replying to a Calling Attention Notice³⁵ on April 22, 1974, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs and in the Department of Personnel, Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha said that on April 16, 1974 a complaint was received by the Central Bureau of Investigation alleging embezzlement of public funds by some employees of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi in collusion with certain firms by falsely showing receipt of ballast and other building material purported to have been supplied by some firms while no supplies were actually made or lesser or sub-standard material was supplied. On April 17, 1974, a case was registered by the S.P.E. Division of Central Bureau of Investigation. Action was taken to seize the relevant records at the various stores of the Corporation and its hot mix plant on April 17 and later dates for the purpose of verification of stocks.

New Friends Cooperative House Building Society: Making a statement on April 10, 1974, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs and in the Department of Personnel Shri Ram

³⁴The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri Ram Praash, S. M. Banerjee, M. Ram Gopal Reddy, Madhu Limaye and Hari Kishore Singh.

³⁵The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri S. M. Banerjee, P. Gangadeb, Madhuryya Haldar, Yamuna Prasad Mandal and Shashi Bhushan.

Niwas Mirdha said that the new Managing Committee appointed in July, 1971 had enrolled 50 new Members in place of some defaulters after obtaining permission to that effect from the Lt. Governor. Out of them as many as 34 were neither Government servants nor were they closely related to the Government servants. The Society was also not maintaining any waiting list.

Forged Car Permit Case: Replying to Half-an-Hour discussion on the subject raised by Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu on April 17, 1974, the Minister of Heavy Industry, Shri T. A. Pai said that during the period September-December, 1973 some thirty cases of forged permits came to the notice of Government. The matter was reported to the police. Fifteen persons had been accused by the police, which included two persons belonging to the Ministry of Heavy Industry. The permits were prepared in the fictitious names of Government Servants. The Government had made changes in the rules of allocation of cars, to put an end to the issuing of fake permits.

Reported Suicide by Assistant Station Director of Television Centre: Replying to a Calling Attention Notice³⁶ on April 16, 1974, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri I. K. Gujral said that on April 11, 1974, at about 11.30 a.m. Shri J. N. Gaur, an Assistant Station Director working in the Television Centre, Delhi fell from his room on the 4th floor of Akashvani Bhavan. He was immediately rushed to the Emergency Ward of Willingdon Hospital where he died soon after. The matter was under investigation by the Police authorities.

West Bengal Master Plan for Rehabilitation of Old Displaced Persons: Replying to Half-an-Hour discussion on March 20, 1974 raised by Shri Dinen Bhattacharya regarding "West Bengal master plan for rehabilitation of old displaced persons", the Minister of Supply and Rehabilitation, Shri R. K. Knadilkar said that about 23,200 families still remained to be settled and every effort would be made to settle them in the Fifth Plan period.

Replying to another Half-an-Hour discussion raised on March 27, 1974 by Shri Samar Guha, the Minister stated that the Central Government had been extremely conscious about their responsibility towards the refugees. The Government of West Bengal was equally

³⁶The Calling Attention Notice was tabled by Sarvashri Indrajit Gupta, M. Kalyanasundaram, Jagannath Mishra, Jagannathro Joshi and Vasant Sathe.

doing their utmost to settle the problem of refugees once for all. Efforts were being made to settle all the 23,000 families on Poteru Project near Dandakaranya in the coming years.

Death of Seven Coal Miners in Western Division of Coal Mines Authority Limited: Making a statement on March 15, 1974, the Minister of Steel and Mines, Shri K. D. Malaviya informed the House that a serious accident took place at Burhar No. 1 Mine of the Coal Mines Authority Ltd. situated in Shahdol district of Madhya Pradesh on the March 11, 1974. A total of 11 underground workers were involved in the accident, out of which 7 workers died and the other 4 had suffered minor injuries. The accident took place due to roof fall in a depillaring district.

Death of Two Adivasis in a Bihar Village: Making a statement on March 13, 1974, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs and in the Department of Personnel, Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha said that according to information received from the Government of Bihar, on March 5, 1974, there was rioting in village Durgadih in District Dhanbad, resulting in the death of two Adivasis.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

During this session Lok Sabha discussed 27 Government and 8 private members' Bills and passed 22 Government Bills³⁷. Some of the important Bills passed were (i) The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections (Amendment) Bill, 1972, as reported by Joint Committee; (ii) The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Bill, 1973, as passed by Rajya Sabha; (iii) The ES:30 (Acquisition of Undertakings in India) Bill, 1974; (iv) The North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Amendment Bill, 1974 as passed by Rajya Sabha; (v) The Gujarat State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Bill, 1974, as passed by Rajya Sabha; (vi) The Finance Bill, 1974; and The Constitution (Thirty-fifth Amendment) Bill, 1974. A brief resume of the discussion held on the last two Bills is given below. Other important Bills which were discussed and referred to the Joint Committee were: (i) The Public Financial Institutions Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1973; (ii) The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Bill, 1973; and (iii) The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1974.

Constitution (Thirty-Fifth Amendment) Bill³⁸ Moving the Bill for consideration of the House on May 8, 1974, the Minister of Law,

³⁷For detailed statistical information see Appendix—I.

³⁸The Bill was introduced on May 3, 1974.

Justice and Company Affairs, Shri H. R. Gokhale said that the Bill sought to amend articles 101 and 190. The resignations contemplated in these articles were resignations which were voluntary and genuine and not those which had been contrived through the use of undesirable means such as coercion and undue influence. In such cases the proposed provisions would enable the Presiding Officer to satisfy himself as to the genuineness or the voluntary nature of the resignation before he accepted the same. Through the proposed amendment, the right conferred upon the member by the Constitution was being made really effective and undesirable elements could not take any advantage to achieve their ulterior purposes.

The discussion continued for about five hours. Replying to the debate, the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs *inter-alia* said that the real method by which the members of legislatures could be protected was to repose full confidence in the Speaker or the Chairman as the case might be and leave it to his decision on adequate enquiry, to decide whether a resignation had been voluntary and genuine or otherwise.

Thereafter the Bill, as amended, was passed by the required majority.

Finance Bill, 1974: Moving the Bills³⁹ for consideration on April 30, 1974, the Minister of Finance, Shri Yeshwantrao Chavan announced certain tax concessions.

Replying to four-day debate on May 4, 1974, the Minister of Finance stated that the Government had not deviated from the basic policies and commitments in the formulation of budget proposals. The main idea behind the food take-over policy was to ensure that there was enough stock with the Government for the distribution system. The Government had not given it up completely to the private trader.

The acceptance of suggestion of raising the tax exemption limit from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 7,500 would result in drawing away a large number of tax payers.

The recommendations of the Wanchoo Committee to make the Board of Direct Taxes into an independent body, was not administratively possible or even feasible; nor was it beneficial.

³⁹The Finance Bill 1974 was introduced by the Minister of Finance on February 28, 1974.

As regards the steps to correct the regional imbalance, the financial institutions like the LIC had given more and more credit to the so far undeveloped areas. The number of units that were being helped and the volume of amounts which was being given to these units was gradually increasing. They could also go to an area where the infrastructure was already available. The creation of infrastructure was the basic function of planned development and that took its own time.

Thereafter the Bill, as amended, was passed.

C. THE QUESTION HOUR

During the Tenth Session of Fifth Lok Sabha, 28,835 notices of question (25,305 Starred, 2,873 Unstarred and 657 Short Notice Questions) were received. Out of these, 1,055 Starred, 10,027 Unstarred and 15 Short Notice Questions were admitted. After the List of Questions were printed, 17 Starred and 280 Unstarred Questions were deleted from the Lists of Starred and Unstarred Questions respectively on account of their being either withdrawn by the member concerned or transferred from one Ministry to another.

Daily average of Questions answered orally: Each List of Starred Questions contained 20 questions except those of March 14, 26, 27, April 5, 11, 15, 17, 25, 26, 30 and May 7, 1974 which contained 21 Questions. The List of April 29, 1974 contained 22 questions and that of March 19, 1974, 23 questions. On an average, 7 questions were orally answered on the floor of the House. On each day when there was Question Hour, the minimum number orally answered was 1 on May 7, 1974 and the maximum was 11 on March 29, April 3, 5 and 18, 1974.

D. HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS

Of the 1,090 notices of Half-an-Hour discussions received during the session, 19 were put down on the Order Paper and 16 were discussed on the floor of the House. Half-an-Hour discussion regarding "Draft Bill to prevent strikes and lock-outs" put down for April 26, 1974 could not be taken up as the member concerned was not present in the House. Another Half-an-Hour discussion regarding "Rotting of sugar and rice bags in F. C. I. godowns, Cassipur" put down for May 3, 1974 was also not taken up as the member was absent. Half-an-Hour discussion regarding "Free Trade Zones", put down for May 8, 1974 could not be discussed in the House for want of time.

E. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the session, obituary references were made by the Speaker to the passing away of the following persons: Shri Kamal Nath Tewari, sitting member of the House, Chairman of the Estimates Committee, member of the Panel of Chairmen and member of the Third and Fourth Lok Sabha; Shri Ganpatrao Bapurao Dani, member of the Central Legislative Assembly during the years 1945-47; Shri Tulsidas Muljibhai Sheth, member of Fourth Lok Sabha during 1967-70; Shri M. Huche Gowda, member, Fourth Lok Sabha during the years 1967-70; Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, member, First, Second, Third Lok Sabha during 1952-67 and Central Legislative Assembly, Constituent Assembly and Provisional Parliament during 1942-52, former Union Minister 1952-58 and 1962-65; Shri K. Subramanian, Senior Correspondent of P.T.I. and member of Lok Sabha Press Gallery; Shri T. C. Sakhare, member, First Lok Sabha during 1952-53; Shri Radha Mohan Singh, member, Second Lok Sabha during 1957-62, Shri Y. Gadilingana Gowd, member, First and Fourth Lok Sabha during the years 1953-57 and 1967-70; Professor Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, noted Hindi poet; Shri G. L. Mehta, member of the Constituent Assembly in 1947; Shri Bipin Behari Verma, member of the Central Legislative Assembly during 1934-39, 1945-47, Provisional Parliament 1950-52, First, Second Lok Sabha 1952-62; Shri Braj Raj Singh, member, Second Lok Sabha during 1957-62; Shrimati Basanti Devi, wife of late Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das.

RAJYA SABHA

EIGHTY-SEVENTH SESSION*

The Rajya Sabha met for its Eighty-seventh Session on February 18, 1974 and adjourned on March 26, 1974. Some of the important discussions held and other business transacted by the House during the session are briefly mentioned below.

(A) DISCUSSIONS

U.K.—U.S. accord on establishment of Diego Garcia military base in the Indian Ocean:—On February 19, 1974, Shri K. L. N. Prasad called the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the agreement between the U.K. and U.S.A. for the establishment of a fulfilled strategic naval and air base in the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean and the reaction of the Government of India thereto.

Making a statement on the subject, Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister of External Affairs, said that the Government of India had consistently supported the efforts for maintaining the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, free from Great-Power rivalry and military escalation. Therefore, the announcement that the military facilities in Diego Garcia, a British Indian Ocean territory, were now to be further expanded by the United States, had deeply disturbed all the countries of the region. India, he said, would co-ordinate its efforts in order to mobilise international support for the objectives of the United Nations General Assembly on this matter which India had consistently been supporting. The Minister also added that since India was within bombing range from Diego Garcia, the proposed activity there posed a threat to the security of this country. A U.N. group presided over by Sri Lanka was going into the entire question and, undoubtedly, the matter would be raised on the forum of the United Nations. The two non-aligned conferences in Lusaka and Algiers had passed clear resolutions declaring that every effort should be made to ensure that Indian Ocean remained an area of peace.

*Contributed by the Research Unit, Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

Strike by Junior Doctors in Delhi Hospitals: On February 21, 1974, Dr. K. Mathew Kurain, raised a discussion on the strike by the junior doctors in Delhi Hospitals and said that almost 99 per cent of the responsibility for the strike was of the Government because of their original sin and the sins committed by them as early as 1964 onwards. From 1964 onwards, the Ministry of Health had been sitting tight over an issue which was being discussed peacefully through negotiations between the doctors' associations and the Government. The only demand of the junior doctors was that the written agreement signed by the Health Secretary must be honoured. The junior doctors were promised a graded scale because they were registered with the Medical Council of India and, therefore, they should be regarded as full-fledged doctors. The Government could not get away from their commitment and must honestly admit their failures. The Minister should accept the original scheme of the Ministry. That was the only basis on which a dialogue was possible. No amount of increases in the stipends would solve the problem. What was needed was that the Government should abide by the principle of graded salary scales and allowances.

Replying to the discussion, Dr. Karan Singh, Minister of Health and Family Planning, said that the Kartar Singh Committee recommended what they considered to be a suitably graded scale of emoluments, and these had been accepted by Government. The Minister added that on his own initiative he improved upon the emoluments because he thought that he should not go below Rs. 500 with free accommodation which they now got. It was not possible to treat the junior doctors at par with government servants because the position of the government servants was different as they come through the U.P.S.C. He could not do something which would create a tremendous problem for every other State Government in the country. An attempt to turn the strike into a nation-wide strike was nothing but an attempt to pressurise the Government. This sort of pressure tactics would ultimately yield nothing and might even prove self-defeating. Even if the doctors had a strong case, if they overplayed it, it would become counter-productive and would ultimately harm their interests.

Law and Order Situation in Gujarat: On February 22, 1974. Shri Niren Ghosh called the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the law and order situation and police firing in Gujarat resulting in the death of several persons.

Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs and in the Department of Personnel, making a statement on the subject, said that short supply of certain essential commodities and a steep rise in prices has sparked off agitations by different groups of people in various parts of Gujarat from the beginning of the current year. In the course of these agitations, extensive attacks on Government grain godowns, oil depots and Municipal and State transport buses, looting of grocery shops and fair price shops, damaging of public and private property by stone-throwing and arson occurred in several parts of the State. Prior to February 9, 1974 when President's rule was imposed in Gujarat, police opened fire at 30 places resulting in the unfortunate death of 45 persons and injuries to 137. Afterwards, till February 21, 1974, the police had to open fire at nine places resulting in the tragic death of three persons and injuries to 59.

Replying to the points raised by the members, the Minister said that it had never been the intention of Government or local administration to use force unless it became absolutely essential to do so. Army had to be called in because a very grave situation had developed there and it was no more possible for the police and the civil administration to control the situation which was full of violence. Whatever information or complaint about alleged police atrocities was received would be fully enquired into and if anyone was found to be at fault, he would be punished under the normal rules of the Government.

Discussion on the President's Address:—The Address¹ of the President delivered to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on February 18, 1974, was the subject matter of the discussion in the Rajya Sabha from February 25 to 28, 1974.

On February 25, Shri V. B. Raju, while moving a Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, said that the Address was a message from the Head of the State to Parliament on the state of the nation. It was an extremely significant message in the context of the country's present economic situation. Never before in the history of this country since independence the prices had risen so high and in such quick succession. This rise combined with the slow economic growth and industrial stagnation was responsible for the country's economic ills. The member said that it was not

1. Laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on February 18, 1974.

true that because of the nationalisation of wholesale wheat trade, its price had gone up in the open market. This could be easily seen from the rise of prices of rice and pulses where there had been no wholesale take-over by the Government. The labour movement, was being misused by certain elements who organised *gheraos* and *bandhs* which only retarded the production further. The solution of these problems, according to the member, lay in strict austerity without which there would be no cure of the economic impasse.

Replying to the debate on February 28, 1974 the Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, said that she was fully aware of the difficulties and hardships which the people of the country were facing at present. A single good crop following years of drought was not enough to stabilise the situation and this was what happened this year. It would be incorrect to say that the procurement drive had failed all over India.

The Prime Minister denied the charge that the Government was shielding traders, speculators and blackmarketeers. On the other hand, they were trying to deal with them very firmly. Referring to the Shiv Sena activities the Prime Minister denied that the Congress Party was supporting any parochial or communal organisation because they had already accepted the principle that the entire country belong to every citizen irrespective of his religion, caste or the language. Referring to the Gujarat situation the Prime Minister said that as soon as normalcy and peaceful conditions were restored, the Government would look into all aspects of the problem including the specific charges of corruption levelled against the former Ministers. The Prime Minister concluded her reply with the following hope-inspiring words:

"India has existed for thousands of years. How many crises it has passed through and how many prides it has passed through when it was absolutely down and how many periods we have passed through when we were humiliated, when we did not dare to talk about our religion or our culture or our language. But we have survived all these things and there is something in the people here in this country that helps them survive. But, in the first dark period if we are going to forget all these things and if we are not going to increase our confidence but are going to try to reduce it, when it is wrong and this is the greatest weakness. So, without appealing to the Members, I would say this: Let us work unitedly to build up the confidence of the people."

The Budget (Railways), 1974-75: The general discussion on the Budget (Railways), 1974-75,² took place from March 4 to 6, 1974. Initiating the discussion, Shri H. M. Trivedi said that even after the massive investments made during the four Five Year Plans, the railway budget made a rather dismal reading. Instead of being able to achieve the further target of something like 20 million carriages in this year, the Railways had been able to carry less than what they had carried during last year. The Railways had to fall back upon the General Revenues to the extent of Rs. 200 crores in order not only to meet the expenditure on the capital side but also on the revenue side. It was failure of the efficiency of the Railways which had contributed to industrial stagnation, power shortage and fall in traffic. The Railways had a Research and Development Organisation for over 20 years. Hardly 10 per cent of the innovations suggested by this body had been put to use.

The cargo carried was not commensurate with the available number of wagons. About 300 to 400 wagons were lying idle each day in each of 60 Railways Divisions. If only 30-40 per cent of this loss could be saved, the Railways would be earning about Rs. 17 to 20 crores.

Replying to the discussion on March 6, 1974, Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi, Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways, said that efforts had been made, to effect improvements in the Railway administration. The new approach had been to involve men right from the top down to the gangmen in the operational efficiency of the Indian Railways. It was with this aim in mind that the Railway Board was working.

While conceding that actual performance of the Railways during the year had been far from satisfactory, the Minister wanted members to remember that the Railway, had been up against very heavy odds during the year. There were unprecedented strikes, wildcat-strikes, and work-to-rule by the Railway employees and all these caused a lot of dislocation of the movement of the goods and traffic.

The Minister said that the working expenses on the Railways also had been rising steeply over the year. The option available to the railways for bridging the deficit gap of Rs. 189 was either to increase fares and freights or leave the gap uncovered and pass

2. Laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on February 27, 1974.

on the financial burden to the General Revenues. The later alternative would have added to the deficit financing of the Central Government which, in turn, would have resulted in further inflation.

The Railways had always attached the utmost importance to the movement of foodgrains. During the last Rabi season, a special drive was started from May, 1973 onwards to move large quantities of foodgrains. As a result of this special drive, record loading of foodgrains was done in the northern region during the months of May and June, 1973.

The Minister said that it was not possible to ensure absorption of all casual labourers, in regular employment as the potential for absorption against regular posts was limited.

The Budget (General), 1974-75: The general discussion on the Budget (General), 1974-75³ continued in the Rajya Sabha from March 12 to 18, 1974. On March 12, 1974, Shri Ram Sahai, initiating the discussion, said that for a number of years, Budget was being prepared keeping in view only the comforts of the rich people and overlooking the problems of the common man of the country. No essential commodity had been spared from taxation. That was why in the market, the prices of even those commodities, on which no further tax had been levied, had increased. No attempts had been made by the Government to effect economy in the administrative expenditure. The huge amount of expenditure being incurred on the maintenance of the Government buildings placed a heavy burden on the tax-payer. Also, the Government had failed to check inflation. On the other hand, it had gone on printing more and more currency notes every year. The nationalised banks were not functioning as efficiently as they did prior to nationalisation. The difficulties of public had increased after the nationalisation of coal mines and wheat trade.

Replying to the discussion on March, 1974, Shri Y. B. Chavan, Minister of Finance, said that despite all the inflationary forces, the pressure of the prices and deficit financing and despite all the difficulties of raising resources through taxation, the Government had made good and specific provisions for economic growth. The tax efforts made in the budget were non-inflationary in character,

3. Laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on February 28, 1974.

and some relief had also been given in direct taxation.

It was wrong to say that the Government did not have any policies. The Government took certain important decisions, e.g., nationalisation of banks, general insurance and coal mines etc. The Government introduced restrictions on credit and had disciplined the credit market through various measures.

The question of demonetisation had been brought up frequently and Government had made its position clear more than once that it was not thinking in terms of demonetisation. However, the Government was trying to attack the problem of black money in a more basic and scientific manner. With the steps taken to clear the large income tax arrears the gross arrears of income tax (including corporation tax) had been decreasing.

Disclosures in World Bank document about deepening crisis in Indian economy: On March 15, 1974, Shri Y. B. Chavan, Minister of Finance, making a statement in response to the Calling Attention Notice by Shri A. G. Kulkarni regarding deepening crisis in the Indian economy as disclosed in a World Bank document, said that a paper was prepared in response to a request by the Consortium countries three years ago on India's debt situation and aid requirements on a long term basis. The paper was prepared and distributed to members of the Consortium in connection with a meeting of the Working Party of the India Consortium Scheduled to take place in Paris in April, 1974 to discuss the level and pattern of Consortium support to India's development during the next years. The specific purpose of the Paper was to help members of the Consortium to appreciate the development effort which India proposed to mount during the Fifth Five Year Plan and to provide such resources as they had been providing or could provide in future in freely usable forms to the maximum extent possible.

Replying to the points raised by the Members the Minister said that the Government had not so far come to any definite assessment regarding credit requirements and the allied issues. Those who had leaked this confidential information must certainly have some motivation. But no motives could be attached to the World Bank in this regard. So far as the leakage was concerned, the

Government immediately made enquiries. According to press report the President of the World Bank's office leaked it, but later it had assured that it was not so. This confidential document was prepared by the World Bank and because of the confidential relationship between the World Bank and India it was not possible to lay it on the Table of the House or to discuss it.

Shiv Sena attacks on workers, Harijans and minorities: The continued violent attacks by Shiv Sena on workers, Harijans, linguistic and other minorities was the subject matter of discussion in the Rajya Sabha on March 13, 1974 when Shri P. K. Kunjadhen called the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs on the subject.

Making a statement with regard thereto, Shri Umashanker Dikshit, Minister of Home Affairs, said that the Government were deeply concerned over recent reports of some activities of the Shiv Sena which had caused apprehensions in the minds of some sections of the population in Bombay, including the linguistic minorities. The Prime Minister and the Home Minister had been keeping in touch with the Chief Minister of Maharashtra who was personally supervising measures to protect the legitimate interests of all sections of the people living in Bombay. He had arranged for special police patrolling in areas where there was feeling of insecurity and had strengthened the police arrangements on suburban trains with a view to affording protection to commuters. A Cell had been set up in the Crime Branch of the Greater Bombay Police to attend to complaints from minorities.

Replying to the points raised by the members, the Minister referred to a circular issued by the Government of Maharashtra wherein it was stated that only those Marathi speaking people who had been living in Bombay for a number of years would be treated as local population for the purpose of employment. The Central Government had already drawn the attention of the Maharashtra Government to the fact that people who had been living in Maharashtra for a number of years would be treated as local population for the purpose of employment. The Government would continue to pursue the appropriate policy in order to discourage this sort of activity.

Situation in Bihar: On March 21, 1974, Shri Yogendra Sharma, initiating the discussion, on the subject said that the situation in the State was very critical. Most of the cities of the State had to undergo an orgy of arson, loot and rapine. Railway stations, post

offices, petrol pumps and food godowns had been burnt. Patna was a den of Anand Margis and for some time they had been indulging in various criminal activities there. Within 40 hours the whole State of Bihar was set ablaze and that proved that what had happened in Bihar was not a spontaneous upsurge but was the result of a well-hatched conspiracy. Due to run-away prices, corruption, shortages and unemployment, the public and the students were much exercised and anti-social elements exploited the public unrest to achieve their ends.

The workers too were not satisfied with the economic situation in the country and they had shown their resentment through a peaceful Bihar *Bandh* on January 21, 1974. It were the fascist forces like Anand Margis and R.S.S. who let loose fire and loot on March 18, 1974. No industrial worker was involved in such violent activities. The fascist forces wanted to undermine the prestige of Mrs. Indira Gandhi. All democratic forces should unite to fight such elements. The Government should also take steps to remove the causes of resentment among the people. The essential commodities in Bihar had been hoarded on a large scale. Profiteers should be apprehended under the DIR and corrupt officers and Ministers should be thrown out.

Shri Uma Shankar Dikshit, Minister of Home Affairs, replying to the discussion, said that, of course, shortages had come about in the country and, consequently, the general level of prices had risen. The allocation of foodgrains was reduced not only in Bihar but elsewhere also. Except last year, when there were extreme drought conditions, the quantity given to Bihar was much more than elsewhere. Some opposition parties and some other groups thought that that was a golden opportunity for them for attacking the ruling Congress. There were four or five student committees formed in Bihar. One or two committees were dominated by Jan Sangh. There was a committee—Sanchalan Samity—in which there were boys or students who had particular respect for Shri Jayaprakash Narain. The Government had knowledge from Intelligence that there was a decision that on the opening day of the Assemblies of all States, trouble should be started. There were other people who physically prevented the Governor. They actually snatched the Address which the Governor was to read. By and large it was done by the Opposition parties and the groups like Anand Marg, who held the State to ransom.

As regards the students' grievances, about 20 days ago, the Minister said, the Chief Minister had called meetings in which all

the grievances, which related to their academic life, were discussed. There were also other demands like job-oriented education and that the price rise should be stopped immediately. Although these were very complicated things the Government were going to look into them and see what could be done. But, unless the parties concerned cooperated with the Government and discharged violence, arson, burning, looting, destruction, position would not improve.

Time Capsule: On March 25, 1974, Shri Pitamber Das, raising half-an-hour discussion on the records embedded in the Time Capsule said that during a discussion in the House earlier the Minister had stated that he had not read the contents of the documents placed inside the Time Capsule. But later on, in reply to a question he told the House that he had read the contents. If it was so then he must be in a position to reply a few questions regarding the Time Capsule. Whether or not a mention of the assassination of the Father of the Nation had been made therein? Whether there was any mention about the first Indian Governor-General Shri C. Rajagopalachari, and Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. Radhakrishnan, Dr. Ambedkar and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri? And what was the basis for the Minister's contention that records pertaining to a period of last 30 years could not be disclosed.

Replying to the discussion, Professor S. Nurul Hasan, Minister of Education, Social Welfare and Culture, said that the House was informed in November, 1972 that it was proposed to bury two Time Capsules. One Time Capsule was embedded on the 30th January, 1972 on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhiji's memory. The second Time Capsule was embedded on the 15th August, 1973 at the Red Fort. The details of contents were as given below:

(1) A 10,000 word account both in English and Hindi of improvement aspects of history of India from 15-8-1947 to 15-8-1972—calligraphed on parchment;

(2) An illustrated calendar of important developments since Independence on copper plates;

(3) Voice record on copper stamping of the following important speeches delivered in the Constituent Assembly at mid-night of 14-15 August, 1947;

(a) 'Tryst with Destiny' speech by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, duration 11 minutes, both Hindi and English;

(b) 'Vande Mataram' song by Pandit Onkar Nath Thakur;

(c) Swearing-in of the Members of the Constituent Assembly conducted in Hindi by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, duration 13 minutes; and

(d) Dr. Radhakrishnan's speech at the Central Hall on the 14th August, 1947, duration 13 minutes;

(4) Coins of ten rupees and fifty paise and postal stamps issued on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of Independence.

(5) Micro film of the Constitution of India along with Preamble in all the national languages.

(6) Micro films of the project report of Bhakra Nangal Dam;

(7) 13 portraits of important national leaders, etching in half-tone on copper plate, based on the portraits in the Central Hall of Parliament.

(8) Small modules of Vijayanta Tank, Ishapore Rifle and Bharat Earth Mover.

The Minister also said that under the normal rules of the National Archives, the contents of the historical records were kept confidential for a period of thirty years even if such records were from historians or the general public.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections (Amendment) Bill, 1974: On March 4, 1974, Shri Niti Raj Singh Chaudhury, Minister of State in the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, moving the motion for consideration of the Bill⁴, as passed by the Lok Sabha, said that experience in the past regarding Presidential election had not been an altogether satisfying one in view of the innumerable frivolous nominations filed by persons in a light-hearted manner and a number of election petitions being filed in much the same light-hearted fashion. It was, therefore, felt that in order that highest office of the head of the State was not dragged into needless controversy, it was thought necessary to incorporate in the law provisions which would operate as effective checks both against frivolous nominations and light-hearted election petitions. The Joint Committee, to whom the Bill was referred for scrutiny had made certain important changes in the Bill, according to which the number of minimum supporters for filing nomination as well as for filing an election petition in the case of Presidential election had been reduced from forty to twenty—ten as proposers and ten

4. Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill was presented to the Rajya Sabha on November 19, 1973, and the Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on February 25, 1974.

as seconders for the purpose of filing nominations. The further requirement of the support of a specified number of Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assemblies had been done away with. The motion was adopted and the Bill was passed on the same day.

The Esso (Acquisition of Undertakings in India) Bill, 1974:
On March 11, 1974 while moving the Motion for consideration of the Bill⁵ Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals, said that it was the declared policy of the Government that the oil industry must be brought under its effective control and this policy had the overwhelming support of Parliament. Oil industry, the Minister said, was far too important for the economic development of the country and for national security to be left in the hands of foreign companies. The Bill was the first step in this direction and referred only to the acquisition of the distribution and marketing operations of Esso in India. The Government had decided that in the overall interest it should take over 74 per cent equity in the total operations of the Esso group in India. The Bill also provided for payment of an amount of Rs. 2 crores and 59 lakhs as the principal amount to be paid in instalments. The Esso Oil Refinery was capable of working to 3.5 million tonnes per annum and it was in a very good condition fully equipped with sophisticated processing units. The Bill also made incidental provisions for protecting the contractual service condition of the employees including their provident fund, superannuation benefits etc. The Motion was adopted and the Bill was passed on March 12, 1974.

The Economic offences (Inapplicability of Limitation) Bill, 1974:
On March 20, 1974, Shri K. R. Ganesh, Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, while moving the motion for consideration of the Bill⁶, said that the Bill sought to save the institution of prosecutions under the Central Tax Laws and certain economic laws from the application of the periods of limitation prescribed in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, for taking cognizance of offences. Since the offences for which prosecution was prescribed in the Income-tax Act and other direct taxes Acts were punishable with fine or imprisonment extending only upto two years, all these offences would be covered by the periods of limitation now introduced. Some

⁵The Bill as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on March 7, 1974.

⁶Introduced in the Rajya Sabha on March 19, 1974.

of the other Acts, like the Customs Act, 1962, provided for imprisonment for a term upto seven years, if the market price of the smuggled goods exceeded Rs. 1 lakh. While the bigger offences under these latter Acts would thus be out of the period of limitation, offences relating to making of false declaration etc., and individual cases where the amount involved was upto Rs. 1 lakh would, nevertheless, be hit by the new provisions relating to limitation. So far as the direct tax laws were concerned, in a number of cases, the offence might come to the notice of the Department several years, after its commission. It was, therefore, proposed to make the provisions of Chapter XXXVI of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 inapplicable to prosecutions for offences under the Acts specified in the Schedule to the Bill and also for any other offence, which under the provision of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, might be tried along with such offences. The motion was adopted and the Bill was passed on the same day.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

The Chairman made references to the passing away of Professor Satyendra Nath Bose, an ex-member, Shrimati Sita Devi, a sitting member, and Dr. Jawaharlal Rohatagi, an ex-Member. The House observed one minute's silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

RAJYA SABHA

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

The Rajya Sabha met for its Eighty-Eighth Session on April 22, 1974. Some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the session are briefly mentioned below:—

Welcome to New Members: On the opening day of the Session the Chairman, welcoming the new members said that to be elected to the august House was a rare distinction and privilege to be cherished. Membership of the House carried with it heavy responsibilities and duties to strengthen the cause of democracy. Every member of the House was a trustee of the nation. The House had a rich tradition and a standard of conduct which any parliament could be proud of. New members would, undoubtedly, endeavour to enhance the prestige of the House in every way.

Discussion on the Working of the Ministry of Industrial Development and the Department of Science and Technology: On April 22, 1974, Shri S. S. Mariswamy, initiating the discussion, said that the Government of India's industrial policy had been drawn up 25 years ago and the same was still in vogue. The Minister had announced a policy and had created a secretariat of industrial approval for early disposal of applications for setting up medium and small industries. As and when the elections approached, the industrial policy of the Government became flexible and many changes were made overnight. Some time back the Government of India had thought that the State units must be given permission to start nylon factories in the joint sector and, as a result, 13 States applied for Letters of Intent. The Government of India gave approval to 13 State Government projects and Letters of Intent were issued to them but all of a sudden the State Governments were told that issuing of Letters of Intent to them did not mean that licences would also be given to them. It was, therefore, not fair on the part of the Ministry to give Letters of Intent to those 13 States and then to take them back after a year or so. The public enterprise had got to its credit not even a single consumer item. That was given to the private houses so that they could loot the public. In Tamil Nadu there were three cement factories which had either been closed or

were on the verge of closure for want of coal. The Government of India had not taken any serious view of the situation. The ALCOA of Canada had majority of shares in the Indian Aluminium Company. Why should a foreign-owned subsidiary company be licensed to produce this item which several Indian entrepreneurs were willing to take it up and when the Government policy was to encourage Indian entrepreneurs?

Replying to the discussion on April 25, 1974, Shri C. Subramaniam, Minister of Industrial Development and Science and Technology, said that it had already been admitted that as far as the growth during 1973-74 was concerned, the traditional industries had not shown any increase over production during 1972-73. Production during 1973-74 was certainly better with regard to many of the raw materials like oilseeds, cottons, jute, sugarcane, etc. and, naturally, the industries using these raw materials would also pick up. The Government also was seriously concerned about the pattern of industrial development. Instead of 25, there were 75 large houses now and most of the crucial industries were now in their charge. This had led to a certain amount of economic concentration. Sometimes the Government was compelled to depend on the big houses because nobody came forward to put up certain factories because of the heavy investment involved and the long gestation period.

The Minister agreed that our production was elite-consumption-oriented. The new positive direction which the Government wanted to give was that instead of producing for elite consumption, we should produce for mass consumption. This was one of the fundamentals which had been kept in mind while formulating the Fifth Plan. The Government fully subscribed to the workers' participation as a policy, But necessary conditions would have to be created at the trade union level and also at the management level. Unless we developed our scientific and technological competence, we would not be able to improve the functioning of even the industries which existed today.

Production and distribution of adulterated drugs and Pharmaceuticals: On April 23, 1974, Shri Harsh Deo Malaviya called the attention of the Minister of Health and Family Planning to the production and distribution of adulterated drugs and pharmaceuticals, particularly glucose, resulting in the death of a number of persons in the country. Making a statement on the subject, Dr. Karan Singh, Minister of Health and Family Planning, said that the death of 22 persons in a Kanpur hospital as a result of administration of glucose

injection was a grim tragedy. According to investigations made the 5 per cent glucose solution was reported to have been manufactured by Messrs. B. J. Pharma, Kanpur. The U.P. Government took immediate steps to seal the premises of the said firm and the two proprietors thereof had been arrested. The State Drugs Controller, the former Assistant Drugs Controller, the Senior Drugs Inspector of the region and the Drugs Inspector, Kanpur, had been suspended. The Superintendent of the Hospital had been sent on leave pending investigations.

The spurious drug racket evidently had widespread ramifications. The Government intended to bring forward an amendment to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, *inter-alia* making more stringent penalties for adulteration activities. According to the present law, the maximum penalty that could be given for adulteration was 10 years imprisonment but now the proposal was for life imprisonment for such crimes that really affected the life and well-being of the society. As health was a state subject the Central Government would urge upon the State Governments to give deterrent punishment in cases relating to the manufacture of spurious drugs.

Situation in Bihar: The subject came up for discussion in the House on April 23, 1974. Shri Rajnarain, initiating the discussion, said that the situation in Bihar was very miserable and it was going from bad to worse. The people had raised a voice of protest against corruption, high handedness and lawlessness prevailing in the State. The Bihar Government was not a homogenous group and that was why each one of the Ministers there had been indulging in all sorts of corruption and misappropriations in order to make money. Corruption, poverty and lawlessness were in vogue everywhere in the State and all these ills would continue until and unless the Ghafoor Ministry resigned, the State Assembly dissolved and fresh elections held in the State. The students there were organised and with the blessing of Shri J. P. Narayan they were bent upon improving the present situation in the State.

Shri Umashankar Dikshit, Minister of Home Affairs, replying to the discussion, said that it was a duty of the Government to afford protection to masses in the State with the help of the police forces even if that meant unpopularity, misunderstanding and misapprehension. According to information received from the Bihar Government, only eight people were killed; fifteen persons were injured as a result of eight rounds of firing.

The Minister also said that for the development and progress of the State between 1951 and 1969, investment on Central industrial projects in Bihar amounted to Rs. 514 crores and up to March 1972, approximately Rs. 1064 crores had been invested there which was about 22 per cent of the total investment on such projects. Now, three years later 1969, 30 per cent of the Central investment was in Bihar.

Discussion on the Working of the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation: On April 25, 1974, the Rajya Sabha discussed the working of the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation. Shri Lokanath Mishra, initiating the discussion, said that from the DGCA down to the Indian Airlines, none of these institutions was efficiently managed and there had been a persistent demand that there should be a separate Air Safety Board. In the course of his investigations of the Airlines plane crash near Delhi on the 14th August 1972, Justice Sachar had pointedly indicated that a Precision Approach Radar should immediately be installed. But till the day nothing had been done by D.G.C.A. in that regard. The fire fighting arrangements at the Palam Airport were below the international level. The Delhi Airport Authority was said to have asked for a global tender for improved varieties of fire fighting appliances and two of these machines had been obtained already and were under test in Bonn. But, why so much of time was taken on such matters when hundreds of lives were in danger? the DGCA, Indian Airlines and the Airport Authority, were hand-in-glove because they were involved in the same kind of lapses and each one tried to shield the other.

Shri Raj Bahadur, Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation, replying to the discussion, said that the Tata Committee in its Report had recommended about inspections, investigations and air safety. For flight inspection, a special system based on the pattern that obtained in France was recommended. The creation of a Civil Aviation Advisory Board had also been recommended. Bombay and Calcutta had already got Precision Approach Radars. Madras had another air route surveillance radar. And in Delhi in spite of much distress shown, but we wanted to bank upon our own resources. The Hindustan Aeronautics had taken up the manufacture with the assistance of an Australian firm. By the end of this year, the Precision Approach Radar would be installed. Eight Canadian crash fire tenders had been ordered. Out of them, seven had already been received and these had been placed at the various airports.

The IAC, after the lock out, had been able to introduce, despite the price hike in fuel, as many as 1006 services a week as against

980 services. The price hike had been of an extremely phenomenal character. Last year we had anticipated a profit of about Rs. 2.82 crores, but we have ended up in a loss of Rs. 4.90 crores, and next year the loss was estimated to be Rs. 16.50 crores with the present fuel price. With our present fleet strength of 6 Boeings, 9 Caravelles, 9 F-27 or Friendships and 15 Avros there was a surplus of 95 pilots. There were as many as 300 unemployed pilots, who had already got CPL licence, and they would be given the first chance of employment in the Indian Airlines and in Air India. There was no question of frustration or of anger among the sixteen thousand workers. The workers were happy; the management and also the workers were chastened after the lock-out.

Threatened Railway Strike: On April 26, 1974, Shri L. N. Mishra, Minister of Railway, making a statement in response to the calling attention notice by Shri Harsh Deo Malaviya regarding the decision of over 100 unions in the Railways to go on an indefinite strike from May 8, 1974, and cancellation of a large number of trains by the Railway authorities, said that the strike notice had been served on three zonal Railway Administrations on April 22, 1974 and on six zonal Railway Administrations on April 23, 1974. It was a matter of great national concern that at this juncture, when negotiations had been started between the Railway Ministry and the staff representatives, they should take such an ill-advised step. The Government was prepared for a negotiated settlement with staff representatives. The Railwaymen of all categories belonging to all departments had been doing commendable work and the Government was always prepared to do whatever was possible in the interest of staff. But there were some demands which the Government could never accept because those were beyond the means of the Government and their financial implications would far exceed Rs. 200 crores. The Railways already had a deficit of Rs. 190 crores and the fares and freight rates had already been raised.

To meet the situation arising out of the threatened strike, the Railways had had to cancel departmental services and to prune the number of Mail, Express and Passenger services. This would help to conserve fuel so as to enable the Railways to meet the essential requirements of economic activity of the country. While everything possible would be done to avert the strike by striving to arrive at a negotiated settlement yet, if a strike was forced upon the Railways, the Government would take all possible steps to keep up the movement of essential commodities required for the community.

Railway Strike

On May 10, 1974, the strike by the Railwaymen in the country came up for discussion in the House. Making a statement in response to the Calling Attention Notice on the subject by Shri Prakash Vir Shastri, Shri L. N. Mishra, Minister of Railways, said that it had been made clear to the railwaymen that every effort would be made to arrive at a negotiated settlement. Since then there had been long meetings of the Negotiations Committee under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Minister of Railways. All the demands were discussed at length and wherever the Government could meet the demands, these had been agreed to. One of the main demands of the workers was revision of wagons by about 75 per cent and change in the Dearness Allowance formula. The decision of the Government on the Pay Commission's recommendations gave a benefit of Rs. 110 crores to the railwaymen which meant a 20 per cent increase in the wage bill. The Government had taken a decision that it was not possible now to revise the wages and the Dearness Allowance formula. As regards the demand concerning working hours and decasualisation of casual labour, the recommendation of the Mianbhoy Tribunal had been accepted in toto and this gave a benefit of Rs. 35 crores. The other two demands were removal of anomalies arising out of the Pay Commission's recommendations and a cadre review of Class III and Class IV staff to improve their avenues of promotion. These two demands had been accepted.

So far as the Railways were concerned the minimum bonus might be Rs. 48 crores but its repercussions would be on other departmental workers. If all that was taken together, it would mean a huge expenditure of Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 crores. That was a commitment which the Government was not in a position to make. Of the total earnings of the Railways 30 per cent was from passenger traffic and 70 per cent from goods traffic. If all these demands were accepted, it would mean 100 per cent rise in freight traffic only. The country could not afford such a steep rise in freight.

The Army, the B.S.F. and the Territorial Army had to be brought to protect the railway property and to protect those loyal workers who wanted to work and who had kept the wheels of the railways moving in the most difficult times.

Discussion on the Working of the Ministry of Steel and Mines:—
On April 29, 1974, Shri V. K. Sakhalecha, raised a discussion on the

working of the Ministry of Steel and Mines and said that the Ministry had an important place in the economy of the country. Steel and coal were the two materials which provided a sound foundation for the economy of a country. Looking from this angle, our achievement in the fields of steel and coal production had not been to our expectations. Our country was very rich in various minerals, especially coal, but they had not been exploited properly to improve the economy. It was an irony of fate that the regions of our country which were very rich in mineral wealth had a population that was most backward and extremely poor. Our country stood nowhere in the world in respect of steel production. We had not been producing steel even to our installed capacity and whatever was produced, there was lot of bungling in its distribution. The steel requirements of the country could not only be fulfilled through expansion of the existing big steel plants, but by the setting up of the mini steel plants also.

Replying to the discussion, Shri K. D. Malaviya, Minister of Steel and Mines, said that the Steel Authority of India was meant mainly to plan, promote and organise an integrated and efficient development of iron and steel and associated input industry in accordance with the national economic policy and the objectives laid-down by the Government from time to time.

The coal production had registered an increase. However, production of coking coal had registered a fall because of the shortage of power. It was a fact that coking coal was produced in greater quantities when the mines were not nationalised. The moment the coal-mines were nationalised, we had to rationalise production and bring mines to an order. It was quite possible that the rate of rise in production of coking coal might not have been as good or as satisfactory as it ought to be. Unfortunately, the production target of steel had not been fulfilled and there were obvious difficulties.

Discussion on the Working of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting: On April 30, 1974, Shri Prakash Veer Shastri, initiating the discussion said that of late the impression was gaining strength that All India Radio and Television were becoming instruments of propaganda for the Government and the ruling party. Some journalists of repute had also expressed the view that Press in India was coming under Government pressure. The action taken by the Government of Haryana against 'The Tribune' by stopping Government advertisements to that paper, supported this impression. Although eighty-two per cent of the newsprint was being imported, the size of the newspaper was becoming smaller with the result that

the news of public importance were being ignored. Efforts should, therefore, be made to see that there was equitable distribution of newsprint to the various newspapers. The Film Censor Board did not represent the aspirations of the nation. The Board should not only be reconstituted, but it should be given some guidelines also so that it could do its bit in improving the standards of our films. Something should also be done regarding the hoardings which devery vulgar advertisement about our films.

Shri I. K. Gújaral, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, replying to the discussion, said that when the Government wanted to de-link the press from the big money, it always envisaged an institutional set-up wherein the Government should have nothing to do either directly or indirectly. The Government was one with the House on the point that de-linking must take place. Unfortunately, we had been facing very difficult times so far as newsprint was concerned. The contracts which the STC had entered into for newsprint were irrevocable but the supplying parties backed out because of the price rise. Therefore, we had to enter into new agreements. Even then the quantity available was so limited that even today we could not get as much as we wanted. The Government had taken steps to increase indigenous production of newsprint. New factories were being set up in Kerala and Assam. Another project would be coming up in Himachal Pradesh in the private sector. NEPA too was trying to double its capacity.

The Government was keen for the internal autonomy of the Radio and the T.V. As compared to B.B.C., we were dealing with a very big country running approximately 70 stations and more than a hundred transmitters. We were also trying that the Radio should participate not only in the political but also in the social and cultural life of the country.

Shortage of Bread and Baby food in Delhi: On May 2, 1974, Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur called the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the acute shortage of bread and baby food in Delhi markets. Making a statement in response thereto Shri Annasaheb P. Shinde, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, said that some shortage of bread had been reported in Delhi in the third week of April, 1974, but no shortage had been reported after the prices were revised with effect from the 26th April, 1974. The present demand of bread in Delhi was estimated to be of the order of about 30,000 tonnes per annum and the registered capacity of the three units in the

organised sector was about 27,928 tonnes. In addition, there were a large number of small bakeries in the unorganised sector and the total production was more or less, sufficient to meet the requirements of Delhi. However, one reason for shortage of bread in Delhi was that the bread price was controlled in Delhi while in outside areas it was not controlled and because of the difference in prices, bakery purchases from Delhi were going out to other areas. As a result of the new policy, the prices would now, more or less, be the same in all parts of the country.

The present demand of infant milk food in the country was estimated to be in the vicinity of 25,000 tonnes and the level of production was of the order of about 21,000 tonnes per annum. Because of the unprecedented drop in milk collection in view of drought conditions and floods and its after effects, baby food manufacturers had been facing difficulties in augmenting production.

Riots in Delhi: On May 7, 1974, Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, Minister of States in the Ministry of Home Affairs and in the Department of Personnel, said that it was a matter of deep grief and concern that on the afternoon of May 5, 1974, considerable violence and arson had occurred in certain areas of the Sadar Bazar Police Station in Delhi resulting in a number of casualties, destruction of property and widespread panic. According to information available at about 1.30 in the afternoon information was received in the Sadar Bazar Police Station that rioting was taking place in Kishanganj Chowk-Azad Market area. The Police Officers reached the scene of trouble within a few minutes. Finding the situation serious, they called for reinforcements and also alerted the higher officers. Between 1.45 P.M. and 2.00 P.M. the Additional District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police, North District, too reached the place. The A.D.M. found it necessary to order the police to open fire to disperse mobs indulging in arson and violence. The I.G.P., the District Magistrate and the DIG had all reached the scene of trouble soon thereafter. There were numerous instances of violence including resort to use of private fire arms, brick-batting, throwing of soda-water bottles etc. and arson in the area until about 3.30 P.M. when the situation started coming under control. Such incidents, however, spread to the Bahadurgarh Road, Sadar Thana Road, Kasabpura and Motia Khan areas. The entire disturbances came under full control by 8.00 P.M. when curfew was announced and effectively enforced soon thereafter. The fires had also been brought under control by 8.00 P.M. though fire-fighting operations continued till late at night. It was a matter of profound sorrow that ten valuable lives were lost in the course of the

disturbances and about 131 persons were known to have received injuries. Fifteen policemen including the IGP, the DIG and ten firemen also received injuries.

Investigations were in progress to ascertain the cause of the disturbances. The Government intended to institute a comprehensive high-level fact-finding inquiry. Three criminal cases had been registered and 66 persons arrested. More arrests were expected in the course of the specific investigations.

The Prime Minister and the Home Minister had been keeping in touch with, and had visited, the area of occurrences on the 5th May, 1974 evening and again on the 6th May, 1974. At the same time utmost vigilance was being maintained to prevent recurrence of any trouble.

Replying to the points raised by the members on May 8, 1974, Shri Umashankar Dikshit, Minister of Home Affairs, said that there was hardly any dispute that communal organisations in the country were very active. It was a very important matter pregnant with grave implications. There was not only one organisation but several organisations and the Government would have to go into them all.

The Minister admitted that the Government did not get any intelligence before hand. In this connection the Tandon Committee had suggested two things. Firstly, in every police station there should be some type of intelligence system. Accordingly, the Government had set up officer-cells in every police station and officers were also appointed. Secondly, from time to time, fresh lists of all the anti-social people, should be prepared. Such lists were prepared and about 4 thousand anti-social people were made to sign bonds and about 300 people were externed from Delhi.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Some of the laws passed by the Rajya Sabha during the Session, are as follows:

*The Union Duties of Excise (Distribution) Amendment Bill 1974; the Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of Special Importance) Amendment Bill 1974; The Estate Duty (Distribution Amendment Bill, 1974:*¹ On May 11, 1974, Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi, Deputy

¹The Bills, as passed by the Lok Sabha, were laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on May 8, 1974.

Minister in the Ministry of Finance, Moving the motions for consideration of the Bills, said that the three Bills sought to give effect to some of the recommendations of the Sixth Finance Commission regarding distribution between the Union and the States of the net proceeds of taxes.

The first Bill sought to give effect to the recommendations of the Commission in regard to the distribution of the net proceeds of Union Duties of Excise between the Centre and the States on the one hand and among the different States on the other. The Commission had recommended that the auxiliary duties of excise introduced from 1973-74 which were not shareable with States at present should also be shared with them and the States' share should be distributed among the States on the basis of 75 per cent for population and 25 per cent for backwardness.

The second Bill sought to give effect to the recommendations of the Commission regarding distribution among the States of the proceeds of Additional Duties of Excise levied on sugar, tobacco and textiles.

The Third Bill related to the distribution of the net proceeds of Estate Duty in respect of property other than agricultural land among the States. The only change that the Sixth Finance Commission had recommended was the reduction in the share attributable to the Union territories from 3 per cent to 2.5 per cent.

The three Bills were simple legislative measures, meant for the implementation of the recommendations made by an expert body constituted under article 280 of the Constitution.

The motions were adopted by the House. The first two Bills were returned and the third Bill was passed on the same day.

The Constitution (Thirty-Third Amendment) Bill, 1974: On May 13, 1974, Shri H. R. Kokhale, Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, moving the motion for consideration of the Bill,² said that the Bill sought to amend articles 101 and 190 which, respectively, dealt, *inter alia*, with the right of a member of either House of Parliament or a member of a House of the Legislature of a State to

²The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha as the Constitution (Thirty-fifth Amendment) Bill, 1974, and the Short Title of the Bill was changed by that House to Constitution (Thirty-third Amendment). The Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on May 9, 1974.

resign his seat. Resignation by a member was intended to be voluntary and genuine. But, in some cases, it was found that members were made to submit resignations under pressure, physical violence or coercion. Obviously, it would be misnomer to call such an act on the part of a member a resignation. As the provisions presently stood in the Constitution, the Presiding Officer had no other alternative but to act on the basis of the resignation.

It was with a view to preventing situations of this kind that the present Bill had been brought, to make the position clear that resignations contemplated in articles 101 and 190 were resignations which were voluntary and genuine and not those which had been contrived through the use of undesirable means. In such cases, the proposed provision would enable the Presiding Officer to satisfy himself as to the genuineness or the voluntary nature of the resignation before he accepted the same. Through the proposed amendment, the right conferred upon the member by the Constitution was being made really effective and it could not be taken advantage of by undesirable elements to achieve their ulterior purposes.

The motion was adopted and the Bill was passed in accordance with the provisions of article 368 of the Constitution on May 14, 1974.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

The Chairman made references to the passing away of Shri Ram Prasanna Ray, Professor Ramdhari Singh Dinkar and Shri Bipin Behary Varma, ex-Members of the Rajya Sabha. The House observed one minute's silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

The House adjourned *sine die* on May 14, 1974

STATE LEGISLATURES*

CONSTITUTION (THIRTY-SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 1973

The undermentioned State Legislatures adopted on the dates noted against each resolutions seeking to ratify the Constitution (Thirty-second Amendment) Bill, 1973 as passed by both Houses of Parliament:—

(i) Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council	—January 30, 1974
(ii) Assam Legislative Assembly	—March 30, 1974
(iii) Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly	—April 11, 1974
(iv) Karnataka Legislative Assembly	—March 7, 1974
(v) Karnataka Legislative Council	—March 11, 1974
(vi) Nagaland Legislative Assembly	—March 29, 1974
(vii) Punjab Legislative Assembly	—March 3, 1974
(viii) Rajasthan Legislative Assembly	—April 8, 1974
(ix) Tamil Nadu Legislative Council	—April 10, 1974
(x) Tripura Legislative Assembly	—March 21, 1974

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Prevention of water Pollution: On March 14, 1974 the Assembly adopted a resolution seeking to authorise Parliament to enact a law providing for the prevention of water pollution, maintaining and restoring of wholesomeness of water and to constitute a Board to carry out these purposes. ..

Constitution of Committee on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes: On March 15, 1974, the House passed a resolution constituting a nine-member Committee of the House to be known as the

*Contributed by the Research and Information Service, Lok Sabha Secretariat on the basis of material received from the Secretariats of the State Legislatures. For details regarding duration of the sessions and activities of the State Legislatures, see Appendices III and V.

"Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes". The term of the members of the Committee shall be upto March 31, 1975.

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

State Autonomy: On April 23, 1974, the Chief Minister, Dr. M. Karunanidhi, moved the following resolution in the Council :—

"This House, taking into consideration 'The Tamil Nadu Government Views on State Autonomy and the Rajamannar Committee Report' and the Report of the Rajamannar Committee;

resolves that, in order to secure the integrity of India with people of different languages, civilisation and culture, to promote economic development and to enable the State Governments having close contact with the people to function without restraints; and

in order to establish a truly Federal set up with full State Autonomy, the Central Government do accept the views of the Tamil Nadu Government on State Autonomy and the recommendations of the Rajamannar Committee and proceed to effect immediate changes in the Constitution of India."

The discussion on the resolution took place for four days and the resolution was ultimately adopted on April 27, 1974.

Appointment of Archakas: On April 23, 1974, the Minister for Religious Endowments, Shri M. Kannappan, moved the following resolution in the House:—

WHEREAS there has been widespread public criticism against the system of hereditary appointment of Archakas, Pujaries and other Ulthurai servants in Hindu Religious institutions on the ground that the system of appointment is on the basis of caste sector group;

AND WHEREAS the Committee on Untouchability, Economic and Educational Development of the Scheduled Castes has in its report suggested that hereditary priesthood in Hindu society should be abolished and that the system should be replaced by an ecclesiastical organisation of men possessing requisite educational qualifications who might be trained in recognised institutions in priesthood and that the line should be open to all candidates irrespective of caste, creed or race;

AND WHEREAS under the existing provisions of the Constitution as interpreted by the Supreme Court, the appointment of Archakas and Pujaries had to be made from a specific sect or group in accordance with the directions of Agamas governing the temples and that failure to do so would interfere with the religious practice;

AND WHEREAS this House is of opinion that as a measure of social reform, appointment of Archakas, Pujaries or other Ulthurai servants in Hindu religious institutions should be made from among qualified persons, professing Hindu religion, irrespective of caste, sect or group of such persons;

AND WHEREAS, to enable the State Legislature to enact a law for the above purpose, the Constitution has to be suitably amended.

THIS HOUSE resolves to request the Central Government to bring forward the necessary legislation to amend the Constitution suitably on the lines indicated in the draft Bill enclosed.

Annexure to the Resolution

A Bill further to amend the Constitution of India

Be it enacted by Parliament in the Twenty-fifth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title:* This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 1974.
2. *Insertion of new article 26-A:* After article 26 of the Constitution, the following article shall be inserted, namely:—

"26-A. Archakas and other office holders and servants in Hindu religious institutions to be appointed irrespective of caste.—

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in article 13, the State Legislature may, by law, provide that vacancies, whether permanent or temporary, among the office holders or servants (including archakas and pujaries) of any Hindu religious institution may be filled by a person professing Hindu religion and possessing such qualifications as may be specified in such law, irrespective of the case, sect or group of such person.

(2) If anything contained in any agamas or sastras or any text, rule or interpretation of Hindu Law or any custom or usage or part of that law is repugnant to any of the matters for which provision is made in the law referred to in Clause (1), then the law referred to in clause (1) shall prevail and such agamas or sastras or any text, rule or interpretation, custom or usage or part shall, to the extent of repugnancy, be void.

(3) No such law as is referred to in clause (1) shall be deemed to be void on the ground that it is inconsistent with or takes away or abridges any of the rights conferred by articles 25 and 26, notwithstanding anything contained in articles 14, 15, 25 and 26".

TRIPURA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No-confidence Motion against Ministry:—On March 29, 1974 the Leader of the Opposition, Shri N. Chakraborty, moved a motion of

no-confidence in the Council of Ministers headed by Shri S. M. Sengupta. The motion was negatived after discussion.

UNION TERRITORIES

DELHI METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

On February 6, 1974, the Metropolitan Council adopted the following Motions :—

(i) Allotment to plots to refugee families:

"This House proceeds to discuss the price rise and scarcity conditions of essential commodities in the Union Territory of Delhi."

(ii) Manufacture of coal gas:

"This House resolves that in order to solve the problems of fuel shortage permanently, Delhi Administration should take concrete and definite steps for manufacturing coal gas and sewage gas and supply it through the pipe-lines to the consumers on fixed and cheap rates so that some relief may be provided to all the needy citizens."

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS
IN THE STATES*

(February 1, 1974 to April 30, 1974)

ASSAM

By-election to Lok Sabha

Shri Nurul Huda (CPI-M) was declared elected on February 26, 1974, from Cachar Parliamentary constituency defeating his nearest Congress nominee, Shri Mahitosh Purkayastha by a margin of 19,944 votes. The by-election was caused by the death of the Congress member, Smt. Jyotsna Chanda.

By-election to Assembly

Shri S. C. Daolaguppu (Cong.) was elected on March 29, 1974 to the Assembly in the by-election held from Haflong (St) constituency in North Cachar Hills district defeating the Independent candidate, Shri Sonaram Thousen by a small margin of 75 votes in a straight contest.

BIHAR

By-election to Lok Sabha

On February 26, 1974 Shri N. E. Horo (Jharkhand) retained Khunti parliamentary seat defeating his nearest rival Shri Kariya-Munda (Jana Sangh) by 2223 votes in a seven-cornered contest. The by-election was caused by the invalidation of Shri Horo's election by the Supreme Court.

Minister's Status for Chief Whip

The Bihar Cabinet on March 26, 1974 decided to give the status of Minister to the Chief Whip of the ruling party in the Vidhan Sabha on the basis of the recommendations of the All-India Chief Whips Conference.

Education Reforms Committee

On March 27, 1974, the Finance Minister Shri Daroga Prasad Rai announced the constitution of a seven-man high-powered Com-

*This feature prepared by the Research and Information Service is based primarily on newspaper reports and no responsibility is accepted for the accuracy or veracity of information or views covered.

mittee headed by Shri Ramanand Singh, retired Education Commissioner of Bihar, to suggest measures to make university education job-oriented.

Prorogation of Vidhan Sabha

The Speaker, Shri Harinath Mishra disallowed on April 8, 1974, a notice of an adjournment motion given by an S.S.P. member on the externment order of the State Government on Shri Raj Narain who had come to attend the National Committee Session of the Party observing that the House was scheduled to begin a debate on the Governor's Address and as such "no other business can get priority over it" under the rules. However, the Opposition raised the issue after the Question Hour when it attacked the Government for acting improperly by serving the order on the SSP leader and added that it was an attack on the citizens right to move about freely through the country. The entire Opposition supported the motion and noisy scenes followed. The Finance Minister Shri Daroga Prasad Rai then suggested that the House be adjourned *sine die* in view of the Opposition's attitude not to allow the business of the House to be carried on. The Speaker thereupon adjourned the House *sine die* without adopting the Motion of Thanks on the Governor's Address. The Session was scheduled to last till April 26. The Governor later prorogued the Vidhan Sabha.

Resignations by forty-one Ministers and Reshuffle of Ministry

On April 10, and 11, 1974, forty-one out of forty-six Ministers including the Chief Minister, Shri Abdul Ghafoor, jointly submitted their resignations to the A.I.C.C. General Secretary, Mrs. Chandrasekhar. The resignations were voluntarily tendered in the "larger interests of the party" to enable the High Command to deal with the developing situation. Shri Abdul Ghafoor reconstituted his Ministry on April 18, 1974, dropping 35 Ministers (12 of Cabinet rank, 19 Ministers of State and 4 Deputy Ministers). The new 14-member Ministry consisted of, besides Shri Ghafoor, Sarvashri Kedar Pande, Daroga Prasad Rai, Chandrasekhar Singh, Narsingh Baitha, Ramprasad Singh, Jagannath Mishra, Lathan Chowdhery, Smt. Ram Dhulari Sinha, Sidui Hembrom, Umesh Prasad Verma, Simon Tigga (last two were new entrants), Ramashray Prasad Singh (a Minister of State in the outgoing Ministry) and Shri Umesh Prasad Verma. The resignations of the Ministers who were dropped were also accepted by the Governor on April 18, 1974.

M. P. Singh resigns from Congress

On April 17, 1974 Shri Mahamaya Prasad Singh, MLA and a former United Front Chief Minister resigned from the Congress Party in protest against the policies of the existing Ministry. He said that he would function as an independent member in the Vidhan Sabha.

GUJARAT

Dismissal of Ministers

On February 7, the Governor Shri K. K. Viswanathan, on the advice of the Chief Minister, Shri Chimanbhai Patel dismissed Dr. Amul Desai, Finance Minister, Shri Divya Kant Nanavati, Law Minister, Shri Amar Singh Chowdhuri, Minister for Social Welfare and Shri Navin Chand Ravani, Deputy Minister for Planning and Housing from the Council of Ministers.

Resignation of Minister

On February 8, 1974. Shri Maganbhai Barot, Minister of State for Education, submitted his resignation in protest against "police excess on students."

Resignation of Ministry and President's rule

The Chief Minister, Shri Chimanbhai Patel on February 9, 1974, submitted his resignation to the Governor, recommending imposition of President's rule in the State and suspension of the State Assembly.

Acting on the report of the Governor, the President issued on the same day a proclamation under article 356 of the Constitution placing the State under President's rule after a seven months' rule of the Chimanbhai Patel government which came into power in July, 1973. This was the second time that the State came under the President's rule, the first being in May 1971 following the fall of Congress (O) Ministry headed by Shri Hitendra Desai.

Resignation of MLAs

On February 15, 1974 all the 16 Congress (O) members of the Gujarat Assembly submitted their resignations to the Speaker, Shri Leuva to facilitate the dissolution of the House in "response to the

popular demand". The number of resignations rose to 35 on February 23, 1974, 48 on March 2, 1974 and 96 on March 14, 1974 on the eve of the dissolution of the Assembly.

Resignation of the Deputy Speaker

The Deputy Speaker, Shri Ramesh Chandra Parmar handed over his resignation to the Speaker, Shri Raghvji Leuva on February 18, 1974.

Resignation and Expulsion of Chimambhai Patel

On February 28, 1974, the Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi directed Shri Chimambhai Patel to step down from the leadership of the Congress Legislature Party with a view to reorganising it as also the Pradesh Congress Committee to enable Congressmen to face with united strength the pressure being built up for the dissolution of the Assembly. Instead, Shri Patel, on March 1, 1974, resigned from the State Assembly. On the same day, he was expelled from the Congress Party for flouting its directive to resign the leadership of the State Congress Legislature Party and instead resigning from the State Assembly itself.

Dissolution of the Assembly

In the wake of the resignation of 96* members of the Assembly demanding its dissolution, the Governor, Shri K. K. Viswanathan announced the dissolution of the State Assembly on March 15, 1974.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Resignation of Deputy Speaker

Shri Ali Mohammad Naik resigned as Deputy Speaker of the Assembly on March 1, 1974 and joined the Congress Party. Shri Naik, an independent and a former President of the Plebiscite Front, was the nominee of the Opposition.

Election of Deputy Speaker

On March 25, 1974, Shri Beli Ram (Congress) was elected as Deputy Speaker of the Assembly.

*Fifteen resignations were still pending with the Assembly Speaker, thus taking the total to 111 in a House of 168

Election to Legislative Council

On March 4, 1974, all the eight Congress candidates were declared elected unopposed to the Legislative Council from the Assembly constituencies. Six of them were former members of the Council.

Chairman of the Council

Syed Husain, who recently resigned as member of Parliament was unanimously elected Chairman of the Legislative Council on March 16, 1974, Shri Gurmukh Singh, a former Deputy Minister was elected Deputy Chairman.

KARNATAKA

By-election to Assembly

On March 18, 1974, Shri M. Venkatalingaiah (Congress-O) won the Krishnaraja seat in the by-election to the Assembly defeating his immediate rival Shri H. Gangadharan (Jan Sangh) by a margin of more than 3,700 votes.

By-election to Lok Sabha

On April 23, 1974, Shri Siddarama Reddy (Congress) won the by-election from Gulbarga constituency defeating his nearest Congress (O) rival, Shri Chandrasekhar Reddy by 87,791 votes in a six-cornered contest. The by-election was necessitated by the death of sitting Congress member, Shri Dharmarao Afzalpukar.

Four Independents join Congress

On March 19, 1974, four of the eleven independent members of the Vidhan Sabha—Smt. Parvati Devi, Sarvashi Reshamlal Jangde, Lal Kirit Kumar Singh and Dineshwar Sai—joined the Legislature Congress party, thus raising its strength to 229 in a House of 296.

MADHYA PRADESH

By-elections to Assembly

Two by-elections to the State Assembly were held on April 21, 1974. In Junner constituency Smt. Latabai Tambe (Congress),

widow of the former M.L.A., defeated Shri A. V. Bidwan (Jana Sangh) in a straight contest, and in Karmala constituency Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde (Congress) defeated his Independent rivals, Sarvashri A. D. Kamble and S. E. Trambake in a triangular contest.

MANIPUR

Mid-term elections

In the mid-term election held to the 60-member Assembly, the alliance of the Manipur People's Party and Manipur Hills Union secured an absolute majority. Out of the 59 seats for which result had been declared, the MPP got 20 seats; the MHU 12; the Congress 12; the CPI-6; the SP 2; the KNA 2 and Independence 5. The Congress-O and CPI(M) did not secure any seat. The result of one seat was withheld and the matter was referred to the Election Commission for a decision.

Independents join MPP-MHU Parties

The strength of MPP-MPH alliance rose to 35 on March 2, 1974 when two independents formally joined the MPP and the third joined the MHU.

Election of Leader and Deputy-Leader of the Alliance

On March 2, 1974 the MPP unanimously elected the former Chief Minister, Shri Mohammed Alimuddin as leader of the Legislature party and the former Education Minister, Shri Y. Yaima Singh as its Deputy Leader. The Legislature Party of the Manipur Hills Union, on March 2, 1974 elected the former Finance Minister, Shri Y. Shaiza as leader and Shri M. Gouzagin as its Deputy leader.

Support to Coalition Ministry

On March 3, 1974 the Socialist Party and the KNA, each of which had 2 representatives in the Assembly announced their decision to support the coalition ULP Ministry headed by Shri Alimuddin.

Coalition Ministry formed

On March 4, 1974, the President issued a proclamation under article 356(2) of the Constitution revoking President's rule in the State. On the same day, the Assembly was reconstituted and a two-member coalition Ministry of United Legislature Party headed by Shri Alimuddin, leader of the Manipur People's Party was formed. He and Shri N. Gouzagin, Deputy leader of the Manipur Hills

Union were administered oath of office and secrecy by the Governor, thus marking the end of one year of President's rule in Manipur.

Expansion of Ministry

On March 9, 1974, the Ministry was expanded with the addition of ten more Ministers including a sitting Rajya Sabha member Shri S. Tombi Singh and Shri L. Chandramani Singh, Speaker of the previous Assembly, both of whom belonged to MPP. The three-tier Ministry consisted of 8 Ministers of Cabinet rank including the Chief Minister and Shri Gouzagin. Others were Sarvashri Y. Yaima Singh, K. H. Chaoba Singh, L. Chandramani Singh, Haokhalal Thangjom (MHU), Salam Tombi Singh and T. P. Kiu-lengpao. The three Ministers of State were Sarvashri S. T. Thungam (MHU), Borathakur Sharma (Socialist Party) and Ngulkhohao (Kuki National Assembly). Shri Gouzagin (MHU) was sworn in as a Deputy Minister.

NAGALAND

Election results

In the third general election to the 60-member Assembly held on February 12, 14 and 16, 1974 the United Democratic Front (UDF) secured 25 seats; Nagaland Nationalist Organisation (NNO) 23 and Independents 12.

Independents join United Democratic Front

On February 21, 1974 the Chairman of the United Democratic Front of Nagaland, Shrimati Rano Shaiza said that seven of the twelve independents had joined her party thus raising its strength in the Assembly to 32.

Election of leader of the UDF

On February 23, 1974, the UDF party unanimously elected Shri Vizol as its Legislature Party leader.

UDF Ministry

On February 26, 1974, a 15-member United Democratic Front Ministry headed by Shri Vizol was sworn in by the Governor, Shri L. P. Singh. Shri S. C. Jamir, former Union Deputy Minister was given the second position in the Ministry. Other Cabinet Ministers were Sarvashri M. Kithan, M. Vamuzo, Phesaho, Toke O. Sema and Toshi Sangtam. Sarvashri Shurhoz Elien, W. Kapfo, Hufka Sumi,

Imcha Lemba, Msomshan Murry, Shurhoz Elien, W. Kapfo, Hufka Sumi, Imcha Lemba, Msomshan Murry, Nyoiwang and Rushulo were appointed as Ministers of State and Sarvashri Azu N. Ewamai and Senta Chuba as Deputy Ministers.

Administration of oath

On March 7, 1974, 59 of the 60 members of the newly elected Assembly were administered oath by the *pro tem* Speaker, Shri Tajen Ao.

Election of Speaker

On March 7, 1974, Shri N. Kiditsu of the ruling United Democratic Front was elected Speaker of the Assembly defeating his opponent Shri Soachang (NNO) by 36 to 22 votes. One vote was rejected and one member was absent.

ORISSA

Election results

In the mid-term election to the 147-member Legislative Assembly held on February 22, 24, and 26, 1974, the Congress secured 69 seats; CPI 7; CPI(M) 3; Utkal Congress 33; Swatantra 21; SPI 2; SSP 2; Jana Congress 1 and Independents 8. The Congress-(O), the Janta Congress and Jharkhand Parties did not secure any seat. One seat remained vacant.

Independents join Congress

On March 3, 1974, with the admission of three Independent members the strength of the Congress Party rose to 72. Besides, the seven-member CPI group formally conveyed its support to the leader of the Congress Legislature Party.

Election of leader of the Congress Legislature Party

At a meeting of the Congress Legislature Party held on March 2, 1974, Shrimati Nandini Satpathy was unanimously elected leader of the Congress Legislature Party.

Pragati Party in the Assembly

The strength of the Pragati Legislative Party, a United Front of Utkal Congress, Swatantra and SSP in the Assembly which was 56 was raised to 57, with the joining of an independent member, Shri Promoda Chandra Bhanj Deo on March 3, 1974.

On March 3, 1974, the Party unanimously elected Shri Byer Patnaik as its leader, Shri R. N. Singh Deo as Deputy leader and Shri P. C. Mohanty as Secretary.

18-Member Ministry Sworn in

On March 3, 1974, an 18-member Ministry headed by Smt. Nandini Satpathy was announced and seventeen members were administered oath of office and secrecy by the Governor, Shri B. D. Jatti. The eighteenth member was sworn in on March 12, 1974. Besides Smt. Satpathy, the Ministry consisted of Sarvashri Binayak Acharya, Banka Behari Das, Jadunath Das, Srivallabh Panigrahi and Laxman Mallick as Ministers of Cabinet rank, Sarvashri Mohan Nayak, Somnath Rath, Ramchandra Ulaka, Brahmanand Biswas, Dibyalochan Sekhar Deo, Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi, Dr. Benudhar Baliar, Sarvashri Kanu Charan Lenka and Bhagirathi Gamango as Ministers of State and Sarvashri S. K. Mutlab Ali and Kuaria Majhai as Deputy Ministers.

Election of Speaker and Deputy Speaker

On March 21, 1974, Shri Braj Mohan Mahanty (Congress) former Revenue Minister was elected Speaker of the Assembly defeating the opposition candidate Shri Prahlad Mallick, a Harijan by 12 votes. Shri Chintamani Jena (Cong.) was elected as Deputy Speaker of the Assembly on March 29, 1974, unopposed.

PUNJAB

By-election to Assembly

On March 25, 1974 Dr. Baldev Parkash (Jan Sangh) a former Minister won the by-election to the Vidhan Sabha from Amritsar (east) constituency, defeating his nearest congress rival, Shri Brij Mohan Bhatia by a margin of 10,333 votes in a twelve-cornered contest. The by-election was caused by the death of Shri Gian Chand Kharbanda, Minister of State for Food and Supplies.

RAJASTHAN

Election of office Bearers of Congress Legislature Party

On April 10, 1974 Shri Paras Ram Maderna, Revenue Minister, was elected Deputy leader of the Rajasthan Congress Legislature Party by 116 votes to 17. Sarvashri Phool Chand Jain and Pukh Raj Karani were elected Secretaries defeating Sarvashri P. K. Chowdhary and Sajjan Singh.

TAMIL NADU

By-election to Lok Sabha

On February 27, 1974 Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan (C.P.I.) was declared elected to Lok Sabha from the Coimbatore constituency defeating her nearest rival Shri S. V. Lakshmanan (Con-O) by a margin of 2591 votes in a six-cornered contest. Shrimati Krishnan polled 1,72,485 votes.

Deputy Speaker joins Anna DMK

On February 17, 1974, the Deputy Speaker Shri P. Sreenivasan resigned from the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam following differences with the party leadership and joined the Anna DMK.

Deputy Speaker resigns

On March 9, 1974, the Assembly discussed a resolution moved by Shri S. Kandappan, a ruling party member for the removal of Shri P. Sreenivasan, Deputy Speaker. At the end of his reply to the discussion, the Deputy Speaker submitting his resignation to the Speaker, requested the mover and the Chief Minister Shri M. Karunanidhi through the Speaker to withdraw the resolution. The Speaker, acting on a suggestion from the Chief Minister and the mover of the resolution accepted the resignation and ruled that the resolution would, with the permission of the House, be deemed to have been withdrawn.

Motion for removal of Speaker

On March 27, 1974, a motion seeking the removal of the Speaker, Shri K. Govindan for "his failure to conduct the proceedings of the House in an impartial manner" was admitted after 35 members, as required under the rules, representing the Congress(O), Congress, ADMK, CPI and Swatantra, stood up in support. When the motion was put to vote on the next day, after a day-long debate, none of the movers was present as the Opposition parties had earlier walked out in protest against expunction of certain portions of the proceedings during the reply of the Speaker to the charges made by the Opposition parties. The Chairman Shrimati Joshi Venkatachalam announced that the motion was deemed to have been withdrawn.

UTTAR PRADESH

Expulsion of four sitting MLAs

On February 12, 1974 the Bhartiya Kranti Dal expelled four sitting M.L.As, viz. Sarvashri Banarsi Ram, Mahavir Singh, Charanjiv Lal and Mahendra Singh for contesting elections to the State Assembly against the party candidates.

Election results

In the Sixth General Election held in U.P. on February 24 and 26, 1974 the Congress Party secured an absolute majority in the Vidhan Sabha. It won 215 seats in the 425-member House, the position of other parties being: Jan Sangh 61; BKD 106; Congress (O) 10; CPI 16; Socialist 5; CPI(M) 2; Mahasabha 1; Muslim League 1; Swatantra 1; Soshit Samaj Dal 1 and Independents and others 5. Election in one constituency was countermanded.

Election of Leader of the Congress Legislature Party

On March 5, 1974 Shri H. N. Bahuguna was unanimously elected leader of the Congress Legislature party. His name was proposed by Shri Baldev Singh Arya and seconded by Sarvashri Narendra Singh Bhandari and Triveni Rai.

Formation and Expansion of Ministry

On March 5, 1974 an 11-member Ministry headed by Shri H. N. Bahuguna was sworn in, by the Governor, Shri Akbar Ali Khan. Other Ministers were Sarvashri Ajit Pratap Singh; Istifa Hussain; N. D. Tiwari; Baldev Singh Arya; Mahmud Ali Khan; Raj Mangal Pandey; Dr. Ranjilal Sahayak; Shrimati Rajendra Kumari Bajpayi; Shri Lakshmi Shankar Yadav and Swami Prasad Singh.

On March 6, 1974 the Ministry was expanded by including Shri Saligram Jaiswal who retained the old portfolio of Health and Family Planning.

Election of BKD leader in the Assembly

At a meeting held on March 15, 1974, Shri Charan Singh was unanimously elected leader of the BKD legislature party. Representatives of the SSP and the Muslim Majlis who were elected to the Vidhan Sabha on the BKD ticket would function as members of the BKD in the House.

Office-bearers of CPI Group

. On March 17, 1974, the CPI Group in the Assembly elected Shri Bhikalal as leader, Sarvashri Govind Singh Negi and Udal as Deputy leaders and Sarvashri N. J. N. Tewari and R. B. Singh as Chief whip and Secretary respectively.

Election of Speaker

On March 18, 1974, at the first sitting of the newly constituted Assembly, Shri Vasudev Singh who was Deputy Speaker in the outgoing House was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the Assembly.

Retirement of former Speaker and Secretary

The Assembly on March 20, 1974 paid tributes to the services rendered by Shri A. G. Kher, former Speaker and Shri Devaki Nandan Mithal, former Secretary of the Legislative Assembly, both of whom had retired. Shri Mithal was appointed as an honorary adviser to the House.

Leader of the Congress (O) Legislature Party

On March 5, 1974, the U. P. Congress (O) Legislature Party elected Shri Ram Murti MLA, former Irrigation Minister as its leader in place of Shri C. B. Gupta who was defeated. Shri Niaz Hasan, MLA was elected leader of the 10-member party group in the Assembly and Shri Shiva prasad Gupta as its Chief Whip.

Independent members join Congress

On March 30, 1974 at a meeting of the Congress Legislature Party four out of the five newly elected independent members of the Vidhan Sabha were formally admitted to the Congress Legislature Party thus bringing the party's strength to 219.

CPI to function as independent group

According to a statement issued by 4 Communist leaders, the Communist group in the Vidhan Sabha would function as an independent group.

WEST BENGAL

By-elections to Assembly

By-elections to Assembly were held in two constituencies, viz. Belgachia and Chinsurah on February 26, 1974 and in Gaighata on

March 2, 1974. In Belgachia, Shri Nandalal Bannerji (Congress) defeated his nearest rival Shri Amarendranath Bhattacharjee (Congress-O) by a margin of 28,066 votes in a triangular contest. In Chinsurah, Shri Chandra Kumar De (Ind.) defeated the nearest congress rival Shri Shailendranath Chatterjee in a five-cornered contest. In Gaighata, Shrimati Mira Rani Mitra (Congress) defeated her nearest rival Shri Radhapada Biswas (Ind.) by a margin of 16,483 votes in a four-cornered contest.

**BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (MEMBER'S EMOLUMENTS)
(AMENDMENT) BILL 1974**

On March 27, 1974, the Assembly passed the Bengal Legislative Assembly (Members Emoluments) (Amendment) Bill, 1974 by 128 votes to 13 with Congress (O) and Muslim league abstaining. The Bill sought to enhance the MLAs' allowance by Rs. 200 a month to meet the situation arising out of rising prices of essential commodities. Earlier in 1965 the salary of MLAs was enhanced to Rs. 250 a month.

UNION TERRITORIES

GOA DAMAN AND DIU

By-election to Assembly

On February 26, 1974, Shri R. D. Khalap of the ruling Maharashtra Gomantak Party was elected to the Assembly in the by-election from Mandrem constituency defeating Shri Raju Babu Talwankar (Congress) by 6258 votes in a straight contest.

PONDICHERRY

By-election to Lok Sabha

On February 28, 1974 Shri Aravinda Bala-Pajandu (Anna-DMK) was declared elected in the by-election to Lok Sabha from Pondicherry constituency defeating his nearest Congress rival, Shri S. Sivaprakasam by a margin of 12,118 votes in a seven-cornered contest. The by-election was necessitated by the death of Union Minister of Steel and Mines, Shri S. Mohan Kumaramanglam.

Election results

In the Assembly election held in the Union Territory of Pondicherry on February 24, 1974, Anna-DMK secured 12 seats: Congress

7; Congress (O) 5; DMK 2; CPI 2; CPI(M) 1; and Independent 1.

Leader of the Anna DMK Legislature Party

On February 27, 1974 Shri S. Ramaswamy, Finance Minister in the Farook Ministry, was unanimously elected leader of the Party.

Election of leader of the Congress—Congress (O) Legislature Party

On February 28, 1974 at a meeting of the newly elected Congress and Congress (O) members, Shri Dhana Kanttaraj (Cong.) was elected leader of the 12-member Legislature Party.

Anna-DMK Government

The first Anna-DMK Government came to power in the Union Territory in less than a year and a half after its birth and assumed office on March 6, 1974 when a four-member Ministry headed by Shri S. Ramaswamy was sworn in by the Lt. Governor, Shri Chhedi Lal. The other three members were Shri D. Ramachandran, Shri V. M. C. Varada Pillai and Shri N. Venkataswamy. The fifth member Shri V. Subbiah (CPI) was administered the oath of office on March 21, 1974.

CPI Joins Anna-DMK Government

On March 12, 1974, the CPI at the meeting of its party executive decided to join the Anna-DMK Government and nominated Shri V. Subbiah, the CPI leader to join the Cabinet.

Election of Speaker

On March 26, 1974, Shri S. Pakkiam, Anna-DMK from the Bussy constituency was unanimously elected Speaker of the Assembly.

Defeat of Anna-DMK-CPI coalition Ministry

On March 27, 1974, the Anna-DMK-CPI Coalition Ministry was defeated by 15 votes to 14 in a division* forced by the Congress and the DMK on the Chief Minister's motion on the Vote-on-Account Bill for the first four months of the 1974-75 financial year. Immediately after the defeat, the Chief Minister, Shri S. Ramaswamy submitted the resignation of his Ministry to the Lt. Governor.

*The party-wise break up of the division result was 11 ADMK; 2 CPI and one CPI(M) voted for the motion while 7 congress; 5 Cong (O) 2 DMK members and one independent against it.

President's rule

Following the defeat of the three-week-old Anna DMK-CPI coalition Ministry, President's rule was imposed in the Union territory on March 28, 1974 and the Assembly was dissolved. An announcement to this effect was made in the Lok Sabha by Shri R. N. Mirdha, Minister of State for Home Affairs.

This was the second time in three months that President's rule was imposed in the Union territory, the first being on January 3, 1974 following the resignation of the DMK Ministry headed by Shri Farook Maricar when two Cabinet Ministers and a DMK member defected to the Anna DMK, thus reducing the ruling party to a minority.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE MIDDLE EAST: NATIONS, SUPER POWERS AND WARS.
By Yair Evron. London: Elec Books Ltd. 1973.

Ever since the Golden East was discovered for modern Europe, West Asia has been an enigmatic factor in the considerations of Big Powers contending for global influence.

The rise of modern imperialism saw the British and the French contending for influence in the region and after a period of intense rivalry and the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire settled for their respective areas of domination and influence. In the aftermath of the second world war and with the dissolution of the British and French empires the newly emerged world powers—United States of America and the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics—tried to step into the shoes of the British and the French. Had it been a simple replacement of one set of powers by another there would not have been a Middle-East problem and not in the least the plethora of literature on the contemporary developments in the area.

The situation in West Asia became complex with the birth of the Zionist movement in the beginning of the century and the encouragement given to it under Balfour Declarations. Eversince, the Jewish desire of a homeland in the areas of their Biblical origin assumed serious proportion. It saw fruition in 1948, synchronising with the end of the Mandatory rule of Britain in Trans-Jordan. The exigencies of American domestic politics where the people of Jewish origin are an influential minority and the power which this vocal group weilds on American policy and the help and support given by it to the Zionist Movement towards the creation of Israel, have been some of the most significant factors in the development of contemporary events in the area.

Another factor which is of a great significance in the West Asian situation is the intra-Arab States rivalry. The leadership question in any regional grouping always poses a serious problem. Here the Egyptian claim to leadership could not have been excepted to remain unchallenged by the oil rich Arab States with their feudal and monarchical socio-political system. Saudi Arabia became the rival gravitational centre which countered Egyptian claims to leadership of the Arab world. The dynamic Egyptian leadership

of President Nasser inspired and encouraged the new resurgence in the Arab world, whose radical overtones tended even to threaten the very existence of the monarchical-feudal system represented by Saudi Arabia and a battle-royal of attrition began in all seriousness.

However, this inter-Arab rivalry became less ferocious and was played in a low key after the 1967 War—the result of which was humiliating for the entire Arab world. Since then, efforts have been afoot to reconcile the various antagonistic elements in order to put up a solid Arab front in the face of Israeli threat which — many Arabs felt and still feel — poses a danger to them all. With the death of President Nasser and the humiliating experience of the 1967 War the Egyptians had more pressing problems of both political and military nature and seemed no longer interested in the question of leadership of the Arab world — at least for the time being. Further, the unity displayed by the Arab countries during the latest crisis is yet another factor which has helped to solve this issue, for some time at any rate, and, therefore, the key-problem of leadership is no longer a live issue in the current developments of West Asian situation.

The West Asian situation has brought out yet another significant factor, i.e. the limitations of the super powers to influence the course of events in the area. This facet of the West Asian story has been very lucidly analysed in chapter 5 of the book where the author says that “these pressures and threats are conducted within the framework of the three main categories of local powers’ positions *vis-a-vis* the external powers: direct opposition and struggle (sometimes armed) against outside pressures, involvement and influence; pressures and threats within the framework of ‘nonaligned’ or ‘neutralist’ posture; pressures and threats within the framework of a tacit military alliance relationship” (p. 174) To this must now be added the united Arab resolve to use oil as a political weapon as has been seen during the latest crisis of 1973.

The tactics of alternately blowing hot and cold by the local powers—the Israeli and the Arabs alike and of using both their strength as well as weaknesses—for playing off one super power against the other has put severe limitations on the effectiveness of the super powers to play a positive role in the region. And thus the author concludes by saying that “the essential feature of international politics in the Middle East, however, is that the local powers are, and in all probability will remain, for better or for worse, the masters of their own fate” (p. 227).

This leads us to conclude that in the ultimate analysis the Arabs and Israelies shall have to come to terms with each other by recognising the realities of the situation and in a spirit of live and let live.

The book has its own limitations but is nevertheless an objective account of the developments since 1948 and is a welcome addition to the literature on current West Asian scene.

—Hari Kishore Singh, M. P.

THE OPEN PRISON—SAVING THEIR LIVES AND OUR MONEY
By Sol. Chaneles. New York: The Dial Press, 1973. \$ 6.95.

Of all aspects of present day society the least attention is undoubtedly given to the prison and the life of its inhabitants. The indifference may be because of a general antipathy to those whose misdeeds lead them behind the bars or may be because as Sol Chaneles in his book *The Open Prison—Saving their lives and our money* has indicated that elected Government official does not take a strong interest in what goes on in prison, "because nine out of ten prisoners have never voted, don't vote while imprisoned, and do not yet actively seek restoration of their voting rights after prison" (p. 16). In this context his comments that if only one out of three of the men and women who were behind prison walls on election day in 1968 had been given a chance to vote, the outcome of the American presidential election might have been different provide the subject matter of an interesting study.

Though one may not fully agree with some of the viewpoints expressed in his above book by Mr. Chaneles—a member of President Nixon's task force on prisoners' rehabilitation—yet none can deny that he has done a good job by focusing the attention of the various aspects of American prison and the life of its occupants. He advocates prison reform leading to its ultimate closure because he claims that America's prisons could be closed without causing any imminent threat to the safety of citizens or community well being. He has shown also in this book how the nation's exchequer is drained in building prison cells; the average cost of building one prison cell amounted to \$ 12,000 in 1970 and is likely to rise to \$ 18,000 in 1975 (p. 23).

It is also interesting to note from his book the various kinds of corruption prevalent in prison life. He has mentioned that in Idaho in 1971, prison guards were making deductions from inmates' savings accounts while they were leaving prison. The prisoners who

asked for reasons for this deduction were told that they could expect trouble if they did not keep their mouth shut. Similar cases are cited of other prisons and the author finally concludes that there is hardly a prison in America in which guards are not making profits from the sale of contraband items like drugs, alcohol and pornography. The author has referred to the evidences of congressional hearing on prison conditions over the decades 1960—70 to bring home the point that in every American prison anything could be bought for a price, including getting linens changed daily, easy work assignments, special food and drink, more frequent visits and meal and special cell accommodation—often with a high priced call girl—and also continuation of gambling with outside.

The other interesting aspect which Mr. Chaneles has referred to is that whereas forty years ago the average age of a prisoner in America was 38, it came down to 26 in 1971 and that most prisoners were better educated than any time in the past. He has also classified the various groups of new prisoners and shown that during the period 1968—71 the number of prisoners convicted of serious crimes increased by about 400 per cent in military prisons in America and overseas. A large percentage of this belongs to the veterans of the war in Southeast Asia. Many of them became addicted to drugs—a habit acquired in Vietnam with supplies from sources owned by Saigon officials and implicitly protected by the American government. To quote his very words “Many veterans are returning home in a period of high unemployment and little hope of getting jobs. The difference or ingratitude of the American public to the service these men have been required to perform, deep shame for their participation in unconscionable massacres, and for many the added burden of a dishonourable discharge are creating severe obstacles for readjustment to civilian life. These are the veterans who are finding their reward in a prison sentence” (p. 100).

Mr. Chaneles has urged for a complete restructuring of the education and job potentialities of prisoners and also for plans providing for community entry by them. Many of his conclusions and suggestions may not be fully applicable to our country, but his book undoubtedly provides materials for new thinking and also a new approach to this neglected aspect of our present day society.

—Dinesh Chandra Goswami, M.P.

I. BOOKS AND REPORTS

Australia, Parliamentary Library: *Australian Parliamentary handbook*, 18th ed. Canberra, Australian Govt. Publishing service, 1973.

Birch, A. H.: *The British System of government*. 3rd rev. ed. London, George Allen & Unwin, 1973.

Buchan, Alastair: *Power and equilibrium in the 1970*. London, Chatto & Windus, 1973.

Carter, April: *Direct action and liberal democracy*. London, Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1973.

Goa, Daman and Diu, Legislative Assembly: *Who's who Panaji*, Goa, Daman and Diu Legislature Department Secretariat, 1973.

Great Britain, Ministry of Civil Service: *The Dispersal of Government work from London*. London, H.M.S.O., 1973.

Parliament, House of Commons, Select Committee on the House of Lord's offices, 1973-74: *First report*. London, H.M.S.O., 1973.

—————: Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, 1973-74: *First report*. London, H.M.S.O., 1973.

Gundevia, Y. D.: *The Testament of Sheikh Abdullah: With a monograph*. Dehradun, Palit & Palit, 1974.

Hale, H. W.: *Political trouble in India 1917—1937*. Allahabad, Chugh Publications, 1974.

Haryana, Legislative Assembly: *Rules of procedure and conduct of business (under article 208(1) of the Constitution of India)* Chandigarh, Haryana Vidhan Sabha Secretariat, 1973.

*Prepared by Research and Information Service, Lok Sabha Secretariat. For a comprehensive listing of the reports of Parliamentary and State Legislature Committees and for a wider coverage of articles in periodicals and newspapers, see the quarterly publication *Abstracts and Index of Reports and Articles* published by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

India, Cabinet, Secretariat Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms: *Annual report of the Central Bureau of Investigation*. Manager of Government of India Press, 1974.

—————: Ministry of External Affairs: *List of India's representatives abroad*. Faridabad, Government of India Press, 1974.

Inter-Parliamentary Union: *Chronicle of Parliamentary elections*. Geneva, International Centre for Parliamentary Documentation, 1973.

Johari, J. C.: *Reflections on Indian politics a critical commentary on development and decay of the Indian political system*. New Delhi, S. Chand, 1974.

Kaushik, Devendra and Peerthum, Satyendra: *Towards Collective Security in Asia*. Bombay, Allied Publishers, 1973.

Korea, National Assembly: *The National Assembly of The Republic of Korea*. Seoul, Secretariat of the National Assembly, 1973.

Kulkarni, V. B.: *India and Pakistan: a historical survey of Hindu-Muslim relations*. Bombay, Jaico Publishing House, 1973.

Nair, A. Balakrishnan: *Parliamentary control of the Administrative function in India (a study in procedure)*. Trivandrum, Kerala Academy of Political Science, 1973.

Newzealand, Local Government Commission: *Report for the year ended 31st March 1973*. Wellington, Government Printer, 1973.

Nikitina, Galina: *The State of Israel: a historical, economic and political study*. Moscow, Progress Publishers, 1973.

Rau, M. Chalapathi (and others): *Parliamentary democracy in retrospect*. New Delhi, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, 1973.

Richards, Peter G.: *The reformed local government system*. London, George Allen & Unwin Ltd., 1973.

Rose, Richard: *Government without consensus: an Irish perspective*. London, Faber & Faber, 1971.

Rosenblum, Victor G. and Castberg, A. Didrick (ed.): *Cases on constitutional law: political roles of the Supreme Court*. Homewood, The Dorsey Press, 1973.

Ruthnaswamy, M.: *Legislation: principles and practice*. Delhi, D. K. Publishing House, 1974.

Tamil Nadu, Legislative Assembly Department: *The report on the recommendations of the Committee on Rules and the final report of the Committee on Rules*, Madras, 1973.

II. ARTICLES

Advani, L. K. : Wanted : A crusade against corruption (*Organiser*, January, 26, 1974, pp. 16-17).

Apter, David E. : The Premise of Parliamentary Planning (*Government and Opposition*, Vol. VIII, No. I Winter, 1973).

Balkrishna: Election of the President of India (*Journal of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies*, July—September 1973, p. 33).

Bashiruddin Ahmad : 1974 Elections : Consolidation of democratic institutions (*Indian and Foreign Review*, March 15, 1974, pp. 11—13).

Baral, L.S. : Viability of the Political System (*Weekly Round Table*, April 14, 1974, pp. 12—14).

Bhargava, P. K. : Centre-State Financial Relations in India (*Journal of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies*, July—September 1973, p. 115).

Belavadi, S. H. : The Press and Parliamentary Privileges (*Focus*, April 1, 1974, Vol. III, No. 23 pp. 43—68).

Bhawani Singh : The two Houses of Indian Parliament : A study in confrontation (*Journal of the Society for Study of State Governments*, January—March, 1974, pp. 13—34).

Borthwick, R.L. : Public bill committees in the Houses of Lords (*Parliamentary Affairs*, Vol. XXVI, No. 4 Autumn, 1973, pp. 440).

Butler, David : Ministerial responsibility in Australia and Britain (*Parliamentary Affairs*, Vol. XXVI, No. 4, Autumn, 1973, p. 403).

Dave, M.M. : Gratuitous legislation (*Democratic World*, February 21, 1974, pp. 6).

Deshmukh, Nana : Gujarat and President's elections (*Motherland*, April 22, 1974).

Deutsch, Karl: *Between Sovereignty and Integration : Conclusions* (*Government and Opposition*, Vol. 9 No. I, Winter, 1974, pp. 113—119).

Dogra L. M. and Bhatnagar S. : Legislator's welfare role (*Journal of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies*, Vol. VII, No. 2, April—June, 1973, pp. 134—145).

English, John C. : Future of democracy in India (*Current Events*, April, 1974, pp. 57-58).

Gupta, Anirudha : Elections under one party system (*Mainstream*, March 2, 1974, pp. 27-28).

Hanumanthapa, T. : Opening of the Legislature, (*Journal of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies*, July—September, 1973).

Hayward, Jack and Wright, Vincent : Presidential supremacy and the French General Elections of March, 1973—Part II (*Parliamentary Affairs*, Vol. XXVI, No. 4, Autumn, 1973, pp. 372—402).

Ingle, M. H. : The touchables (*Seminar*, May, 1974, pp. 26—28).

Ionescu, Ghita : Between Sovereignty and Integration : Introduction (*Government and Opposition*, Vol. 9 No. I Winter, 1974, pp. 3—20).

Jain, Girilal : India 1973 : Beyond the detente (*Seminar*, January 1974, pp. 22—26).

Jain, H.M. : Decision—making at the centre : Role of the Prime Minister in India (*Journal of the Society for Study of State Governments*, January—March, 1974, pp. 1—12).

Jones, G.W. : The Prime Minister and Parliamentary questions (*Parliamentary Affairs*, Vol. XXVI, No. 3, Summer, 1973, pp. 260—273).

Kalotikar, B. : Last days of growthmanship (*Democratic World*, January 17, 1974, p. 4).

Kaul, A. N. : Legislative Reference Service in Indian Parliament (*Journal of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies*, July—September, 1973, p. 51).

Khan, Rasheeduddin : India 1973 : The total state (A survey of the political system) (*Seminar*, January 1974, pp. 38—45).

Kripalani, J. B. : Fair elections? (*Indian Express*, January 22, 1974).

Kulkarni, V. B. : Image of democracy (*Indian Express*, March 28, 1974).

Madhu Limaye : Erosion of democratic norms (*Motherland*, January 30, 1974).

Minattur, Joseph : The unamendable constitution (*Democratic World*, March 14, 1974 p. 5)

Monson, Robert A. : Political stability in Mexico : The Changing Role of Traditional Rightists (*The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 35, No. 3, August, 1974 p. 594).

Morgan, Roger : Can Europe have a foreign policy? (*The World Today*, February 1974 Vol. 30 No. 2, pp. 43—50).

Mukherij, P. B. : Constitution, commitment and conscience (*Caravan*, April 1, 1974, pp. 19—21).

Narayan, Jayaprakash : Onward to people's democracy (*Radical Humanist*, January 1974, pp. 10—14 and 28).

Narayan, Jayaprakash : The evil of corruption (*Swarajya*, January 19, 1974, p. 18).

Newman, Roland and Cranshaw, Shelley : Towards a closed Primary Election in Britain (*The Political Quarterly*, Vol. 44, No. 4, October—December, 1973 p. 447).

Nicholas, H. G. : The Insulation of the Presidency (*Government and Opposition*, Vol. VIII No. 2, Spring, 1973, p. 156).

Noorani, A.G. : Role of parliamentary consultative bodies (*Indian Express*, January 15, 1974).

Noorani, A.G. : Inter-State Disputes and the Constitution (*Indian Express*, February 26, 1974).

Patil, S. K. : Is there an alternative to revolution? (*Motherland*, January 19, 1974).

Pavithran, A. K. : The Watergate scandal (*Eastern Journal of International Law*, January 1974, pp. 245—256).

Power, Paul X.F. : On ideologies in India's foreign relations (*Indian Political Science Review* January 1974, pp. 1—6).

Rao, B. Shiva : The Presidential election : The Constitutional position (*Times of India*, April 18, 1974).

Raza, Syed Yusuf : Public discontent rising in Pakistan : Another coup likely (*Mail*, January 17, 1974).

Reddy, G. K. : Deterioration in Political life (*Hindu*, March 19, 1974).

Rogers, Tommy W. : Search for a Southern Strategy in the 1972 Presidential Elections in the United States (*Journal of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies*, July—September 1973, p. 101).

Sankhdher, M.M. : Government by violence (*Democratic World*, April 18, 1974, p. 7).

Sankhdher, M.M. : Tailoring academic democracy (*Democratic World*, March 7, 1974, p. 9).

Setalvad, M.C. : Liberty and the rule of law *Swarajya*, January 10, 1974, pp. 3—6).

Sethi, J.D. : Mrs. Gandhi's grip on foreign policy (*Young Indian*, January 17, 1974, pp. 5-6).

Singh, D. N. : Money factor in elections (*Motherland*, March 1, 1974).

Sundaram, I. Satya : Parliament and Fundamental rights (*The Modern Review*, January, 1974, pp. 45—48).

Todorovic, Mijalko : Yugoslavia's new Constitution (*Review of International Affairs*, March 5, 1974).

Vimal Chandra : Constitutional safeguards (*Seminar*, May, 1974, pp. 16—21).

Vukadinovic, Radovan : Soviet foreign policy and non-alignment (*Review of International Affairs* (Belgrade), January 5, 1974, pp. 8—11).

Warnapala, W.A. Wiswa : Mr. Speaker in Sri Lanka (*Journal of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies*, July—September 1973, p. 81).

APPENDICES

- I. Statement showing the work transacted by the Fifth Lok Sabha during the Tenth Session of Lok Sabha.
- II. A. Statement showing the work transacted during the Eighty-seventh Session of Rajya Sabha.
B. Statement showing the work transacted during the Eighty-eighth Session of Rajya Sabha.
- III. Statement showing the activities of the State Legislatures during the period January 1, 1974 to March 31, 1974.
- IV. List of Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President during the period February 1, 1974 to April 30, 1974.
- V. List of Bills passed by the State Legislatures during the period January 1, 1974 to March 31, 1974.
- VI. Ordinances issued by the Central Government during the period February 1, 1974 to April 30, 1974 and State Governments during the period January 1, 1974 to March 31, 1974.
- VII. Party Position in Parliament and State Legislatures:—
 - A. (i) Lok Sabha (State-wise).
(ii) Lok Sabha (Party-wise).
 - B. (i) Rajya Sabha (State-wise).
(ii) Rajya Sabha (Party-wise).
 - C. State Legislative Assemblies.

APPENDIX I

**STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING
THE TENTH SESSION OF THE FIFTH LOK SABHA**

1. Period of the Session	18th February to 10th May, 1974	
2. Number of meetings held		54
3. Total number of sitting hours	389 hours 53 minutes.	
4. Number of divisions held		30
5. GOVERNMENT BILLS :		
(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session		23
(ii) Introduced		19
(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by Rajya Sabha		4
(iv) Returned by Rajya Sabha with any amendment/recommendation and laid on the Table		Nil
(v) Referred to Select Committee		Nil
(vi) Referred to Joint Committee		2
(vii) Reported by Select Committee		1
(viii) Reported by Joint Committee		2
(ix) Discussed		27
(x) Passed		22
(xi) Withdrawn		Nil
(xii) Negatived		Nil
(xiii) Part-discussed		2
(xiv) Discussion postponed		Nil
(xv) Returned by Rajya Sabha without any recommendation		10
(xvi) Motion for concurrence to refer the Bill to Joint Committee adopted		1
(xvii) Pending at the end of the Session		24
6. PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS :		
(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session		145
(ii) Introduced		32
(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by Rajya Sabha		Nil
(iv) Returned by Rajya Sabha with any amendment and laid on the Table		Nil
(v) Reported by Select Committee		Nil
(vi) Discussed		8
(vii) Passed		Nil
(viii) Withdrawn		5
(ix) Negatived		8
(x) Circulated for eliciting opinion		1

(xi) Part-discussed	I
(xii) Discussion postponed	Nil
(xiii) Motion for circulation of Bill negatived	Nil
(xiv) Referred to Select Committee	Nil
(xv) Removed from the Register of Pending Bills	Nil
(xvi) Pending at the end of the Session	171
7. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193 :	
(Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
(i) Notices received	259*
(ii) Admitted	4
(iii) Discussion held	4*
	*(including one part-discussed)
8. NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 197 :	
(Calling-attention to matters of urgent public importance)	
Statements made by Ministers	30
9. Half-an-hour discussions held	16
10. STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS :	
(i) Notices received	4
(ii) Admitted	4
(iii) Moved	4
(iv) Adopted	4
(v) Negatived	Nil
(vi) Withdrawn	Nil
11. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS :	
(i) Notices received	} Nil
(ii) Admitted	
(iii) Moved	
(iv) Adopted	
12. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS :	
(i) Received	16
(ii) Admitted	15
(iii) Discussed	3
(iv) Withdrawn	Nil
(v) Negatived	2
(vi) Adopted	Nil
(vii) Part-discussed	1
(viii) Discussion postponed	Nil

13. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS :

(i) Notices Received	2
(ii) Admitted	2
(iii) Moved	Nil
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Discussed	Nil

14. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS :

(i) Received	445
(ii) Admitted	178
(iii) Moved	Nil
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Discussed	Nil
(vi) Negatived	Nil
(vii) Part-discussed	Nil
(viii) Withdrawn	Nil

15. MOTIONS RE: MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULE :

(i) Received	1
(ii) Admitted	1
(iii) Moved	Nil
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Negatived	Nil
(vi) Withdrawn	Nil
(vii) Part-discussed	Nil

16. Number of Parliamentary Committees created, if any, during the session	Nil
17. Total number of Visitors' Passes issued during the session	25,189
18. Maximum number of Visitors' Passes issued on any single day, and date on which issued	919 on 22-3-1974

19. NUMBER OF ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS :

(i) Brought before the House	35
(ii) Admitted and discussed	2
(iii) Barred in view of adjournment Motion admitted on the subject	17
(iv) Consent withheld by Speaker outside the House	103
(v) Consent given by Speaker but leave not granted by House	1

20. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED :

(i) Starred	1,035
(ii) Unstarred (including Starred Questions converted as Unstarred Questions)	10,027
(iii) Short-notice Questions	15

21. PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES :

Serial No.	Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held during the period 1-2-74 to 30-4-74	No. of reports presented during the Session
1	2	3	4
(i)	Business Advisory Committee		8
(ii)	Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House . . . . .	..	3
(iii)	Committee on Government Assurances	2	1
(iv)	Committee on Petitions	3	2
(v)	Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions	5	6
(vi)	Committee on Privileges	4	3
(vii)	Committee Public Undertaking . . . . .	..	10
(viii)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	5	2
(ix)	Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	5	2
(x)	Estimates Committee	11	21
(xi)	General Purposes Committee	—	—
(xii)	House Committee	1*	—
(xiii)	Public Accounts Committee	12	37
(xiv)	Railway Convention Committee	1	..
(xv)	Rules Committee	4	1
<i>Joint/Select Committees</i>			
(i)	Joint Committee on Offices Profit	5	2
(ii)	Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament	2	..
(iii)	Joint Committee on the Disturbed Areas (Special Courts) Bill, 1972	6	1
(iv)	Joint Committee on the National Library Bill, 1972	1	..
(v)	Joint Committee on the Constitution (Thirty second Amendment) Bill, 1973	7	..
(vi)	Joint Committee on the Untouchability (offence) Amendment and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill, 1972.	1	1
(vii)	Select Committee on the Direct Taxes (Amendment) Bill, 1973.	7	..
22 Number of Members granted leave of absence			13
23 Petitions presented			NIL

*Accommodation to the Sub-Committee and the Joint Committee of the Chairman, House Committees of both the Houses of Parliament held on meeting each.

24. NAME OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN WITH DATES AND CONSTITUENCIES

S. No.	Name of the Members sworn	Date on which Sworn	Constituency
1	2	3	4
1.	Shrimati Roza Vidhyadhar Deshpande	18-2-1974	Bombay Central (Maharashtra)
2.	Shri Ram Hedao	18-2-1974	Ramtek (Maharashtra)
3.	Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan	1-3-1974	Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)
4.	Shri Bhagatram Rajaram Manhar	6-3-1974	Janjgir (Madhya-Pradesh)
5.	Shri Niral Enem Horo	6-3-1974	Khunti (Bihar)
6.	Shri Noorul Huda	11-3-1974	Cachar (Assam)
7.	Shri Aravinda Bala Panjanor	11-3-1974	Pondicherry.
8.	Shri Sidram Reddy	4-5-1974	Gulbarga (Karnataka)

25. MOTION OF NO-CONFIDENCE IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTER:

(i) Admitted	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
(ii) Discussed	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
(iii) Negatived	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1

APPENDIX II A.

**STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING
THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF RAJYA SABHA**

1. Period of the Session	February 18 to March 26, 1974.
2. Number of meetings held	25
3. Total number of sitting hours	121 Hrs. and 21 Mts. (excluding lunch break).
4. Number of divisions held	Seven
5. GOVERNMENT BILLS :	
(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	6
(ii) Introduced	3
(iii) Laid on the Table as Passed by Lok Sabha	12
(iv) Returned by Lok Sabha with any amendment	2
(v) Referred to Select Committee by Rajya Sabha	—
(vi) Referred to Joint Committee by Rajya Sabha	1
(vii) Reported by Select Committee	—
(viii) Reported by Joint Committee	—
(ix) Discussed	17
(x) Passed	16
(xi) Withdrawn . . . . .	..
(xii) Negatived . . . . .	..
(xiii) Part-Discussed . . . . .	..
(xiv) Returned by Rajya Sabha without any recommendations	7
(xv) Discussion Postponed . . . . .	..
(xvi) Pending at the end of the Session	5
6. PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS :	
(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	60
(ii) Introduced	3
(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by Lok Sabha . . . . .	..
(iv) Returned by Lok Sabha with any amendment and laid on the Table . . . . .	..
(v) Report by the Joint Committee . . . . .	..
(vi) Discussed . . . . .	..

(vii) Withdrawn . . . . .	..
(viii) Passed . . . . .	..
(ix) Negatived	
(x) Circulated for eliciting opinion . . . . .	..
(xi) Part -discussed	1
(xii) Discussion postponed . . . . .	..
(xiii) Motion for circulation of Bill negatived	
(xiv) Referred to Select Committee . . . . .	..
(xv) Pending at the end of the Session	63
7. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULES 176. (MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE)	
(i) Notices received	10
(ii) Admitted	2
(iii) Discussion held	2
8. NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 180. (CALLING-ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE)	
Statements made by Ministers	15
9. HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION HELD	2
10 (STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS)	
(i) Notices received	4
(ii) Admitted	4
(iii) Moved	4
(iv) Adopted	4
(v) Negatived	Nil
(vi) Withdrawn	Nil
11. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS :	
(i) Notices received	} Nil
(ii) Admitted	
(iii) Moved	
(iv) Adopted	
12. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS :	
(i) Received	7
(ii) Admitted	7
(iii) Discussed	3

(iv)	Withdrawn	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
(v)	Negated	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
(vi)	Adopted	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Nil
(vii)	Part-discussed	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
(viii)	Discussion postponed	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Nil
13. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS :									
(i)	Notices received	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	} Nil
(ii)	Admitted	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
(iii)	Moved	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
(iv)	Adopted	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
(v)	Part-discussed	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
14. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS :									
(i)	Received	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	96
(ii)	Admitted	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	90
(iii)	Moved	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
(iv)	Adopted	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Nil
(v)	Part discussed	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Nil
(vi)	Negated	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
(vii)	Withdrawn	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Nil
15. MOTIONS REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULES :									
(i)	Received	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	} Nil
(ii)	Admitted	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
(iii)	Moved	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
(iv)	Adopted	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
(v)	Negated	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
(vi)	Withdrawn	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
(vii)	Part-discussed	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
16. Number of Parliamentary Committee created, if any, during the session									
									One
17. Total number of Visitors' Passes									
									2536
18. Maximum number of Visitors' Passes issued on any single day, and date on which issued									
									165, issued on 28th February, 1974.

19. NUMBER OF MOTION FOR PAPERS UNDER RULE 175.	
(i) Brought before the House	Nil
(ii) Admitted and discussed	Nil
20. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED.	
(i) Starred	660
(ii) Unstarred (including Starred Questions)	1183
(iii) Short-notice Questions	Nil
21. DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRIES.	Nil
22. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES*	

Name of Committee	No of Reports presented during the session
1. Committee on Government Assurances	1
2. Committee on Public Undertakings	1
3. Public Accounts Committee	4
4. Joint Committee on Offices of Profit.	1

*For number of sittings of the Committees see Appendix II B, *post.*, relating to the Eighty eighth session.

23. Number of Members granted leave of absence.	One
24. Petitions presented	Nil
25. NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN WITH DATES	

Sl. No.	Name of Members Sworn	Date on which sworn.
Nil.		

APPENDIX II B.
STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING
THE EIGHTY EIGHTH SESSION OF RAJYA SABHA

1. Period of the Session	April 22 to May 14, 74
2. Number of meetings held	16
3. Total number of sitting hours	104 Hrs. and 32 Mts. (Excluding lunch break)
4. Number of divisions held	11
5. GOVERNMENT BILLS	
(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	5
(ii) Introduced	3
(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by Lok Sabha	7
(iv) Returned by Lok Sabha with any amendment . . . . .	..
(v) Referred to Select Committee by Rajya Sabha . . . . .	..
(vi) Referred to Joint Committee by Rajya Sabha . . . . .	..
(vii) Reported by Select Committee . . . . .	..
(viii) Reported by Joint Committee . . . . .	..
(ix) Discussed	7
(x) Passed	7
(xi) Withdrawn . . . . .	..
(xii) Negatived . . . . .	..
(xiii) Part-Discussed . . . . .	..
(xiv) Returned by Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	5
(xv) Discussion postponed . . . . .	..
(xvi) Pending at the end of the Session	8
6. PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS	
(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	63
(ii) Introduced	5
(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by Lok Sabha . . . . .	..
(iv) Returned by Lok Sabha with any amendment and laid on the Table . . . . .	..
(v) Reported by Joint Committee . . . . .	..
(vi) Discussed . . . . .	..
(vii) Withdrawn . . . . .	..
(viii) Passed . . . . .	..
(ix) Negatived . . . . .	..
(x) Circulated for eliciting opinion . . . . .	..
(xi) Part-discussed . . . . .	..
(xii) Discussion postponed . . . . .	..

(xiii) Motion for circulation of Bill negatived . . . . .	..
(xiv) Referred to Select Committee . . . . .	..
(xv) Pending at the end of the Session	62*
7. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 176.	
(MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE)	
(i) Notices received	17
(ii) Admitted	2
(iii) Discussion held	2
8. NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 180.	
<i>(Calling-attention to matter of urgent public importance)</i>	
Statements made by Ministers	11
9. Half-an-hour discussion held.	2
10. (STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS)	
(i) Notices received	1
(ii) Admitted	} Nil.
(iii) Moved	
(iv) Adopted	
(v) Negatived	
(vi) Withdrawn	
11. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS:	
(i) Notices received	} Nil.
(ii) Admitted	
(iii) Moved	
(iv) Adopted	
12. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS :	
(i) Received	8
(ii) Admitted	8
(iii) Discussed . . . . .	..
(iv) Withdrawn	Nil.
(v) Negatived	Nil.
(vi) Adopted	Nil.
(vii) Part-discussed	1
(viii) Discussion postponed	Nil
13. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS :	
(i) Notices received	} Nil
(ii) Admitted	
(iii) Moved	
(iv) Adopted	
(v) Part-discussed	

*Six Bills lapsed due to the retirement of Members.

14. PRIVATE MEMBERS MOTIONS :

(i) Received	72
(ii) Admitted	64
(iii) Moved	} Nil
(iv) Adopted	
(v) Part-discussed	
(vi) Negatived	
(vii) Withdrawn	

15. MOTIONS REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULE :

(i) Received	} Nil
(ii) Admitted	
(iii) Moved	
(iv) Adopted	
(v) Negatived	
(vi) Withdrawn	
(vii) Part-discussed	

16 Number of Parliamentary Committees created, if any during the session Nil

17 Total number of Visitors' Passes issued 1566

18 Maximum number of Visitors' Passes 183,
issued on any single day and date on which issued. May 14, 1974

19. NUMBER OF MOTION FOR PAPERS UNDER RULES 1975.

(i) Brought before the House	Nil
(ii) Admitted and discussed	

20. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTTED:

(i) Starred	390
(ii) Unstarred (including Starred Questions)	608
(iii) Short-notice Questions	Nil

21. DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRIES:

(I) Ministry of Industrial Development and the Deptt. of Science and Technology, (2) Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, (3) Ministry of Steel and Mines, (4) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. 4

22. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Name of Committee	No. of meetings held during the period 1-2-74 to 30-4-74	No. of Reports presented during the Session.
1. Business Advisory Committee	2	Nil
2. Committee on Government Assurances	3	1
3. Committee on Petitions	6	5
4. Committee on Public Undertakings . . . . .	..	8
5. Committee on Subordinate legislation	1	1
6. Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes . . . . .	..	5*
7. General Purposes Committee	1	Nil
8. Public Accounts Committee . . . . .	..	33
9. Joint Committee on Offices of Profit . . . . .	..	1
10. Joint Committee on the Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 1973	4	Nil
11. Joint Committee on the Adoption of Children Bill, 1972	1	Nil
12. Joint Committee on the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Bill, 1973	1	Nli
13. Joint Committee on the Plantations (Labour) Amendment Bill, 1973	3	Nil
23. Number of Members granted leave of absence		One
24. Petitions presented		One
25. NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN WITH DATES		

Sr. No.	Name of Members Sworn	Date on which sworn
1.	Shri M. Anandam	22-4-1974
2.	Shri K. Brahmananda Reddi	"
3.	Shri K. V. Raghunatha Reddy	"
4.	Shri Vemula Chennakesava Rao	"
5.	Shri Mohammad Yunus Saleem	"
6.	Shri Sriman Prafulla Goswami	"
7.	Shri Chandramani Lal Chowdhary	"
8.	Shri Sitaram Kesri	"
9.	Shri Indra Deep Singh	"
10.	Shri R. K. Poddar	"
11.	Dr. Ramkirpal Sinha	"

*Includes three reports of the study Tours.

12.	Shri Gian Chand	22-4-1974
13.	Shri Syed Nizam-ud-din	"
14.	Shrimati Margaret Alva	"
15.	Shri U. K. Lakshmana Godwda	"
16.	Shri M. L. Kollur	"
17.	Shri B. Rachaiiah	"
18.	Shri B. V. Abdulla Koya	"
19.	Shrimati Leela Damodara Menon	"
20.	Shri Viswanatha Menon	"
21.	Shri N. P. Chaudhari	"
22.	Shri Jagdish Chandra	"
23.	Shrimati Maimoona Sultan	"
24.	Shrimati Shyamkumari Devi	"
25.	Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat	"
26.	Shri J. S. Tilak	"
27.	Shri Shridhar Wasudeorao Dhabe	"
28.	Shri Ramrao Dhyanova Jagtap	"
29.	Shri Narendra Marutrao Kamble	"
30.	Shri Krishnarao Narayan Dhulap	"
31.	Shri Deorao Shivram Patil	"
32.	Shri Khyomo Lotha	"
33.	Shri Bhairab Chandra Mahanti	"
34.	Shri Lakshmana Mahapatro	"
35.	Shri Rabi Ray	"
36.	Shri Gurmukh Singh Musafir	"
37.	Shri Jagjit Singh	"
38.	Shri Kishan Lal	"
39.	Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha	"
40.	Shri Nathi Singh	"
41.	Shri Rishi Kumar	"
42.	Shri John alias Valampuri John	"
43.	Shri M. Kadershah	"
44.	Shri G. Lakshmanan	"
45.	Shri S. A. Khaja Mohideen	"
46.	Shri C. D. Natarajan	"
47.	Shri Birchandra Deb Barman	"
48.	Shri Chandra Shekhar	"
49.	Shri Devendra Nath	"
50.	Shri Piare Lal Kureel Urf Piare Lall Talib	"
51.	Shri Syed Ahmad Hashmi	"
52.	Shri Kalpanath	"
53.	Shri Jagbir Singh	"
54.	Shri Godey Murahari	"
55.	Shri Rajnarain	"
56.	Shri Mahadeo	"
57.	Shri Shivdayal Singh	"
58.	Shri Prakash Veer Shastri	"

59.	Shri Subramanian Swamy	22-4-1974
60.	Shri Khurshed Alam Khan	"
61.	Dr. Vidya Prakash Dutt	"
62.	Shri Krishna Kripalani	"
63.	Dr. Lokesh Chandra	"
64.	Shri Scato Swu.	"
65.	Shri Kamalanath Jha	"
66.	Shri Kameshwar Singh	23-4-1974
67.	Shri Ratakonda Narasimha Reddy	25-4-1974
68.	Shri S. Ranganathan	"
69.	Shri D. K. Borooah	7-5-1974

APPENDIX III

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE STATE LEGISLATURES DURING THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 1974 TO MARCH 31, 1974

ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. No. of session held	One in two meetings
2. Period of the session	(i) 18-1-74 to 5-2-74 and (ii) 18-3-74 to 30-3-74.
3. No. of sittings held	(i) 13 (ii) 10
4. No. of Bills introduced—	
Government	23
Private	3
5. No. of Bills passed—	
Government	21
Private . . . . .	..
6. Starred Questions—	
Notices received	904
Notices admitted	330
7. Unstarred Questions—	
Notices received . . . . .	..
Notices admitted	361*
8. Short Notice Questions—	
Notices received	313**
Notices admitted	20
9. Committees at work:	

Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held	No. of reports presented
Business Advisory Committee	5	4
Committee on Privilege . . . . .	..	1
Committee on Public Undertakings	4	3
Committee on Subordinate Legislation	8	..
Estimates Committee	11	1
House Committee	2	..
Public Accounts Committee	12	2
Joint/Select Committees :	12	..

*Starred Notices admitted as Unstarred Questions.

**Out of these, 101 notices were admitted as Starred Questions, and 45 notices as Unstarred Questions.

ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. No. of Sessions held One
2. Period of the session Commenced on 18-1-74 & continued beyond 31-3-74.
3. No. of sittings held 23
4. No. of Bills introduced—
 - Government 21
 - Private 1
5. No. of Bills Passed—
 - Government 21
 - Private
6. Starred Questions—
 - Notices received 423
 - Notices admitted 296
7. Unstarred Questions—
 - Notices received
 - Notices admitted 1*
8. Short Notice Questions—
 - Notices received 173**
 - Notices admitted 32
9. Committees at work:

Name of the Committee	No. of sitting held	No. of reports presents
Business Advisory Committee	3	..
Committee on Government Assurances	5	..
Committee on Petitions . . . . .	..	1
Committee on Privileges	1	..

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. No. of sessions held One
2. Period of the session 4-2-74 to 30-3-74.
3. No. of sittings held 36
4. No. of Bills introduced—
 - Government 10
 - Private

*Notice for Starred Question admitted as Unstarred Question.
 **Of these, 113 notices were admitted as Starred Questions.

5. No. of Bills passed—			
Government	.	.	9*
Private	.	.	..
6. Starred Questions—			
Notices received	.	.	1604
Notices admitted	.	.	1537
7. Unstarred Questions—			
Notices received	.	.	138
Notices admitted	.	.	136
8. Short Notice Questions—			
Notices received	.	.	79
Notices admitted	.	.	39
9. Committee at work:			

Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held	No. of reports Presented
Business Advisory Committee	7	Announced in the House through the Chair.
Committee on Government Assurances	4	1
Committee on Privileges	2	1
Estimates Committee	1	1
House Committee/Members' Accommodation Committee	1	..
Library Committee	1	..
Public Accounts Committee	12	1
Rules Committee	1	1

DELHI METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

1. No. of sessions held	One
2. Period of the session	4-2-74 to 6-2-74.
3. No. of sittings held	3
4. No. of Bills introduced—	
Government	1
Private	..
5. No. of Bills passed—	
Government	1
Private	..
6. Starred Questions—	
Notices received	893**
Notices admitted	60

*Includes two pending Bills.

**Includes Notices for both Starred and Unstarred Questions

7. Unstarred Questions—

Notices received	. . .
Notices admitted	. 576

8. Committees at work:

Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held	No. of reports presented
Business Advisory Committee	1	1
Committee on Government Assurances	2	1
Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions	1	1
Committee on Privileges	1	1
Rules Committee	3	3
<i>Joint/Select Committee</i>	9	2

HIMACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. No. of sessions held	. One
2. Period of the session	18-3-74 to 11-4-74.
3. No. of sittings held	18
4. No. of Bills introduced—	
Government	. 9
Private	. . .
5. No. of Bills passed—	
Government	7
Private	. . .
6. Starred Questions—	
Notices received	1185
Notices admitted	. 647
7. Unstarred Questions—	
Notice received	143
Notices admitted	. 302*
8. Short Notice Questions—	
Notices received	. . 3
Notices admitted	. . 2

*Includes notices received for Starred Questions but admitted as Unstarred Questions.

9. Committees at work:

Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held	No. of reports presented
Business Advisory Committee	3	..
Committee on Government Assurances	11	1
Committee on Privileges	1	1
Committee on Public Undertakings	21	2
Committee on Subordinate Legislation	14	1
Estimates Committee	15	9
House Committee/Members' Accommodation Committee	1	..
Public Accounts Committee	13	7

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

1. No. of sessions held	One
2. Period of the session—	31-1-74 to 19-4-74
3. No. of sittings held	51
4. No. of Bills introduced	
Government	17
Private	1
5. No. of Bills passed	
Government	18
Private	..
6. Starred Questions—	
Notices received	3219
Notices admitted	..
7. Unstarred Questions—	
Notices received	2093
Notices admitted	..
8. Short Notice Questions—	
Notices received	11
Notices admitted	3

9. Committees at Work :

Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held	No. of reports presented
Business Advisory Committee	7	7
Committee on Government Assurances	7	7
Committee on Petitions	2	1
Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions	6	6
Committee on Public Undertakings	10	6
Committee on Subordinate Legislations	6	2
Estimates Committee	13	4
Public Accounts Committee	7	2

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. No. of sessions held One
2. Period of the session 26-3-74 to 29-3-74
3. No. of sittings held 4
4. No. of Bills introduced—
 - Government
 - Private
5. No. of Bills passed—
 - Government
 - Private
6. Committees at work :

Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held	No. of reports presented
Business Advisory Committee	1	1

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. No. of sessions held One
2. Period of the sessions 20-3-74 to 1-4-74
3. No. of sittings held 9
4. No. of Bills introduced—
 - Government 5
 - Private
5. No. of Bills passed—
 - Government 5
 - Private
6. Starred Questions—
 - Notices received 7
 - Notices admitted 7

7. Unstarred Questions—		
Notices received		136
Notices admitted		135
8. Short Notice Questions		
Notices received		2
Notices admitted . . . . .		..

9. Committees at work :

Name of the committee	No. of sittings held	No. of reports presented
Business Advisory Committee	1	..
Committee on Privileges	1	..
Estimates Committee	3	..
House Committee Members—		
Accommodation Committee	1	..
Public Accounts Committee	4	..

MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. No. of sessions held	one
2. Period of the session	19-3-74 to 2-4-74
3. No. of sittings held	11
4. No. of Bills introduced—	
Government	3
Private . . . . .	..
5. No. of Bills passed—	
Government	2
Private . . . . .	..
6. Starred Questions—	
Notices received	104
Notices admitted	92
7. Unstarred Questions—	
Notices received	4
Notices admitted	4

8. Committees at work :

Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held	No. of reports presented
Business Advisory Committee	2	2
Committee on Government Assurances	1	1
Estimates Committee	18	..
House Committee/ Members Accommodation Committee	1	..
Public Accounts Committee	2	..

NAGALAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. No. of sessions held	. . . . .	Two
2. Period of the session	. . . . .	(i) 7-3-74 and (ii) 23-3-74 to 30-3-74
3. No. of sittings held	. . . . .	7
4. No. of Bills introduced—		
Government	. . . . .	2
Private	. . . . .	..
5. No. of Bills passed—		
Government	. . . . .	2
Private	. . . . .	..
6. Starred Questions—		
Notices received	. . . . .	10
Notices admitted	. . . . .	8
7. Unstarred Questions—		
Notices received	. . . . .	3
Notices admitted	. . . . .	1
8. Short Notices Questions—		
Notices received	. . . . .	4
Notices admitted	. . . . .	..

9. Committees at work :

Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held	No. of reports presented
Estimates Committee	1	2
House Committee/Member's Accommodation Committee	1	..

PUNJAB VIDHAN SABHA

1. No. of sessions held	. . . . .	one
2. Period of the session	. . . . .	8-2-74 to 15-3-74
3. No. of sittings held	. . . . .	16
4. No. of Bills introduced—		
Government	. . . . .	11
Private	. . . . .	..
5. No. of Bills passed—		
Government	. . . . .	10
Private	. . . . .	..
6. Starred Questions—		
Notices received	. . . . .	1020*
Notices admitted	. . . . .	579

*Includes 239 notices reported earlier. See J. P. J. Vol. XX No. 2, April, June 1974, P. 442.

7. Unstarred Questions—

Notices received	188*
Notices admitted	136

8. Short Notice Questions—

Notices received	9
Notices admitted	2

*Includes 59 notices reported earlier *See Ibid.*

9. Committees at work :

Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held	No. of reports presented
Business Advisory Committee	4	2
Committee on Government Assurances.	11	1
Committee on Petitions	4	..
Committee on Public Undertakings	13	5
Committee on Subordinate Legislation	17	1
Estimate Committee	15	2
General Purposes Committee	1	..
House Committee/Members		
Accommodation Committee	1	
Library Committee	12	..
Public Accounts Committee	28	1

RAJASTHAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. No. of sessions held	one
2. Period of the session	2-3-74 to 11-4-74
3. No. of sittings held	29
4. No. of Bills introduced—	
Government	12
Private	..
5. No. of Bills passed—	
Government	4
Private	..
6. Starred Questions—	
Notices received	2195
Notices admitted	830

7. Unstarred Questions—		
Notices received	309	
Notices admitted	517	
8. Short Notice Questions—		
Notices received	61	
Notices admitted . . . . .	..
9. Committees at work		

Name of the committee	No. of sittings held	No. of reports presented*
Committee on Government		
Assurances	23	1
Committee on Petitions	9	..
Committee on Privileges	9	..
Committee on Public Undertakings	22	4
Committee on Subordinate Legislation	11	..
Committee on the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	23	1
Estimates Committee	26	4
House Committee / Member's		
Accommodation Committee	3	..
Library Committee	10	..
Public Accounts Committee	28	3

* Presented during the sessions ending on 11-4-74.

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. No. of session held	one
2. Period of the session	18-1-74 to 27-4-74
3. No. of sittings held	39
4. No. of Bills passed—	
Government	23
Private . . . . .	..
5. Starred Questions—	
Notices received	157
Notices admitted	98

6. Unstarred Questions—	
Notices received	2
Notices admitted	1
7. Short Notices Questions—	
Notices received	7
Notices admitted	4
8. Committee at work	

Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held	No. of reports presented
Business Advisory Committee	6	..
House Committee Member's Accommodation Committee	1	..

TRIPURA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. No. of sessions held	one
2. Period of the sessions	11-3-74- to 11-4-74
3. No. of sittings held	24
4. No. of Bills introduced—	
Government	7
Private . . . . .	..
5. No. of Bills passed—	
Government	8
Private . . . . .	..
6. Starred Questions—	
Notices received	759
Notices admitted	437*
7. Unstarred Questions—	
Notices received	308
Notices admitted	278**
Short Notice Questions—	
Notices received	31
Notices admitted	4

* Notices given for Short notice Questions admitted as Starred Question.

** Notices given for starred Questions admitted as Unstarred Question.

9. Committees at work:

Name of the committee	No. of sittings held	No. of reports presented
Business Advisory Committee	2	2
Committee on Government Assurances.	6	.
Committee on Petitions]	2	3
Committee on Privileges	17	4
Committee on Delegated Legislation	4	..
Estimates Committee	5	4
House Committee	1	..
Library Committee	4	1
Public Accounts Committee	6	2
<i>Select Committee</i>		
Select Committee on the Tripura Co-operative Societies Bill.	2	1

APPENDIX IV

**LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND
ASSENTED TO BY THE PRESIDENT DURING THE PERIOD
1ST FEBRUARY 1974 TO 30TH APRIL 1974**

S. No.	Title of the Bill	Date of Assent by the President
1	2	3
1	The National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1974	13-3-74
2	The Esso (Acquisition of Undertakings in India) Bill, 1974.	13-3-74
3	The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections (Amendment) Bill, 1974.	23-3-74
4	The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Bill, 1974	23-3-74
5	The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1974	25-3-74
6	The North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Amendment Bill, 1974.	27-3-74
7	The Pubic Wakfs (Extension of Limitation) (Delhi Amendment) Bill, 1974.	27-3-74
8	The Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 1974	27-3-74
9	The Gujarat State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Bill, 1974.	27-3-74
10	The Economic Offences (Inapplicability of Limitation) Bill, 1974.	27-3-74
11	The Gujarat Appropriation Bill, 1974.	27-3-74
12	The Gujarat Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1974.	28-3-74.
13	The Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 1974.	28-3-74
14	The Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 1974.	28-3-74
15	The Appropriation Bill, 1974	28-3-74
16	The Pondicherry Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1974.	27-4-74

APPENDIX V

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE STATE LEGISLATURES
DURING THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 1974 TO MARCH 31, 1974

ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Andhra Pradesh Payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
2. The Andhra Pradesh Sugarcane (Regulation of Supply and Purchase) Amendment Bill, 1974.
3. The Andhra Pradesh Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
4. The Andhra Pradesh General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
5. The Andhra Pradesh General Sales Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 1974.
6. The Andhra Pradesh Entertainment Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
7. The Andhra Pradesh Appropriation Bill, 1974.
8. The Andhra Pradesh Excise (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
9. The Andhra Pradesh Districts (Formation) Bill, 1974.
10. The Andhra Pradesh Land Reforms (Ceiling on Agricultural Holdings) Amendment Bill, 1974.
11. The Andhra Pradesh Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1974.
12. The Andhra Pradesh Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1974.
13. The Andhra Pradesh Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1974.
14. The Andhra Pradesh Payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications (Second Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- *15. The Indian Stamp (Andhra Pradesh (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
16. The Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- *17. The Andhra Pradesh General Sales Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- *18. The Andhra Pradesh Minor Forest Produce (Regulation of Trade) Amendment Bill, 1974.
19. The Andhra Pradesh Hackney Carriage and Public Conveyances (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
20. The Andhra Pradesh Cess Validation Bill, 1974.
21. The Andhra Pradesh Gram Panchayats (Amendments) Bill, 1974.

*Bills awaiting assent.

ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Andhra Pradesh Payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
2. The Andhra Pradesh (Regulation of Supply and Purchase) Amendment Bill, 1974.
3. The Andhra Pradesh Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
4. The Andhra Pradesh Appropriation Bill, 1974.
5. The Andhra Pradesh Entertainment Tax (Amendment) Bill 1974.
6. The Andhra Pradesh General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 74.
7. The Andhra Pradesh General Sales Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 1974.
8. The Andhra Pradesh Districts (Formation) Bill, 1974.
9. The Andhra Pradesh Land Reforms (Ceiling on Agricultural Holdings) Amendment Bill, 1974.
10. The Andhra Pradesh Excise (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
11. The Andhra Pradesh Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1974.
12. The Andhra Pradesh Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1974.
13. The Andhra Pradesh Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1974.
- *14. The Andhra Pradesh Payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications (Second Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- *15. The Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- *16. The Indian Stamp (Andhra Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- *17. The Andhra Pradesh Minor Forest Produce (Regulation of Trade) Amendment Bill, 1974.
- *18. The Andhra Pradesh Hackney Carriages and the Public Conveyance (Amendment) Bill 1974.
- *19. The Andhra Pradesh Cess Validation Bill, 1974.
- *20. The Andhra Pradesh Gram Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- *21. The Andhra Pradesh General Sales Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 1974.

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

- *1. The Assam Urban Immovable Property (Ceiling) Bill, 1972.
- *2. The Assam Agricultural Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1973.
- *3. The Assam Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
4. The Assam Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 1974.
5. Assam Panchayati Raj (Second Amendment) Bill, 1974.
6. The Assam Finance Bill, 1974.
7. The Assam Appropriation (No. II) Bill, 1974.

*Bills awaiting assent.

8. The Assam (Sales of Petroleum & Petroleum Products including Motor Spirit and Lubricants) Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- *The Assam (Temporarily Settled Areas) Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1974.

DELHI METROPOLITAN COUNCIL.

1. Delhi Specifications of Retails Price Bill, 1974.

HIMACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

- *1. The H.P. Village Common Land Vesting and Utilization Bill, 1973.
2. The H.P. Appropriation Bill, 1974.
3. The H.P. Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1974.
- *4. The H.P. Appropriation Bill, 1974.
- *5. The H.P. Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- *6. The Public Wakfs (Extension of Limitation) (H.P. Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- *7. The H.P. General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1974.

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

- †1. The Karnataka Village Panchayats & Taluk Boards (Postponement of Elections) Bill, 1974.
- †2. The Karnataka and Mysore Universities (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
3. The Karnataka Provisional Collection of Taxes Bill, 1974.
- †4. The Karnataka Village Panchayats & Local Boards (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- †5. The Mysore Betting Tax & Race Courses Licensing (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- †6. The Karnataka Housing Board (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
7. The Karnataka Agricultural Lands (Prohibition of Alienation) (Repealing) Bill, 1974.
8. The Karnataka Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1974.
9. The Karnataka Appropriation Bill, 1974.
10. The Karnataka Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1974.

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

- †1. The Karnataka Village Panchayats and Taluk Boards (Postponement of Elections) Bill, 1974.
- †2. The Karnataka and Mysore Universities (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
3. The Karnataka Provincial Collections of Taxes Bill, 1974.
- †4. The Mysore Betting Tax and Race Courses Licensing (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- †5. The Karnataka Housing Board (Amendment) Bill, 1974.

*Bills awaiting assent.

†Passed by Legislative Assembly only.

‡Received the assent after 31st March, 1974.

6. The Karnataka Agricultural Lands (Prohibition of Alienation) (Repealing) Bill, 1974.
7. The Karnataka Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1974.
8. The Karnataka Appropriation Bill, 1974.
9. The Karnataka Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1974.

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Agricultural Income-tax (Amendment) Bill, 1973.
2. The Kerala Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Amendment Bill, 1973.
3. The Kerala Money Lenders (Amendment) Bill, 1972.
4. The Kerala University (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
5. The Calicut University (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
6. The Cochin University (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
7. The Kerala Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
8. The Kerala Restriction on cutting and Destruction of Valuable Trees Bill, 1974
9. The Kerala General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
10. The Kerala Agricultural University (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
11. The Kerala Land Development Corporation Limited (Special Powers) Bill, 1974.
12. The Kerala Agricultural Workers Bill, 1972.
13. The Kerala Appropriation Bill, 1974.
14. The Kerala Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1974.
15. The Stay of Recovery of Arrears of Jenmikaram Bill, 1974.
16. The Kerala Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1974.
17. The Kerala University Bill, 1972.
18. The Payment of Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 1974.

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Manipur Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 1974.
2. The Manipur Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1974.

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Meghalaya Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1974.
2. The Meghalaya Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 1974.
3. The Meghalaya Finance (Sales Tax) (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
4. The Meghalaya Finance Bill, 1974.
5. The Legislative Assembly of Meghalaya (Members' Salaries and Allowances) (Amendment) Bill, 1974.

MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 1974.
2. The Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1974.

NAGALAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Nagaland Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 1974.
1. The Nagaland Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 1974.

ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Orissa Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 1974.
2. The Orissa Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1974.
3. The Orissa Offices of Profit (Removal of Disqualifications) (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- *4. The Orissa Homoeopathic (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 1974.

PUNJAB VIDHAN SABHA

1. The Punjab Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
2. The Punjab Appropriation Bill, 1974.
3. The Punjab Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1974.
4. The Punjab Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
5. The Punjab State Tube-well (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
6. The Punjab Motor Spirit (Taxation of Sales) Amendment Bill, 1974.
7. The Punjab General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
8. The Punjab Town Improvement (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
9. The Punjab Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
10. The Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill, 1974.

RAJASTHAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Rajasthan Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 1974.
2. The Rajasthan Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1974.
3. The Rajasthan Passengers and Goods Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
4. The Rajasthan Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1974.

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

- *1. The Tamil Nadu Public Men (Criminal Misconduct) (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- *2. The Tamil Nadu Occupants of Kudiyiruppu (Conferment of Ownership) Amendment Bill, 1974.

*Bills awaiting assent.

3. The Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling on Land) Amendment Bill, 1974.
4. The Madras City Municipal Corporation and Tamil Nadu District Municipalities (Amendment and Extension of Term of office) (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
5. The Tamil Nadu Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Amendment Bill, 1974.
6. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1974.
7. The Tamil Nadu Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill, 1974.
8. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation Bill, 1974.
- *9. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1974.
- *10. The Registration (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- *11. The Tamil Nadu Occupants of Kudiyruppu (Conferment of Ownership) Second Amendment Bill, 1974.
- *12. The Indian Stamp (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- *13. The Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling on Land) Second Amendment Bill, 1974.
- *14. The Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling on Land) Third Amendment Bill, 1974.
- *15. Tamil Nadu Additional Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
16. The Tamil Nadu District Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- *17. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- *18. The Madras City Municipal Corporation and Tamil Nadu District Municipalities (Amendment) and Extension of Term of Office Second Amendment Bill, 1974.
- *19. The Madurai City Municipal Corporation (Amendment) and Extension of Term of Office Amendment Bill, 1974.
- *20. The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- *21. The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Second Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- *22. The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Third Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- *23. The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 1974.

TRIPURA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

- *1. The Tripura Appopriation Bill, 1974 (Tripura) Bill.
2. The Tripura Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1974.
3. The Tripura Appropriation (Votes on Account) Bill, 1974.

*Bills awaiting assent.

4. The Tripura Departmental Inquiries (Enforcement of Attendance of Witnesses and Production of Documents) Bill, 1974.
5. The Tripura Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- *6. The Tripura Educational Institutions (Taking over of Management) (Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- *7. The Tripura Land Revenue and Land Reforms (Second Amendment) Bill, 1974.
- *8. The Tripura Co-operative Societies Bill, 1974.

*Bills awaiting assent.

APPENDIX VI
ORDINANCES ISSUED BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
DURING THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 1, 1974 TO APRIL 30, 1974
AND STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 1974 TO MARCH 31, 1974

Sl. No.	Title of Ordinance	Date of Promulgation	Date(s) on which laid before the House(S)	Date of Cessation	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
CENTRAL					
—Nil—					
STATES					
ANDHRA PRADESH					
1.	The Andhra Pradesh Sugarcane (Regulation of Supply and Purchase) Amendment Ordinance, 1974.	3-1-1974	21-1-1974	-	Replaced by legislation
HIMACHAL PRADESH					
1.	The H.P. Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Ordinance, 1974	4-2-74	20-3-74		Replaced by legislation
2.	The Public Wakfs (Extention of Limitation) (H.P. Amendment) Ordinance, 1974	23-2-74	3-4-74		—do—
3.	The H.P. (Transferred Territory) Tenants (Protection of Rights) (Amendments) Ordinance, 1974	11-2-74	21-3-74		—
4.	The H.P. Tenancy and Land Reforms (Amendment) Ordinance, 1974	27-2-74	21-3-74		—
KARNATAKA					
1.	The Karnataka Village Panchayats (Postponement of Elections) Ordinance, 1974.	4-1-74	25-2-74	—	Replaced by legislation

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	The Karnataka Village Panchayats and Local Boards (Amendment) Ordinance, 1974 .	16-1-74	25-2-74	—	Replaced by legislation
KERALA					
1.	The Kerala Restriction on cutting and Destruction of Valuable Trees Ordinance, 1974 .	22-1-74	4-2-74	—	—do—
PUNJAB					
1.	The Punjab State Tubewell (Amendment) Ordinance, 1974	10-4-74	18-2-74	—	—do—
RAJASTHAN					
1.	Rajasthan Municipalities (Amendment) Ordinance, 1974 .	8-1-74	4-3-74	11-4-74	—do—
2.	Rajasthan Panchayat Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 1974 .	16-1-74	—do—	—do—	—do—
3.	Motor Vehicles (Rajasthan Amendment) Ordinance, 1974 .	23-1-74	—do—	12-4-74	—do—
4.	Jodhpur University (Amendment) Ordinance, 1974	30-1-74	—do—	11-4-74	—do—
5.	Udaipur University (Amendment) Ordinance, 1974	—do—	—do—	—do—	—do—
TRIPURA					
1.	The Tripura Educational Institutions (taking over of Management Amendment) Ordinance, 1974	22-2-74	12-3-74	—	—do—
2.	The Tripura Land Revenue & Land Reforms (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 1974	28-2-74	—do—	—	—do—

APPENDIX VII
A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA

(i) STATE-WISE
(As on June 1, 1974)

Name of the State	Seats	Cong.	CPI(M)	CPI	J.S.	D.M.K.	Other Parties	Unattached	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	41	37	1	1	..	..	2(a)	..	41
Assam	14	13	1	..	..	..	..	..	14
Bihar	53	37	..	5	2	..	7(b)	1	52 (1 vacant)
Gujarat	24	12	..	..	..	..	10(c)	2	24
Haryana	9	7	..	..	1	..	..	1	9
Himachal Pradesh	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Jammu and Kashmir	6	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	6
Karnataka	27	27	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Kerala	19	8	2	3	..	..	7(d)	1	19
Madhya Pradesh	37	22	..	..	10	..	5(c)	..	37
Maharashtra	45	40	1	..	..	..	2(f)	2	45
Manipur	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Meghalaya	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Nagaland	1	..	..	..	..	..	1(g)	..	1
Orissa	20	14	1	..	..	..	5(h)	..	20
Punjab	13	9	..	1	..	..	..	1	11* (1 vacant)
Rajasthan	23	15	..	..	3	..	4(i)	1	23
Tamil Nadu	39	9	..	4	..	19	7(i)	..	39
Tripura	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
Uttar Pradesh	85	73	..	5	4	..	..	2	84 (1 vacant)
West Bengal	40	15	20	3	..	..	2(k)	..	40
Union Territories									
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1(l)
Chandigarh	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Delhi	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Goa, Daman and Diu	2	1	..	..	..	..	1(m)	..	2
Lakshadweep	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Mizoram	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pondicherry	1	..	..	..	..	..	1(n)	..	1
Anglo-Indian	2	..	..	..	..	..	2(o)	..	2
TOTAL	524	361	26	24	20	19	56	14	520* (excluding 3 vacancies)

* Excludes the Speaker, who is not a member of any Party.

(a) Telengana Praja Samiti	2	(h) Swatantra UIPG	3 2
(b) Socialist Party	2	(i) Swatantra UIPG	2 2
Congress(O)	3	(j) Muslim League	1
UIPG	2	Forward Bloc	1
		Congress(O)	1
(c) Swatantra	2	Ann. D.M.K.	4
Congress (O)	8		
(d) Muslim League	2	(k) Socialist Party	1
Revolutionary Socialist Party	2	Revolutionary Socialist Party	1
Kerala Congress	3		
(e) Socialist Party	1	(l) Nominated by the President	1
UIPG	4		
(f) Socialist Party	1	(m) UIPG	1
Forward Bloc	1	(n) ADMK	1
(g) UIPG	1	(o) UIPG	2 (Nominated by the President).

A PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA

(ii) PARTY-WISE

(As on June, 1, 1974)

<i>Name of the Party</i>	<i>Strength</i>
Congress Party	361
C.P.I. (M)	26
C.P.I.	24
Jan Sangh	20
D.M.K.	19
<i>Other Parties</i>	
Congress (O)	12
U.I.P.G.	14
Swatantra	7
Socialist Party	5
Anna D.M.K.	5
Muslim League	3
Revolutionary Socialist Party	3
Kerala Congress	3
Forward Block	2
Telengana Praja Samiti	2
Unattached	14
Vacancies	3
	523
TOTAL (excluding Speaker)	

B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA

(i) STATE-WISE

(As on June 1, 1974)

States	No. of Seats	CONG.	CONG. (O)	JS	DMK	CPI	SWA	CPI(M)	M. L.	BKD	SP	AKALI DAL	APJLC	FB(M)	UDF	PSP	REP	PWP	ADMK	IND	Nominated	Vacancies
Andhra Pradesh	18	15																			3	
Assam	7	7																				
Bihar	22	13	1	1		3				2						1					1	
Gujarat	11	7		1																		3
Haryana	5	4	1																			
Himachal Pradesh	3	3																				
Jammu and Kashmir	4	4																				
Kerala	9	2				1		3		2												
Madhya Pradesh	16	12		3					2												1	
Maharashtra	19	13				1				1	1						1	1			1	
Manipur	1																					1
Meghalaya	1												1									
Karnataka	12	8	2																		2	
Nagaland	1																1					
Orissa	10	5				1	3			1												
Punjab	7	3				1						2										1
Rajasthan	10	9		1																		
Tamil Nadu	18		1		11					3											2	1
Tripura	1					1																
Uttar Pradesh	34	19	4	4		1				5											1	
W. Bengal	16	7				3		4						1							1	
Arunachal Pradesh	1																					1
Delhi	3	2		1																		
Mizoram	1	1																				
Pondicherry	1				1																	
Nominated	12	1																			11	
	243	135	9	11	12	12	1	7	5	9	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	11	12	5

B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA

(ii) PARTY-WISE

(As on June 1, 1974)

<i>Name of Party</i>	<i>Strength</i>
Congress .	135
Congress (O)	9
Jan Sangh .	11
D.M.K.	12
C.P.I. .	12
Swatantra	3
C.P.I. (M)	7
<i>Other Parties</i>	
Muslim League .	5
B.K.D.	9
S.P.	2
Akali Dal	2
P.W.P.	1
A.P.H.L.C.	1
R.P.	1
F.B. (M)	1
P.S.P.	1
A.D.M.K.	2
U.D.F.	1
Independents	11
Nominated	12
Vacancies	5
TOTAL	243

C. PARTY POSITION IN STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES

States	Seats		Cong. (O)	Swt. JS		CPI	CPI (M)	SP DMK	Other Parties	Ind.	Nom.	Total	
	1	2		3	4								5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Andhra Pradesh (as on 31-3-74)		288	214		..	8	1	..	36(a)	19	1	279(b)	
Assam (as on 1-3-74)		114	95	..	1	..	3	..	4	5(c)	6	114	
Bihar (as on 22-7-73)		319	181	24	1	24	35	..	34	..	9(d)	319(e)	
Haryana (as on 22-1-74)		81	51	5		2	..	..	..	6(f)	16	81(g)
Himachal Pradesh (as on 31-3-74)		67	53	..		5	1	..	..	2(h)	6	67
Jammu and Kashmir (as on 7-12-73)		75	57	..		3	..	..	..	5(i)	9	75(i)
Karnataka (as on 1-4-74)		217	165	25			3	1	2	..	1(k)	216(l)	
Kerala (as on 31-3-74)		134	35	3			16	31	..	..	36(m)	133(n)
Madhya Pradesh (as on 1-1-74)		297	227			41	5	..	4	..	..	297(o)
Manipur (as on 30-4-74)		60	12				6	..	2	..	38(p)	60	
Meghalaya (as on 31-3-74)		60	12				..	..	..	..	47(q)	60
Nagaland (as on 31-3-74)		60	..				..	..	..	..	60(r)	60
Orissa (as on 31-3-74)		146	68			..	7	3	..	..	59(s)	145(t)
Punjab (as on 31-3-74)		104	67	..	..	1	10	1	..	..	25(u)	104
Rajasthan (as on 31-3-74)		184	142	1	11	7	4	..	5	..	..	181(v)
Tamil Nadu (as on 2-2-74)		235	6	13	5		4	..	..	174	28(w)	235(x)
Tripura (as on 11-4-74)		60	41	..	..	..	1	16	..	..	..	60
Uttar Pradesh (as on 3-4-74)		424	215	10	1	61	16	2	5	..	109(z)	424	
West Bengal (as on 31-12-73)		281	214	2	..	..	35	13	..	..	8(aa)	281(cc)
*Delhi (as on 29-4-74)		61	47	2		5	3	..	..	..	1(dd)	59(ce)
Goa, Daman and Diu (as on 31-12-73)		28	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26(ff)	30(g)
Mizoram (as on 31-3-74)		33	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Pondicherry (as on 26-3-74)		30	7	5			2	1	2	12(ii)	1	30	

*Refers to Delhi Metropolitan Council.

(a) Socialist Democratic Front 11; Andhra Progressive Democrats 8; Progressive Front 8, Peoples' Democrats, 6; Majlis Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen 2; RPI—1.

(b) Vacant—9

(c) Peoples Democratic Party—3, RCPI—1, Plains Tribal Party—1.

(d) Includes All India Jharkhand—3; Hul Jharkhand—2; Progressive Hul Jharkhand—1; Jharkhand (N. E. Horo Group)—1; Hindustani Soshit Dal—2.

(e) Vacant—1; Includes Hon. Speaker.

(f) Includes Vishal Haryana Party—3; Progressive Independent Party—2.

(g) Vacant—1.

(h) Lok Raj Party

(i) Jamat Islami.

(j) Vacant—1.

(k) Janatha Paksha

(l) Vacant—1; Includes Hon. Speaker.

(m) Includes Kerala Congress—13; Muslim League—11, Revolutionary Socialist Party—6, Kerala Socialist Party—2; Karshak Tozhiali Party—2; PSP—2.

(n) Vacant—1; Includes Hon. Speaker.

(o) Vacant—4; Includes Hon. Speaker.

(p) Includes M.P.P.—23; MHU—13, K.N.A.—2.

(q) Includes A.P.H.L.C.—39; H.S.P.D.P.—8.

(r) Includes Nagaland Nationalist Organisation—24. United Democratic Front—36.

(s) Includes Orissa Praja Legislature Party—57; S. P.I.—2.

(t) Vacant—1, Excludes Hon. Speaker.

(u) Shiromani Akali Dal—25.

(v) Vacant—3.

(w) Tamil Arasu Kazhagan—1; Forward Bloc—7; Muslim League—6, Anna Dravida Munetra Kazhagan—11, Tamil Nadu Communist—3.

(x) Vacant—1; Includes Hon. Speaker.

(y) Independent supported by CP (M)

(z) Includes B. K.D.—106, Muslim League—1; Hindu Sabha—1; Soshit Samaj Dal—1.

(aa) Includes R.S.P.—3; Socialist Unity Centre—1; Workers Party—1; Gorkha League—2; Muslim League—1.

(bb) Includes Speaker.

(cc) Vacant—4.

(dd) Muslim League.

(ee) Vacant—2.

(ff) Includes Maharashtra Gomantak Party—17; United Goans—9.

(gg) Includes Hon. Speaker.

(hh) Affiliated to Congress.

(ii) ADMK.

NOTE: The figures are based on the information furnished by the respective State Legislative Secretariats, with the exception of Uttar Pradesh whose details are based on newspaper reports.