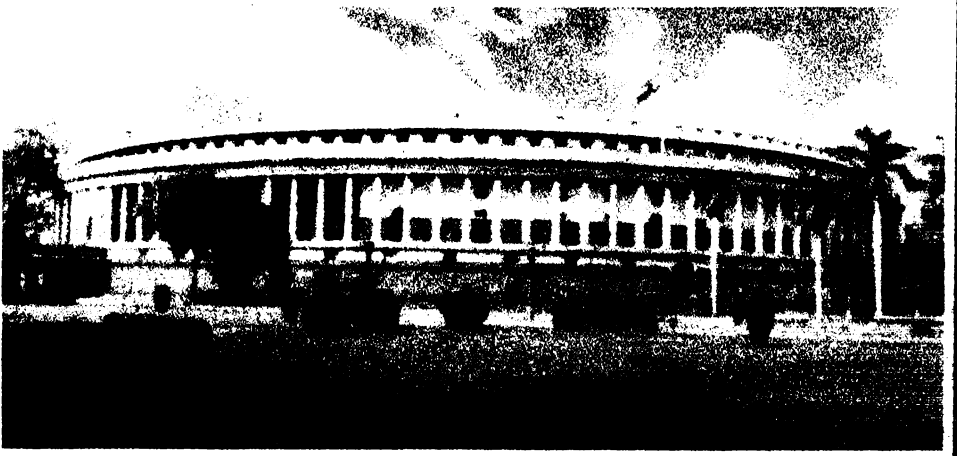


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THE JOURNAL OF PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION

EDITOR: S. Gopalan

The Journal of Parliamentary Information, a quarterly publication brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, aims at the dissemination of authoritative information about the practices and procedures in Indian and foreign Legislatures. The *Journal* serves as an authentic recorder of important parliamentary events and activities. It provides a useful forum to members of Parliament and State Legislatures and other experts for the expression of their views and opinions, thereby contributing to the development and strengthening of parliamentary democracy in the country.

The Editor would welcome articles on constitutional, parliamentary and legal subjects for publication in the *Journal*. A token honorarium is payable for articles, etc. accepted for publication. The articles should be type-written on only one side of the paper.

Latest books on Parliamentary and Constitutional subjects are reviewed in the *Journal* by members of Parliament and scholars. Books intended for review should be sent to the Editor.

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EDITORIAL NOTE

Art. 87(1) of the Constitution of India provides that at the commencement of the First Session after each General Election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the First Session of each year, the President shall address members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together and inform Parliament of the causes of its summons.

On 22 February 1999, the President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan addressed the members of the two Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament at the commencement of the First Session of Parliament in 1999. We reproduce in this issue of the *Journal* the text of the Address.

The Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training, ever since its inception in 1976, has been organising multi-dimensional programmes of training in parliamentary matters for those who are entrusted with the responsibility of running or serving parliamentary institutions. More importantly, the Bureau has been organising Orientation Programmes for the newly-elected members of the Lok Sabha as also of State Legislatures. The usefulness of these Programmes is evidenced by the fact that several Legislatures have organised such programmes for their legislators in association with the BPST. The Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha organised an Orientation Programme for the newly-elected members of the Vidhan Sabha in Bhopal from 16 to 18 February 1999 with the active cooperation of the Bureau. This Programme provided an opportunity to the newly-elected members to benefit from the experiences of veteran parliamentarians and also helped in providing them with valuable insights into, and vital inputs on, the crucial question of how to become effective legislators. On 16 February 1999, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi inaugurated the Programme. We reproduce in this issue of the *Journal* the Inaugural Address delivered by the Speaker at the Programme.

Ethics, by definition, is a very broad expression. It is a matter of morals; of character and conduct; of rules of behaviour; of accountability and propriety. The mechanism of an Ethics Committee in Parliament is a relatively new development. The Ethics Committee is not intended as an essay in idealism, but as an exercise in pragmatic politics. It does not seek to usher in a moralistic regime in Parliament, but common ethical standards and decency in the conduct of its members, including Ministers. The Parliament of India has also been seized of the matter of ethics in public life. An Ethics Committee of the Rajya Sabha was constituted on 4 March 1997, with a mandate to oversee the moral and ethical conduct of members and to examine cases referred to it with

reference to ethical conduct of members. The Ethics Committee of the Rajya Sabha adopted their First Report on 1 December 1998. Some of the subjects dealt within the First Report are: declaration of assets and liabilities by members; criminalisation of politics and corrective measures; electoral reforms, including ceiling on election expenses, etc. The Short Note entitled 'The First Report of the Ethics Committee of Rajya Sabha', included in this issue of the *Journal*, deals with various recommendations made by the Ethics Committee of the Rajya Sabha.

In 1976, the Lok Sabha Secretariat set up a Parliamentary Museum and Archives (PMA) to preserve an authentic, comprehensive, complete and up-to-date pictorial record of the history of the institution of Parliament and its activities and personalities. As part of its activities, PMA has organised several Exhibitions in New Delhi as also in different parts of the country on Parliament of India and its varied activities. The PMA began a new chapter in the history of parliamentary cooperation by organising an Exhibition on the theme of 'History and Activities of Parliament of India' in the State Duma, Russia, from 12 to 25 November 1998 to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence. The Exhibition was the first of its kind that the PMA had ever organised outside the country. It was also the first time ever that an Exhibition on the parliamentary system of a country was organised in the precincts of the State Duma. It was also for the first time ever that the Speaker of the Lok Sabha had addressed the members of the Russian Duma in their House. On 12 November 1998, the Exhibition set up in the Foyer of the State Duma, was jointly inaugurated by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi and the Speaker of the State Duma, Mr. Gennady N. Seleznyov. A Short Note titled 'Exhibition, on History and Activities of Parliament of India' has been included in the *Journal*.

This issue of the *Journal* also carries our other regular Features, viz. Parliamentary Events and Activities, Procedural Matters, Parliamentary and Constitutional Developments, Privilege Issues, Sessional Review and Recent Literature of Parliamentary Interest.

Chaudhary Prem Singh was elected as the Speaker of the Delhi Vidhan Sabha on 15 December 1998. We extend our heartiest congratulations to Chaudhary Prem Singh on his assumption of Office.

It has been our constant endeavour to make the *Journal* more useful and informative. We would greatly welcome suggestions for its further improvement. We would also welcome practice and problem-oriented non-partisan articles in the field of parliamentary procedures and institutions from members of Parliament and State Legislatures, scholars and others interested in the field of parliamentary political science.

—S. Gopalan
Editor

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO PARLIAMENT

The Constitution of India provides for an Address by the President to either House of Parliament or both the Houses assembled together. The provision for an Address by the Head of State to Parliament goes back to the year 1921 when the Central Legislature was set up for the first time under the Government of India Act, 1919. The President may address both the Houses of Parliament assembled together or either House of Parliament separately as per provisions of articles 86(1) and 87(1) of the Constitution. Under art. 86(1), the President may address either House of Parliament or both the Houses assembled together, and for that purpose require the attendance of members. Art. 87(1) provides that at the commencement of the First Session after each General Election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the First Session of each year, the President shall address members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together and inform Parliament of the causes of its summons.

The Address by the President is a statement of policy of the Government. The address contains a review of the activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies which it wishes to pursue with regard to important national and international issues. It also indicates the main items of legislative business which are proposed to be brought before Parliament during the Sessions to be held that year.

On 22 February 1999, the President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan addressed the members of the two Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House at the commencement of the First Session of Parliament in 1999.

We reproduce below the text of the Address.

—Editor

Honourable Members:

It gives me great pleasure to address this first Session of both the Houses of Parliament in 1999. An important Session is ahead of you. I wish you the very best for the successful completion of the budgetary and the legislative tasks before Parliament.

As we approach a new century and a new millennium, our hopes, aspirations and expectations for the coming era should be matched by sound and determined efforts now. The people have bestowed on this Parliament a unique opportunity to make the transition from this century to the next. With pride in India's many achievements since Indepen-

dence, we should together accomplish the unfulfilled tasks and face the challenges of the future with self-confidence and determination. Parliament, as the country's apex elected body and beacon of the world's largest democracy, has the greatest responsibility to channel the national energies towards these efforts. As the Golden Jubilee of our Republic draws near, I am confident that the Honourable Members would discharge this responsibility with a unity of vision and direction

I am happy to note that the National Agenda for Governance, which is the common policy covenant of the coalition Government, is being implemented faithfully. In the past eleven months, my Government has acted decisively on many fronts to promote people's welfare, accelerate economic development, strengthen internal and external security and develop deeper bonds of friendship and cooperation with India's neighbours and other countries. Taken together, these initiatives have instilled a new sense of self-confidence among Indians, increasing our ability to effectively face the challenges of the present and the future.

A historic initiative of the Government has been the successful nuclear tests at Pokhran on 11 and 13 May last year making India a nuclear weapons state. The Government took this step after a careful appraisal of our national security needs. India's nuclear doctrine is based on minimum deterrence and it is firmly opposed to an arms race in the region. India has declared that she will never use her nuclear weapons against a non-nuclear nation and will never resort to a first strike against any nuclear weapons nation. We shall redouble our efforts to champion a cause that has always been sacred to us—namely, securing world peace through speedy, universal and comprehensive dismantling of all weapons of mass destruction. Continuing the national consensus on foreign policy matters, the Government has been working vigorously for global nuclear disarmament on a comprehensive and non-discriminatory basis.

Some countries have imposed technology restrictions on us. The nation is meeting this unwarranted action with determination and I am confident that we shall emerge stronger and more self-reliant. I would like to felicitate the Armed Forces, our nuclear scientists, the Defence Research and Development Organization and the Defence Production units for their concerted efforts in developing indigenous capabilities to meet the requirements of advanced technologies and equipment for our defence and developmental needs.

The nation expresses its gratitude to the brave *jawans* and officers of the Armed Forces and other paramilitary forces who have laid down their lives in fighting the proxy war unleashed by terrorists. The country



The President, Shri K.R. Narayanan arriving in procession to address Members of Parliament on 22 February 1999

recognizes the sacrifices of those posted in places like Siachen and other remote border areas in the service of the nation. The role of the defence forces in aiding the civilian authorities in handling exigencies like the cyclone in Kutch and in relief and rescue operations for victims of natural calamities has been exemplary.

The Government has set up the National Security Council. This will go a long way in providing a holistic and in-depth analysis of military, economic and political threats to India and help in evolving an integrated approach to decisions impinging on national security.

The Government is firmly committed to uphold secularism, which has deep roots in our society and polity. The recent incidents in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa have caused us anguish and concern. However, these have to be seen as an aberration, which do not reflect the national ethos. The Government is fully committed to the protection of minorities. State Governments have been advised to quickly apprehend culprits in all such cases. The Government's record in maintaining peace and communal harmony is shown by the fact that 1998 had the fewest deaths due to communal violence in the last ten years.

Ensuring internal security is the primary duty of any Government. I note with considerable satisfaction that terrorism and subversive activities in various parts of the country are being effectively contained. Owing to the sustained pressure, vigil and concerted actions of the security forces and the State Administration and active cooperation of the people, there has been a conspicuous turnaround in the law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir during 1998. This is reflected, among other things, in the recovery of tourist traffic which had virtually dried up in the preceding decade. The Government will continue its efforts to strengthen peace in the State and revive the normal economic, social, cultural and educational activity. It is committed to ensure the early return of the many Kashmiris to their homes and hearths, in the wake of the restoration of normalcy.

In the North-East, public security is being constantly improved and upgraded. The modernization of State police forces, emphasizing the supply of vehicles, equipment, arms and ammunition, has been taken up to improve the law and order situation. This is being accompanied by increased assistance for economic development. The Government of India is considering repeal of the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983. The decision to hold the National Games in Imphal is an indication of the many possibilities that exist for accelerating the process of emotional integration and bringing the people of the North-East into the national mainstream.

Non-Resident Indians are a part of the great global Indian family. Their emotional, cultural, social and economic links with India are a source of great strength to us. The Government has approved the Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) Card Scheme. This will permit visa-free entry and offer other facilities to persons of Indian origin who are citizens of other countries.

The National Agenda for Governance calls for an accelerated and well-balanced economic development as a precondition for fulfilling the goal of *Berozgari Hatao* (eradication of unemployment). The Government has set the target of an annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of 6.5 per cent. The Indian economy, however, has had to face a very adverse situation owing to the general slowdown in the global economy, as illustrated by the sharp decline in global trade and market crises in many countries around the world, including those in South-East Asia. This led to a fall in capital flows to emerging markets. Many inherited bottlenecks in the domestic economy compounded these external challenges.

In spite of these external and internal odds, the economy has fared reasonably well and our GDP growth rate should be one of the highest among the developing countries. Despite considerable volatility in the currency markets elsewhere, the Indian rupee has remained stable within a manageable exchange range. Our foreign currency reserves have grown to US\$ 27.9 billion as on 17 February 1999. The excellent response to the Resurgent India Bonds, which mobilized US\$ 4.2 billion, is a clear manifestation of the Non-Resident Indians' continuing commitment to India.

Presently, the finances of both the Central and the State Governments are under severe strain. The aggregate general Government deficit has increased in recent years. Besides having inflationary potential, this is causing severe consequences for interest rates, investment and growth. It is, therefore, critically important for both Central and State Governments to restore health to their finances by reducing the revenue and fiscal deficits. This calls for tight control over wasteful and low-priority expenditure and determined efforts to mobilize resources, including appropriate cost recovery policies.

The Government has acceded to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and the Patent Cooperation Treaty. This will improve industrial climate by increasing information flow, provide better protection for Indian inventors and encourage technological development.

The Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill, 1998 is similarly intended to strengthen the insurance sector and enable it to seize the opportunities that globalization offers.

Our Space programme continues to grow from strength to strength. The IRS-P4 Satellite for remote sensing is being launched this year along with the INSAT-2E. The next launch of the PSLV will also carry the Korean KITSAT and the German TUBSAT satellites. This will be another milestone in the development of our Space programme. Success in this area holds great promise for better telecommunications and broadcasting services, as well as for distance learning, mapping of land and water resources and crop forecasting.

Agriculture is the mainstay of our economy and the lifeline of a majority of our population. I extend my hearty felicitations to our hard working *kisans* who, in spite of many odds, have continued to increase farm production and feed the nation. I am happy to inform the members that the expected milk production of 720 lakh tonnes in 1998-99 will make India the world's largest milk producer. Increased growth in production of foodgrains, pulses and other crops will play an important role in the revival of the economy. It is a matter of pride that India now ranks among the top three countries in wheat production.

The Government is formulating a new National Policy on Agriculture to strengthen our agriculture and agro-based industries. The policy seeks to boost irrigation, especially through small and medium projects, increase the viability of small and marginal farmers and enhance farm productivity through better management of natural resources and introduction of technological and institutional changes. The focus will specifically be on raising food production in the country's vast rain-fed areas and in the Eastern and North-Eastern regions. Efforts will be made to expand and revitalize agricultural cooperatives and other rural credit institutions to enable them to seize the opportunities of economic liberalization. The policy also aims at maximizing production in horticulture, floriculture, medicinal plants and afforestation, especially to increase our exports in these areas.

Management of prices of agricultural commodities is a critical need, since it concerns both farmers and consumers. One of the major impediments in this area has been the lack of accurate and timely information. A National Crop Forecasting Centre has been set up to provide advance warning of critical commodities about their supplies and prices. A special cell has been created in the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs to closely monitor prices of essential commodities. The cell is

servicing a high-powered Price Monitoring Board which is meeting every week to review the price situation. A Bill to amend the Essential Commodities Act to check hoarding and black-marketing more effectively is being introduced in this Session of Parliament.

Optimal usage of water is critical to our economic progress. Improper use of water, besides causing economic loss, can lead to degradation of lands and the environment, and cause increased social tension. A National Commission is currently preparing an integrated plan for the development of water resources for multiple use. Its report, which is expected this year, will recommend short-term and long-term measures to achieve integrated and efficient management of the nation's diverse water resources. The progress in developing a consensus in respect of the long-running Cauvery water dispute last year was a triumph of the co-operative and national spirit. The importance of this breakthrough lies in the possibility of following a similar approach to help resolve other long-standing inter-State river disputes that are holding up many big development projects.

The Government accords high priority to the rapid development of infrastructure, which is the key to accelerated growth in all sectors of the economy. The Task Force on Infrastructure, set up under the aegis of the Planning Commission, has finalized the blueprint for the construction of a six-lane National Integrated Highway Project with an East-West corridor linking Silchar to Saurashtra and a North-South corridor linking Kashmir to Kanyakumari. It incorporates and further extends the earlier Golden Quadrangle project linking the four metros of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta. Expressways of international standards will be built at suitable stretches. Work has already begun on this most ambitious infrastructure project since Independence. Sufficient resources will be mobilized for implementing it from multiple points in the country. Private sector participation is being enabled through build-own-transfer schemes.

The Task Force on Infrastructure has prepared a draft of the National Integrated Transport Policy that seeks to maximize the synergy between railways, roads, ports, airports and inland waterways. Based on the recommendations of the Task Force, the Government has decided to undertake a major exercise to modernize and expand the airports in the country. As a first step, five airports—Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai and Bangalore—will be corporatized.

Information Technology (IT) presents the greatest single developmental opportunity for India in the 21st century. The entire edifice of tomorrow's

knowledge-based economy and society will rest on its foundation. India's natural advantage in establishing global dominance in IT is today widely recognized. This recognition is based on the shining success already achieved by our IT professionals and entrepreneurs both in India and Indians working abroad.

Consequent to the recommendations of the Task Force on Information Technology, the Government has taken a number of decisions to give a big boost to software development with the goal of achieving exports of US \$ 50 billion by 2008. An Action Plan to make India a major centre for hardware design, manufacture and exports is also on the anvil. For the first time, an Internet Service Provider policy has been announced to accelerate the spread of Internet services in the country. In addition, the Government plans to unveil major initiative to promote computer training and IT-based education; creation of Indian content on the Internet, especially in Indian languages; universal use of IT in administration, banking, the commercial sector and in utilities; and IT for rural development through "Wired Villages" projects in many States.

The Government recognizes the crucial role that telecommunications will play in making India's dreams in information technology come true. Accordingly, it has set up a Group on Telecommunications that is finalizing a New Telecom Policy. The Policy will, *inter alia*, take into account the revolutionary phenomenon of the convergence of computers, telecom, television, multimedia and consumer electronics. It will aim at vastly increasing teledensity in India, especially in rural areas; bringing high-speed connectivity to critical sectors of the economy; and ensuring affordable telecom services. These objectives will be achieved in a better competitive environment by creating a stronger regulatory framework.

Major advances are being made in the power sector due to a proactive approach of the Government to remove the bottlenecks in clearing a large number of pending power projects. Very soon, many independent power projects will attain financial closure, leading to their expeditious construction. The Government recently held a Conference of Chief Ministers and Power Ministers of States specifically to discuss faster progress in this critical infrastructure sector. I am happy to note that more and more State Governments are setting up Regulatory Commissions, restructuring their electricity boards to cut down transmission and distribution losses; and facilitating the inflow of expected investments. There has to be a national consensus that electricity generation, transmission and distribution being commercial activities, user charges should be

recovered fully. If there is any conscious decision to charge less, subsidies have to be provided for by the concerned State Government in a transparent manner.

India is committed to the peaceful use of nuclear power. The work on the Kaiga Atomic Power Unit 2 and the Rajasthan Atomic Power Project Unit 3 continued; these Units are expected to become critical this year. The Kalpakkam Reprocessing Plant—the third and the largest reprocessing plant built by us—was dedicated to the nation in September 1998.

The Government has continued its commitment to the promotion of non-conventional energy. India now ranks fourth in the world in its use. Besides, as India is the largest producer of cane sugar, we are implementing the world's largest bagasse-based co-generation programme in our sugar mills.

A home of their own is the dream of every Indian family. In pursuance of this, the Government has formulated a new Housing and Habitat Policy 1998 that will facilitate the building of an additional twenty lakh houses a year. This will also create employment opportunities for the skilled and unskilled on a large scale, besides giving a boost to our steel, cement and construction material industries. After wide consultations with the interests involved, major roadblocks in the path of the housing industry have been removed and others are on their way to removal.

The Government has decided to create a Technological Upgradation Fund for strengthening the competitive advantage of the Indian textile industry. The scheme will commence from 1 April, 1999. Separately, the Ministry of Agriculture would soon launch a Cotton Technology Mission.

Small-scale, cottage and village industries, as well as the handloom and handicrafts sectors, generate a lot of employment. To help the small-scale sector, the Interest on Delayed Payments to Small Scale and Ancillary Industrial Undertakings Act, 1993, has been amended. The Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana has also been revised to give the programme an added impetus.

The National Agenda for Governance committed to free industry from bureaucratic control. The Government has delicensed industries like coal, lignite, petroleum products, sugar and certain bulk drugs. It has also decided to liberalize technology imports by allowing automatic clearance for projects appraised by financial institutions, public-sector projects and projects of private companies that have a good track record.

The Government is also reforming public sector undertakings through restructuring, rehabilitation, disinvestment and strategic sale. A separate Cabinet Committee will oversee and expedite decisions on disinvestment and restructuring plans.

The Second National Commission on Labour has been set up after three decades to suggest rationalization of existing labour laws in the organized sector and an umbrella legislation for ensuring minimum protection to the workers in the unorganized sector. The Commission will consider the emerging economic environment involving rapid technological changes that necessitate quick changes in methods, timing and conditions of work. It will recommend changes in existing laws to bring them in tune with the future labour market requirements. It will also recommend improvements in the effectiveness of the measures relating to social security, occupational health and safety, minimum wages and linkage between wages and productivity. It will suggest safeguards and facilities required for women and handicapped workers.

Ensuring the well-being of all our citizens is the first duty of any Government. Investment in literacy, education, particularly primary education, health, sanitation and drinking water is a major priority for the Government, as these determine the quality of life of our citizens and improve India's standing in the Human Development Index. In the last Budget, the Government considerably increased the allocation for the social sector. This commitment will continue. In addition, the Government will take further measures to strengthen the social safety nets for the poorest sections of our society.

Pulse polio immunization is one of the greatest health care success stories in recent years. Encouraged by the tremendous experience gained in this campaign, the country should now aim to achieve zero incidence of polio by the end of 2000, as per the goal set by the World Health Organization. NGOs are being involved in creating awareness about public health. To promote Indian systems of medicine, the Department of Family Welfare has incorporated Ayurveda in the Reproductive Child Health Programme.

The nation faces a particularly grave health challenge—namely, the rapid spread of AIDs. The Government has drawn up a draft National AIDS Policy and National Blood Policy. This will check the proliferation of this dreaded disease; improve services for the care of the people living with AIDS, both in hospitals and at homes; and provide an enabling socio-economic environment so that all sections of population can protect themselves from HIV infection. Drug addiction has been an important factor in the spread of HIV. The Government is also commit-

ted to pursue the programmes for drug de-addiction and rehabilitation of persons who have been drug addicts.

The Ministry of Welfare was renamed as the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's birthday last year. To promote self-employment among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and backward classes, the Government has more than tripled the authorized capital of the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation and the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation. More steps will be taken for their speedy economic development.

The Government has launched the Rural Women's Development and Empowerment Project in six States. A National Policy for Empowerment of Women is being finalized. A new initiative in child development would be the setting up of a National Commission for Children.

The Government has evolved a National Policy for Older Persons to address the emerging aspirations of the many older people in health care, shelter, welfare, life property and financial security.

The Rehabilitation Council of India has been reorganized to standardize and expand the training of rehabilitation professionals working with disability. A specially designed Prime Minister's Programme for the Mentally Challenged has been launched, covering fifteen thousand children. More will be covered later. A National Trust for the welfare of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disability will be established soon after the Bill, being introduced in the Parliament in the current Session, is passed.

Development of the social sector, however, is not dependent on increased financial resources alone. Investment of better and more committed administrative and managerial resources is equally critical. There is a great need to sensitize the Government machinery at both the Central and State levels. I must emphasize here that no tangible progress will be made unless the officers and employees concerned adopt a participative approach to involve the people in the implementation of these schemes.

The sustained investment in higher education and other facilities is beginning to pay off. Many young Indians are doing exceedingly well in India and abroad. As India's economy grows, more opportunities will be available for our youth to show their mettle. In sports too, the momentum is picking up. The medal tally at the Asian Games last year, including the gold medal in hockey, is the highest since 1982. There is immense sports talent in our society of nearly 100 crore people. We

must intensify our efforts to discover and promote this talent to improve India's standing in international sports.

The Government has set up a Commission to review Administrative Laws. The Commission has presented its report, which is under consideration. The Government is also planning to bring forward a Freedom of Information Bill.

Both Houses of Parliament have frequently discussed electoral reforms. To impart much needed momentum to them, the Government constituted a committee headed by Shri Indrajit Gupta, a senior and respected member of Parliament, to suggest measures on State Funding of Elections and other connected matters. This committee submitted its report on 14 January, 1999. It suggested partial funding of elections in kind by the Government to the candidates of recognized political parties. The Government will finalize its recommendations in consultation with all the parties.

Strengthening the Panchayat Raj system is at the heart of the challenge to revitalize the Indian democracy. India lives in her villages. The quality of governance has, therefore, to be judged by the quality of the Government-citizen interface at the grassroots. Many schemes have been formulated to improve the functioning of these Panchayats, especially by educating its member to work better. I must note here that both the need and the scope for improvement in this area are immense.

The Ministry of Rural Affairs and Employment, in consultation with the State Governments, is restructuring many of the schemes for the betterment of the lives of the rural poor. This restructuring must give Panchayats and Municipalities a greater role in the sanction and disbursement of benefits to avoid procedural delays.

Honourable Members, continuity and consensus are the hallmark of India's foreign policy. Our relationship with our neighbours was considerably strengthened this year. The visits by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to Delhi in June 1998 and Calcutta in January 1999 contributed in better understanding with our eastern neighbour. My visit to Nepal in May 1998 and the visit of the King of Nepal to India, as our special guest for this year's Republic Day celebrations, consolidated the deep-rooted friendship and underlined the goodwill and warmth that characterize our ties with Nepal. The Transit Treaty with Nepal was also renewed. The King of Bhutan's visit to India in October 1998 provided new impetus to the close friendship and cooperation that India and Bhutan have traditionally enjoyed. Likewise, we were glad to receive a visit by the President of Maldives, with which country we have very close ties.

The Prime Minister visited Pakistan on 20-21 February 1999 on the inaugural run of the Delhi-Lahore Bus Service. During his visit, the Prime Minister conveyed to the Government and people of Pakistan India's deep desire for peace and friendship with them and to develop a comprehensive structure of cooperation for the benefit of the two peoples. The Prime Minister and the Pakistan Prime Minister signed the Lahore Declaration which is a landmark for the peace and security of the two countries.

India and Pakistan will now work to enter into agreements to put in place far-reaching Confidence Building Measures. The two countries also identified new and significant areas of cooperation such as Information Technology and decided to address humanitarian issues at a ministerial level on an urgent basis. It is our hope that the Prime Minister's historic initiative for the welfare of the peoples of the two countries and his reiteration that a secure, stable and prosperous Pakistan is in India's interest will mark a new chapter in our bilateral ties.

India seeks to strengthen and deepen our historic and friendly relations with China in all spheres of mutual benefit and is looking forward to continuing the dialogue with that country.

In keeping with our policy of strengthening regional cooperation, the Prime Minister announced some bold initiatives at the SAARC Summit in Colombo in July 1998 to speed up trade liberalization in the region by lifting the Quantitative Restrictions for SAARC countries on 1 August 1998. This demonstrates our commitment to the creation of a South Asian Free Trade Area. During the visit of Sri Lanka's President in December 1998, a historic free trade agreement was signed between the two countries. This will allow closer economic cooperation and can be a model for other SAARC countries.

The Prime Minister participated in the 12th NAM Summit in Durban highlighting the relevance and importance of non-alignment in international relations. The outcome of the Summit vindicated India's stand on disarmament. It endorsed our proposal for an International Conference, preferably in 1999, to agree, before the end of the millennium, on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time.

The Government considers the countries of West and Central Asia important partners. In keeping with the priority we attach to this region, the first bilateral visit abroad of the Prime Minister was to Oman, with whom we are building close economic linkages. My visit to Turkey in September 1998 helped renew the long-standing ties between our two

nations. The visit of the President of Tajikistan in January 1999 to India was a useful opportunity to renew our links and share perceptions on regional development in Central Asia.

Our ties with East and South-East Asian countries and with ASEAN as an entity are developing satisfactorily. The Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea visited India for the inauguration of the IETF'99. This is another concrete step in strengthening our economic relations with East and South-East Asia. And we were happy to receive a visit from the Crown Prince of Thailand.

During the visit to India of the Prime Minister of Russia in December 1998, both sides reaffirmed their close partnership as well as their determination to improve our ties by covering many more areas. Our ties with Bulgaria received a further impetus through the visit to India by its President in October 1998. It gave us great pleasure to receive a visit by the Governor General of Canada in March 1998. The first ever Presidential visit from Estonia in February 1999 laid the foundation for a relationship full of promise.

I visited Germany, Luxembourg and Portugal in September 1998 and had very useful discussions with the leadership of these countries. In September 1998, Prime Minister Vajpayee visited France, with whom our relations now are one of shared perceptions, deep understanding and full of promise. The visits by the President of Switzerland, the Crown Prince of Belgium and the Prime Minister of Luxembourg in January 1999 helped bring these important European nations closer to India.

The enduring foundation of India's relationship with Africa was strengthened by the Prime Minister's visits to Namibia, South Africa and Mauritius in August-September 1998 and to Morocco in February 1999. The Prime Minister of Mauritius visited India in October 1998.

We are now strengthening our relationship with Latin American and Caribbean countries. My own visit to Brazil and Peru in April-May 1998 and the Prime Minister's visit to Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica in February 1999, reflect the growing importance that my Government attaches to reaching out to the Latin American countries.

The need for strengthened international cooperation through a revitalized United Nations cannot be over-emphasized. India has been working with other Member States for the reform of the United Nations to make the organization more effective and responsive to the requirements of the Member States.

President's Rule was imposed recently in Goa and Bihar under Article 356 of the Constitution. Goa was suffering from prolonged political instability, leading to paralysis of administration in the State. There was a near unanimous recommendation from the MLAs for dissolution of the State Assembly to enable early elections, Bihar has witnessed a series of massacres of innocent people in recent times, many of them targeted at Dalits. These mass killings have brought immense pain and anguish to all of us. The first duty of any government is to protect the life and property of citizens, especially those who are poor and socially oppressed. In both cases, situations had arisen in which the government of these States could not be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. The Goa State Assembly has been dissolved, and the Bihar State Assembly has been kept under suspended animation.

Honourable Members, you have the rare privilege of contributing to the success of all these diverse initiatives and efforts aimed at strengthening India in all areas of our national life. I am confident that you will use the ensuing Session of Parliament, as also the other Sessions in the year, for constructive debate, leading to successful conclusion of all the scheduled business. I wish you well in your endeavour.

Jai Hind.

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA,
SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI AT THE ORIENTATION
PROGRAMME FOR THE NEWLY-ELECTED MEMBERS
OF THE MADHYA PRADESH VIDHAN SABHA**

The Orientation Programme for the newly-elected members of the Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on 16-18 February 1999. We reproduce below the text of the Inaugural Address at the Programme delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi on 16 February 1999.

—Editor

Shri Shrinivas Tiwary, Honourable Speaker, Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, Honourable Members and Friends:

It is a matter of great pleasure for me to welcome you all to this Orientation Programme being organised jointly by the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training of the Lok Sabha Secretariat and the Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha for the newly-elected members of the Vidhan Sabha. May I also take this opportunity to congratulate each and every one of you on your election to the Vidhan Sabha.

The Bureau, ever since its inception in 1976, has been organising multi-dimensional programmes of training in parliamentary matters for those who are entrusted with the responsibility of running or serving parliamentary institutions. More importantly, the Bureau has been organising Orientation Programmes for the newly-elected members of the State Legislatures. The usefulness of these Programmes is evidenced by the fact that the Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha had organised the same co-operatively with the Bureau in 1985, 1989 and 1994. This Orientation Programme is the fourth one in the series. I am happy that the Bureau's programmes are sought after. I am sure that this Programme where you will have the opportunity to benefit from the experiences of some of our veteran parliamentarians will go a long way in providing you with valuable insights into, and vital inputs on, the crucial question of how to become effective legislators.

In the parliamentary system, accountability of the Executive is to the Legislature. This accountability is in peril if the Legislature does not

meet for sufficient number of days. The Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha has, of course, a comparatively better record of meetings than many of the Vidhan Sabhas. The average sitting per annum of the Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha is about 50. This is still far from satisfactory.

Accountability becomes a casualty also if orderly conduct of business is disrupted and the House time is wasted. There is need for the development in our country of a culture of parliamentary ethics. This culture needs to be based on the recognition that legislators should give value for the money that people spend on them in terms of salaries, allowances and travel costs. How do they give this value? Primarily by making laws, scrutinizing government's budget and performance, enunciating policy parameters and promoting developmental programmes for the common good.

It is obvious that the Legislature should be an effective interface between the people and the Government. The legislators who do not relate governance to the needs of the people would only end up making governance itself arbitrary and irresponsible.

During parliamentary training, a truth often urged is that the legislator has four aspects of representation: one, he represents the constituency which elects him; two, he represents the political party on whose symbol and manifesto he contests the election; three, he represents the State in a very broad sense; and finally, he represents and projects himself as an individual. I shall add one more dimension of representation—that of overall national interest. The legislators' concern must, therefore, reflect all these four aspects which may, at times, come in conflict with one another. Those who resolve these conflicts harmoniously are the ones who rise to become eminent legislators. But all this is not accomplished in a day. This is a long drawn process which calls for will and the desire to excel. Eminence is not inherited but is achieved through endeavour and industry, and commitment and integrity.

To go into the issue of effective performance of legislators in some broad detail, it is important that they attend the sittings of the House regularly and take part meaningfully in its proceedings. There are a number of procedural devices available to raise matters of concern in the House and they should be made full use of. They should come to the House with advance preparation and respect the Rules of Procedure in presentation. Democracy is a method of coming to a decision through discussion. Discussion is possible only when everybody concerned gets an opportunity to have his say. While advance preparation helps in acquiring knowledge and information and in enriching one's horizon of

thought, its presentation patiently and convincingly raises the level of debate.

Brevity and relevance of presentation are integral to the art of communication; one can speak at length without saying much and one can say a lot even within a short span of time also. There are times when heated debates take place in the House and tempers run high. On such occasions, particular care should be taken to see that differences are aired within the limits set by the Rules of Procedure and parliamentary customs and conventions.

The legislator's status is an exalted one. While privileges are given to members to enable them to perform their parliamentary duties without any hindrance, these privileges also entail certain obligations. Dignified conduct is one of the primary obligations of the legislator. Any improper conduct in the House such as slogan shouting, showing placards, rushing to the well of the House and acts of disrespect to the Chair, etc., tend to project the members in poor light. The image of the Legislature and its credibility as a representative institution largely depend on the role and behaviour of its members. In this age of the electronic media, the projection of legislators as a lot without dignity or decorum will send wrong signals about our country—as a country in which democracy is on the decline.

Politics is basically a competitive activity but we are now entering a phase where, within the parameters of competition, cooperation, rather than confrontation, is vitally needed. Indeed, consensus holds the key to our success and we should all strive to make the Legislature the cradle of consensus.

Honourable members, as you may be aware, the Conference of Presiding Officers has been deliberating on important issues concerning all members of Parliament and State Legislatures every year in different State Capitals of the country. We have unanimously adopted several resolutions which have far reaching consequences. In Delhi, in 1998, and in Shimla, in 1997, we decided that Ethics Committees be constituted in all the State Legislatures. While there is an Ethics Committee in the Rajya Sabha which has given its first report, the Study Group of the Committee of Privileges of the Lok Sabha too in its report has made a deep study of the system prevailing in U.K., U.S.A. and Australia and has recommended that the Committee of Privileges may be renamed as the Committee on Ethics and Privileges. Among the States, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly has taken the lead in setting up the Ethics Committee which too has presented a report to the House. The

Legislative Assembly organised in Kakinada, a Seminar, yesterday on moral and ethical values in public life which was very well attended.

Closely related to this aspect of ethics is the inviolability of the Question Hour and the sanctity of the well of the House which must not be disturbed. Both the Houses of the Parliament passed unanimous resolutions in this regard at the time of the Golden Jubilee Commemorative Session of India's Independence in 1997.

In Delhi, last year, the Presiding Officers resolved to steadfastly work for and ensure the implementation of the constitutional mandate of providing an independent and autonomous Secretariat for all the Legislatures.

The duty to implement, both in letter and spirit, all the aforesaid resolutions is cast upon all of us. Coupled with the knowledge of rules and procedures of Parliament and observance of parliamentary norms and etiquette, to which you will have occasion to be exposed in this Orientation Programme, I am sure we will be able to serve our people who have elected us to these august legislative bodies better.

With these words, I have great pleasure in inaugurating the Orientation Programme. I am sure you will find the deliberations of this Programme meaningful and interactive. I would like all of you to strive to become eminent legislators and I wish you all the very best.

Thank you

THE FIRST REPORT OF THE ETHICS COMMITTEE OF RAJYA SABHA

LARRDIS

Ethics by definition, is a very broad expression. It is a matter of morals; of character and conduct; of rules of behaviour; of accountability and propriety. The mechanism of an Ethics Committee in Parliament is a relatively new development. Even in the long established democracies like that of the United Kingdom and the United States of America, it is of relatively recent origin. But ethical basis of politics is a very old idea. The Ethics Committee is not intended as an essay in idealism, but as an exercise in pragmatic politics. It does not seek to usher in a moralistic regime in Parliament, but common ethical standards and decency in the conduct of its members, including Ministers.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Politics without morality is a thing to be avoided". This ethical and moral concern of the Mahatma was shared by our national leaders. The need for maintaining probity and honesty in public life was emphasised in the Constituent Assembly also. When the Assembly was debating the article relating to the appointment of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers, several members moved amendments requiring every Minister to disclose to Parliament details of his property, shares or titles in business. Prof. K.T. Shah moved an amendment which required that no one would be elected or appointed to any public office who was found guilty of any offence involving moral turpitude. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar summed up the debates in the Constituent Assembly when he said: "We, all of us, are interested in seeing that the administration is maintained at a high level not only of efficiency but of purity."

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, once observed: "Parliamentary democracy demands many virtues; it demands, of course, ability. It demands certain devotion to work. But it demands also a large measure of co-operation, of self-discipline and of self-restraint." He also warned people against becoming victims to the lure of power, wealth or privilege. The Santhanam Committee, set up in 1962, observed in its report that the integrity of Ministers, members of Parliament and of the State Legislatures was an important factor in

creating a social climate against corruption, and recommended the setting up of a Committee of representatives of Parliament and State Legislatures to formulate a code of conduct for legislators. In 1964, a Private Member's Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Disclosure of Assets by Ministers and Members of Parliament, and successive Lokpal Bills from 1968 to 1996 contained provisions for disclosure of assets as well as on matters relating to citizens' grievances against corruption at high places.

In July 1993, the Government appointed a Committee headed by Shri N.N. Vohra, the then Home Secretary, to take stock of all available information about the activities of crime syndicates and mafia organisations which had developed links with and were being protected by Government functionaries and political personalities. The Report of the Committee was tabled in both Houses of Parliament on 1 August 1995 and discussed in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 8, 23 and 24 August 1995.

Subsequently, an All-Party Meeting was held on 15 September 1995 under the Chairmanship of the then Home Minister, Shri S.B. Chavan to look into the question of the nexus between criminals and politicians, and the related issue of declaration of assets and liabilities by the members of Parliament and Ministers. Most of the leaders who participated in the Meeting supported the idea of having a body like the Ethics Committee for members of Parliament which could oversee their ethical and moral conduct.

The Rajya Sabha was seized of the matter for quite some time. The Business Advisory Committee of the Rajya Sabha, at its meeting held on 9 September 1996, decided that the matter should be considered by the Leaders of Parties and Groups in the House. The matter was placed before the General Purposes Committee of the Rajya Sabha at its meeting held on 20 February 1997. The Committee, after considering the matter carefully, authorised the Chairman, Rajya Sabha to constitute an Ethics Committee. The Chairman, Rajya Sabha, accordingly, constituted the Ethics Committee of the Rajya Sabha on 4 March 1997, with a mandate to oversee the moral and ethical conduct of members and to examine cases referred to it with reference to then ethical and other misconduct.

Leaders of Parties/Groups in the Rajya Sabha were appointed the members of the Ethics Committee. It was also decided that in respect of procedure and other matters, the rules applicable to the Committee of Privileges would apply to the Ethics Committee with such variations

and modifications as the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, may, from time to time, make.

The Ethics Committee of the Rajya Sabha was formally inaugurated on 30 May 1997 by the then Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K.R. Narayanan.

First Report of the Ethics Committee of the Rajya Sabha: The Ethics Committee of the Rajya Sabha adopted their First Report on 1 December 1998. On 8 December 1998, Shri S.B. Chavan, Chairman, Ethics Committee presented the Report to the Rajya Sabha.

Some of the recommendations made in the Report are as follows:—

Declaration of assets and liabilities by members : The Committee did not favour the idea of subjecting the members to the disciplinary authority of an agency outside the jurisdiction of the House. The Committee noted the provisions existing in this regard in several Commonwealth countries and in the US Congress and was in favour of making the Ethics Committee a permanent institution in the Rajya Sabha. It was the considered view of the Committee that it should be made compulsory for the members to declare their assets and liabilities and those of their immediate family, which include spouse and dependent daughters and sons, before the Committee. The Committee would place these statements on the Table of the House. The Committee would also constantly guide and give advice to the members on question of propriety and conduct.

Criminalisation of politics and corrective measures: The Committee noted that provisions exist in various statutes and the Rules of Procedure of both the Houses for regulating the behaviour of members, both inside and outside the Legislature. The laws and rules, however, have not had the desired effect. The Committee, therefore, felt that the problem of criminalisation of politics and its causes and effects could not be tackled by legislation alone. The Committee, instead of taking a purely legalistic view in the matter, thought it prudent to seek the cooperation of the political parties who can play a far more effective role in bringing about probity in public life. The Committee, therefore, decided to discuss various issues before it with the political parties as also the need for evolving a code of conduct for members. In this connection, the Committee heard the leaders of various political parties.

Accordingly, a Questionnaire was sent to the political parties and their responses were sought on that. Representatives of the political parties who appeared before the Committee expressed themselves in favour of evolving a code of conduct for regulating the behaviour of the

members. They also assured the support of their respective political parties in the implementation of the code. It was also suggested that all political parties need to have their own separate codes of conduct to regulate the behaviour of their members. In any case, it is political parties which select candidates to contest elections. If care is taken at the preliminary stage of the screening of candidates, persons with criminal record or those with doubtful integrity could be prevented to a large extent from entering the legislative bodies. The Committee was of the view that it was mainly the responsibility of political parties to stop persons having criminal record entering the political process. The Committee, therefore, urged political parties to devise self-controlling norms which should regulate the conduct of their members. The parameter for the selection of candidates for election by the political parties should be proven standards in public life. This would go a long way in maintaining the credibility of the political system in the estimation of the public. The Committee was of the view that but for the sincerity and the commitment of political parties, probity in public life could not be fully ensured.

As regards disqualifying persons with criminal record or those with dubious distinction, the Committee noted that it is a very complex issue. Under the Indian legal system, a person is presumed to be innocent unless proved otherwise. The Committee, nevertheless, was of the view that efforts should be made to prevent persons with criminal background from contesting elections at two levels: first, at the level of political parties itself while screening the candidates for contesting elections. Second, the Election Commission or any agency as may be specified under the law may also prevent such persons from contesting elections on the ground specified under the law or by suitably amending section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Political parties should deny tickets to such persons on the basis of public perception of their credentials. A well defined benchmark for preventing such people from contesting elections is needed in the other case. Since the Law Commission, the Election Commission and the Government of India itself was seized of the matter, the Committee suggested that the Government should expedite the process of initiating major electoral reforms in order to keep criminals out of the political arena.

Elections to the Rajya Sabha and the Legislative Councils by secret ballot. The Committee noted the emerging trend of cross-voting in the elections to the Rajya Sabha and the Legislative Councils in States. In order not to allow big money and other considerations to tamper with the electoral process, the Committee was of the view that instead of secret

ballot, the question of holding the elections to the Rajya Sabha and the Legislative Councils in States by open ballot might be examined.

Ceiling on election expenses: Election process involves some expenditure on the part of every candidate and every party. This expenditure has gone up manifold due to excessive role of money power in elections. It was felt that ceiling on poll expenses as provided in law was not realistic and reasonable. The Committee held the view that the fixation of ceiling on election expenses for various constituencies must take into account ground realities.

Funding of elections: The Committee was of the view that the question of corporate funding of political parties and its ramifications needed to be further examined.

The Committee emphasised the need to incorporate suitable provisions in the existing electoral laws with a view to breaking the nexus between the money power and elections. The Committee hoped that this aspect would be looked into by the Committee on State Funding of Elections which was seized of the matter.

The Committee strongly felt that donations received by political parties, the source of which lies in a foreign country, should be totally banned.

Reforming the electoral process: The Committee appreciated the efforts made by the Election Commission to cleanse the electoral process. The Committee took note of the order issued by the Election Commission in August 1997 under article 324 of the Constitution requiring the candidates for elections to Parliament and State Legislatures to file affidavits about their convictions in cases covered by section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which disqualifies persons convicted of those specified offences. The Commission had also made it clear that the conviction by the trial Court itself was sufficient to attract disqualification and even those who were released on bail during the pendency of their appeals against their convictions were disqualified for contesting elections. The Committee was of the view that this process should continue.

Framework of code of conduct for members of the Rajya Sabha: In order to suggest a framework of a code for members of the Rajya Sabha, the Committee studied the codes/draft codes/rules, etc. existing in Australia, Canada, U.S.A., U.K. and South Africa. The Committee also studied the functioning of the Ethics Committees or such like institutions if existing in these countries. The Committee visited the Parliaments of U.K., France, Finland and Italy and interacted with par-

liamentarians and senior officials associated with the functioning of the structures and institutions responsible for enforcing ethics in public life.

After having deliberated on the Code of Conduct for members at length, the Committee came to a definite conclusion that a framework of Code of Conduct be prepared for members of the Rajya Sabha. Keeping in view the special needs and circumstances which obtain in our country, the Committee recommended the following framework of a Code of Conduct for members of the Rajya Sabha:

The members of the Rajya Sabha should acknowledge their responsibility to maintain the public trust reposed in them and should work diligently to discharge their mandate for the common good of the people. They must hold in high esteem the Constitution, the law, parliamentary institutions and above all the general public. They should constantly strive to translate the ideals laid down in the Preamble to the Constitution into a reality. The following are the principles which they should abide by in their dealings:—

- Members must not do anything that would bring disrepute to the Parliament and would affect their credibility.
- Members must utilise their position as members of Parliament to advance general well-being of the people.
- In their dealings, if members find that there would be a conflict between their personal interests and the public trust which they hold, they should resolve such a conflict in a manner that their private interests would be subordinated to the duty of their public office.
- Members should always see that their private financial interests and those of the members of their immediate family, including spouse and dependent children, did not come in conflict with the public interest and if any such conflict would ever arise, they should try to resolve such a conflict in a manner that the public interest would not be jeopardised.
- Members should never expect or accept any fee, remuneration or benefit for a vote given or not given by them on the floor of the House, for introducing a Bill, for moving a resolution or desisting from moving a resolution, putting a question or abstaining from asking a question or participating in the deliberations of the House or a Parliamentary Committee.
- Members should not take a gift which might interfere with honest and impartial discharge of their official duties. They might, however, accept incidental gifts or inexpensive mementoes and customary hospitality.

- Members holding public office should use public resources in such a manner as might lead to public good.¹
- If members were in possession of a confidential information owing to their being members of Parliament or members of Parliamentary Committees, they should not disclose such information for advancing their personal interests.
- Members should desist from giving certificates to individuals and institutions of which they had no personal knowledge and were not based on facts.
- Members should not lend ready support to any cause of which they had no, or little knowledge.
- * Members should not misuse the facilities and amenities made available to them.
- Members should not be disrespectful to any religion and work for the promotion of secular values.
- Members should keep uppermost in their mind the fundamental duties listed in the Constitution.
- Members would be expected to maintain high standards of morality, dignity, decency and values in public life.

Like the codes existing in some of the Parliaments in other countries, the code suggested by the Committee is general in nature. The Committee would consider in its subsequent reports the procedures for making a complaint to the Committee or taking up a matter *suo motu* by it, the mechanism for investigation of a complaint and the question of providing penalties for the violation of the code. The Committee would recommend specific measures to the House for taking a view in each case referred to it or considered by it. The Committee intended to come out with detailed rules and guidelines in its subsequent reports to implement its mandate.

EXHIBITION ON "HISTORY AND ACTIVITIES OF PARLIAMENT OF INDIA"

PMA*

After the great October Socialist Revolution of 1917, the world's first socialist State rendered full moral and political support to the national liberation movement of the Indian people. The first Russian Revolution and the great October Revolution stimulated the growth and development of the freedom movement in India.

Diplomatic relations between the then USSR and India were established in April 1947 and further strengthened gradually. The "Soviet-Indian Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation" of 9 August 1971 was a landmark in Indo-Soviet bilateral relations.

After the disintegration of the USSR and the emergence of Russia as a separate State, Russia declared itself to be "State-continuer" of the erstwhile USSR. Indo-Russian relations are multifaceted and encompass different sectors, including political consultations, economic and commercial relations and cooperation in trade and economy, science and technology, culture, education and defence.

Parliamentary cooperation constitutes an important facet of our ties and helps forge contacts across the political spectrum of both the countries. The tradition of intensive exchanges between the two countries has been maintained in recent years. Visits to India of Russian leaders at the highest level were renewed with President Yeltsin's State Visit to India in January 1993 and visits of Delegations of Young Parliamentarians in September 1996; the Committee on the Nationalities led by its Chairman in November 1996; Speaker of the State Duma, Mr. Gennady Seleznyov during 23-27 November 1997; the Committee on the International Affairs led by its Chairman in September 1998; and of the Prime Minister, Mr. Yevgeny M. Primakov in December 1998.

Visits from India to Russia included those of the Indian Prime Minister in June-July 1994; the then Leader of the Opposition in the Lok

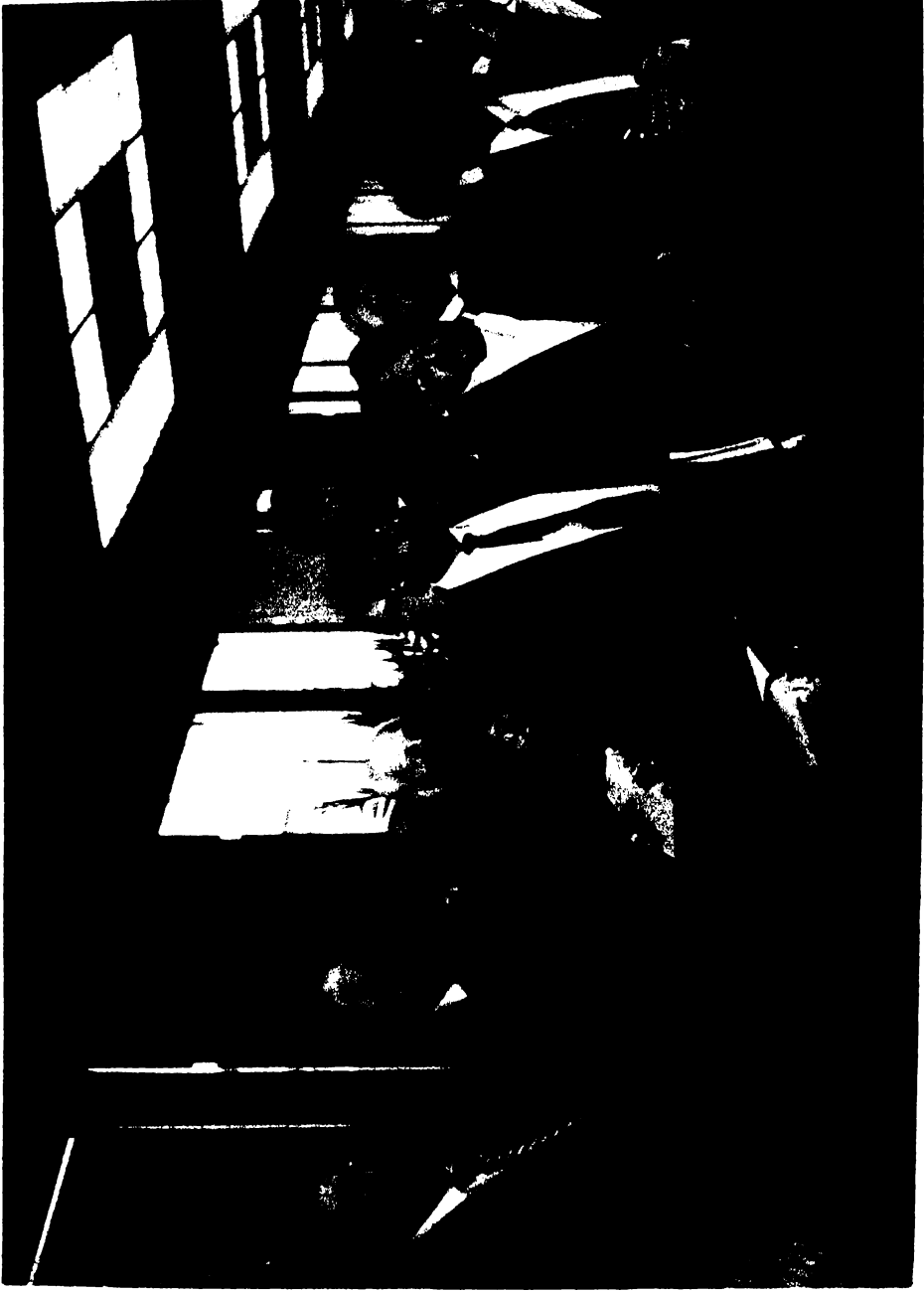
* Contributed by the Parliamentary Museum and Archives (PMA) Division of the Parliament Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service.



The Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi and the Speaker of the State Duma of Russia, Mr. Gennady Seleznyov jointly inaugurating the Exhibition "History and Activities of Parliament of India" in the inner foyer of the Russian Duma in Moscow on 12 November 1998



The Speaker of the State Duma of Russia, Mr. Gennady Seleznyov addressing the distinguished gathering



The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Falayogji addressing the distinguished audience present at the inaugural ceremony



A group of students from the Institute of International Relations, Moscow State University visiting the Exhibition

Sabha and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in January 1995; Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma in October 1996; and the Parliamentary Delegations led by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi during September and November 1998.

A new chapter was started in the history of parliamentary cooperation between the two countries when the Youth Parliamentary Assembly* of the State Duma had expressed their keen interest in organising an Exhibition on the theme of "History and Activities of Parliament of India" in the premises of the State Duma to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of India's Independence. The proposal was agreed to by the then Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, also lauded the proposal and gave his consent to inaugurate the Exhibition in November 1998.

On 12 November 1998, the Exhibition set up in the Foyer (Inner Lobby) of the State Duma was jointly inaugurated by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi and the Speaker of the State Duma, Mr. Gennady Seleznyov. The Exhibition continued upto 25 November 1998.

On 12 November 1998, welcoming the Parliamentary Delegations of India led by Shri G.M.C. Balayogi at the inauguration of the Exhibition, Mr. Gennady Seleznyov stated that parliamentary cooperation between the two countries would be further strengthened by organising such exhibitions in both the Parliaments.

In his address to the distinguished gathering at the inaugural ceremony in the State Duma of Russia, Moscow, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri Balayogi said,"

Let me first place on record my deep appreciation of the privilege given to us from India by the Parliament of the Russian Federation to mount the Exhibition on the 'History and the Activities of the Parliament of India'. This Exhibition is especially important to us, closely following the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of India's Independence.

Exhibitions on any subject create a more lasting impression than mere interactions. I believe that this Exhibition would leave in the minds of the visitors a substantial feel for India's parliamentary system of democracy in its historical and current perspectives.

* It is the Coordinating Council of the main youth organisations of Russia, Youth Branches of the leading political parties of Russia and the Youth Councils of the Parliamentary factions of the State Duma.

India's democratic traditions could be traced back to the year 3000 before Christ. During those times also, popular assemblies were elected. This instrument (the Constitution of India) has constituted India into a sovereign, socialistic, democratic, republic with equality and fraternity, while its basic structures have been preserved as per the norms established by the judiciary over the years.

Like the Russian Federation, India is also a pluralistic society with striking diversities in terms of ethnicity."

Speaking on the occasion, the Ambassador of India in Russia, Shri S.K. Lamba, stated that India and Russia have many firsts in their cooperation. Dwelling at length on the firsts in the present context, he said this was the first time ever that an Exhibition on a Parliamentary System of a country was organised in the precincts of the Duma and that too in the Foyer. It was also for the first time ever that Speaker of the Lok Sabha had addressed the members of the Russian Duma in their House. Lastly, it was the first ever attempt by the Parliamentary Museum and Archives of the Lok Sabha Secretariat to organise an Exhibition outside the country.

At the end of the Inaugural Ceremony, the *Bharatnatyam* performance by a Russian student, organised by the Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre of the Embassy of India, Moscow, was appreciated by all dignitaries and other visitors.

The Exhibition which was divided into 13 Sectors depicted the history, growth and activities of Parliament in India with the aid of 125 photographs, including 17 group photographs of dignitaries holding high offices, 20 diagrams, 4 press headlines, 59 brief write-ups, 2 maps, 6 charts and 8 relevant quotations culled out from the Vedas, Upanishads, Buddhist and Jain scriptures and speeches of eminent parliamentarians. The write-ups were displayed in Russian while the caption of each exhibit was provided in English and Russian languages.

An informative booklet was especially brought out in Russian and English languages and distributed among the dignitaries and other visitors. The booklet contained brief write-ups *inter alia* on: Our democratic heritage; Republics in ancient India; Panchayats; Beginning of modern parliamentary institutions; Movement for freedom and democratic institution; Birth and Mission of Indian National Congress. Gandhiji's *Satyagraha*; Framing of the Constitution; Salient facts about the Constituent Assembly; Basic features of the Republican Constitution of India; Electoral System in India; Party system and Representation of various political parties in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, members of Parliament, activities of Parliament; Role of Parliamentary Committees; Indian fed-

eral system; Fifty years of the functioning of the democratic republic system; and Indo-Russian cooperation. It also contained a brief account of all the exhibits displayed at the Exhibition and some selected photographs, maps and diagrams.

Two parliamentary films, namely "How to be an effective parliamentarian?" and "Parliamentary etiquette", which were got dubbed in Russian, were shown to the visitors. Video recordings pertaining to visits of Russian dignitaries and their addresses to the members of Parliament of India were also shown. The Exhibition being a prestigious one and also the first of its kind that the Parliamentary Museum and Archives had ever organised outside the country, a film on the thematic value had been prepared with the help of the video recordings of the event and interviews with prominent visitors. The film will be of interest to members of Parliament and other interested persons, besides having a great archival value.

A large number of dignitaries, including the Deputies of the Russian Parliament, media persons, academics and school children in groups visited the Exhibition and highly appreciated the gesture and efforts made by the Parliament of India in organising the Exhibition. Senior officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, Shri N.K. Sapra, Director and Shri M.S. Rawat, Joint Director attended to the visitors and showed them around the Exhibition and replied to their queries about the practices and procedure and the Indian parliamentary system as such.

During the discussions between the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Balayogi and the Russian leaders, there emerged a general consensus that organising such Exhibitions in various regions of Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) would generate much goodwill for India. It was, therefore, proposed that the Exhibition be set up by the Parliamentary Museum and Archives in cooperation with the Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Moscow, in other regions of Russia and in member countries of the CIS.

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

6th General Assembly of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians Conference on "Environment and Development": The 6th General Assembly of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians Conference on "Environment and Development" was held at Guilin in China from 14 to 18 October 1998. The General Assembly was organised at the invitation of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China.

The 5-member Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the General Assembly was led by Shri S.R. Bommai, MP and the Chairman, Standing Committee on Science and Technology and Environment and Forests. The other members of the Delegation were Shri K. Yerrannaidu, MP and the Chairman, Standing Committee of Agriculture; Sarvashri Mukul Wasnik, MP and Virendra Singh, MP and Shri N.C. Joshi, Director, Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

The General Assembly mainly discussed the following subjects and adopted the "Guilin Declaration" at the end taking cognizance of the Statements and Country Reports submitted by the participating countries:

- (1) Relations between Tourism Development and Environmental and Resource Protection;
- (2) Principles and Strategies for a Sustainable Development of Tourism, and
- (3) Promotion of Sustainable Development of Tourism through Enhanced International Cooperation.

Inter-Parliamentary Conference on "Attaining the World Food Summit's Objectives Through a Sustainable Development Strategy": The Inter-Parliamentary Conference on "Attaining the World Food Summit's objectives through a Sustainable Development Strategy" was held in Rome, Italy, from 29 November to 2 December 1998. The Conference was organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) with the support of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation and hosted by the Italian

Parliament. The Conference was a parliamentary follow-up to the commitments undertaken by the States at the 1996 World Food Summit.

The three-member Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the Conference was led by the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla. The other members of the Delegation were Shri Maganti Venkateswara Rao, MP and Shri S. Bal Shekar, Deputy Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat, who was also Secretary to the Delegation.

The Conference discussed the following subjects on the Agenda:

- (i) How to achieve Food Security;
- (ii) Dual Demands: Producing enough Food while maintaining the Resource Base; and
- (iii) Access to Food: Poverty Eradication, Safety Nets and Food Assistance.

44th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference: The 44th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference was held in Wellington, New Zealand from 16 to 23 October 1998. The Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the Conference was led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi. Besides, the Delegation consisted of Shri P.A. Sangma, MP (Regional Representative for the Asia Region in the CPA Executive Committee); Sarvashri P. Shiv Shanker, Harin Pathak, John F. Fernandes, and Smt. Malti Sharma, all members of Parliament. The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri S. Gopalan was the Secretary to the Delegation. Sarvashri M.A.A. Fatmi; Chada Suresh Reddy, and Smt. Suryakanta Patil, all members of Parliament, and the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Shri R.C. Tripathi also attended the Conference as observers.

The Delegation also included the following delegates from the State CPA Branches in India: the Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Y. Ramakrishnu; the Speaker, Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Chowna Mein; the Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly, Shri Ganesh Kutum; the Speaker, Bihar Legislative Assembly, Shri Jagabandhu Adhikari; the Speaker, Gujarat Legislative Assembly, Shri Dhirubhai Shah; the Speaker, Haryana Legislative Assembly, Prof. Chhattar Singh Chauhan; the Speaker, Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Gulab Singh Thakur; the Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Shri A.A. Vakil; the Speaker, Karnataka Legislative Assembly, Shri Ramesh Kumar; the Deputy Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Prof. Sharad Motiram Tasare; the Speaker, Manipur Legislative Assembly, Shri K. Babudhon Singh; the Speaker, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, Shri E.K. Mawlong; the Speaker, Nagaland Leg-

islative Assembly, Shri Z. Lohe; the Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Nagaland (Regional Representative for the Asia Region), Shri Neiba Nding; the Speaker, Orissa Legislative Assembly, Shri Chintamani Dyan Samantara; the Speaker, Punjab Legislative Assembly, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal; the Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Shri C.B. Subba; the Deputy Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Thiru Prithi Ellamvazhuthi; the Speaker, Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi; the Speaker, West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Shri Hashim Abdul Halim; and the Speaker, Delhi Legislative Assembly, Shri Charti Lal Goel.

The Secretary, Assam Legislative Assembly, Shri D. Talukdar; the Secretary, Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Shri N. Tshering Bhutia; and the Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri P.C. Saxena, were the three Secretaries from the State Branches who attended the Conference.

The Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Y. Ramakrishnudu was elected the Regional Representative for the Asia Region on the CPA Executive Committee for a period of 3 years in place of Shri J.S. Tilak, Chairman, Maharashtra Legislative Council whose term expired in July 1998.

The Conference discussed the following subjects on the Agenda:

- (i) Globalization—its Impact on Commonwealth Governments and Parliaments;
- (ii) How can Commonwealth Governments and Parliaments act as a Catalyst for Good Governance in the face of International Economic Pressures?
- (iii) Maintaining Accountability to Parliaments in an era of Corporatization and Privatization;
- (iv) How can the Commonwealth assist in the Protection and Development of National and Regional Cultures in the Face of increasingly Globalized Communications and Entertainment?
- (v) Empowerment of Women in Politics and Decision-Making: Can Sustained Gains be made?
- (vi) Be it Resolved: First Past the Post is an Undemocratic Electoral System which should be replaced by some form of Proportional Representation; and
- (vii) The Commonwealth's Role in representing the interests of its more Vulnerable Members, including Overseas Territories and the importance of Foreign Aid in Alleviating Poverty.

5th Biennial Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific: The fifth Biennial Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) was held in Manila, Philippines from 19 to 23 October 1998. The theme of the Conference was 'Impact of Culture on Parliamentary Libraries of Asia and the Pacific'

The Conference sought to achieve the following objectives:

- (i) Gain knowledge on and insights from the cultural traditions which impact on Parliamentary Libraries of Asia and the Pacific.
- (ii) Present the Philippine experience in Librarian Professionalization as a middle ground model between the highly developed and the less developed Libraries, thereby, contribute to the further development of Parliamentary Librarians and Libraries;
- (iii) Address issues/ matters raised during previous Conferences and establish policies, and/or determine strategies or courses of action;
- (iv) Promote goodwill between and among the Librarians and Libraries of Parliaments in Asia and Pacific; and
- (v) Elect the APLAP Officers for 1999-2000.

Shri R.C. Ahuja, Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat, attended the Conference.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition organised by the Parliamentary Museum and Archives (PMA): On 12 November 1998, an Exhibition on "History and Activities of the Parliament of India", organised by the PMA, was inaugurated jointly by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi and the Speaker, State Duma (Russian Parliament) Russia, Mr. Gennady Seleznyov in the Foyer (Inner Lobby) of the State Duma. The Exhibition which was organised to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of India's Independence, continued upto 25 November 1998.*

BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS

On the birth anniversaries of those national leaders whose portraits adorn the Central Hall of Parliament House, functions are organised under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) to pay

* For details, see Feature "Exhibition on History and Activities of Parliament of India".pp. 28-31

tributes to the leaders. Booklets containing profiles of these leaders, prepared by the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat are also brought out on the occasion.

The birth anniversaries of the following leaders were celebrated during the period 1 October to 31 December 1998.

Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri: On the occasion of the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, a function was held on 2 October 1998. The Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla; the then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Madan Lal Khurana; the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Manmohan Singh; Smt. Sonia Gandhi; members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a function was held on 31 October 1998. The then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Madan Lal Khurana; the Minister of State for Railways and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ram Naik; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, a function was held on 5 November 1998. Members of Parliament; former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, a function was held on 11 November 1998. The Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla; the then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Madan Lal Khurana; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, a function was held on 14 November 1998. The then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Madan Lal Khurana; the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Manmohan Singh; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament; and Smt. Sonia Gandhi and others paid floral tributes to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Smt. Indira Gandhi: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Smt. Indira Gandhi, a function was held on 19 November 1998. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; the then Minister of Parlia-

mentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Madan Lal Khurana; the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Surjeet Singh Barnala; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament; and Smt. Sonia Gandhi and others paid floral tributes to Smt. Indira Gandhi.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, a function was held on 3 December 1998. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; the then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Madan Lal Khurana; the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri Sharad Pawar; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

Shri C. Rajagopalachari: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri C. Rajagopalachari, a function was held on 10 December 1998. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; the Home Minister, Shri L.K. Advani; the then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Madan Lal Khurana; the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri Sharad Pawar; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Shri C. Rajagopalachari.

Chaudhary Charan Singh: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, a function was held on 23 December 1998. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla; the then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Madan Lal Khurana; the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri Sharad Pawar; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Chaudhary Charan Singh.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, a function was held on 25 December 1998. The Home Minister, Shri L.K. Advani; the then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Madan Lal Khurana; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya.

EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS VISITING INDIA

Committee on International Affairs of the Russian State Duma: On our invitation, a 7-member Committee on International Affairs of the Russian State Duma led by its Chairman, Mr. Vladimir Petrovich Lukin visited India from 13 to 16 September 1998.

The Delegation called on the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on 14 September 1998. They called on the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant and the then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Madan Lal Khurana on 16 September 1998. A meeting between members of our Committee on External Affairs and the visiting Committee was held on 14 September 1998. The Chairman, Committee on External Affairs, Shri Inder Kumar Gujral hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting dignitaries on 14 September 1998.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Agra and Jaipur.

Kuwait: On our invitation, a 32-member Kuwaiti Parliamentary Delegation led by the Deputy Speaker, National Assembly of Kuwait, Mr. Talal Mubarak Al-Ayyar visited India from 27 September to 1 October 1998.

The Delegation called on the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla on 30 September 1998, who hosted a dinner in their honour the same evening.

Finland: On our invitation, a 12-member Finnish Parliamentary Delegation, led by the Deputy Speaker of the Finnish Parliament, Mr. Mikko Pesala, visited India from 13 to 19 November 1998.

The Delegation called on the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla; and the then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Madan Lal Khurana on 16 November 1998. The Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha hosted a dinner in their honour the same evening.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Agra and Mumbai.

Japan: On our invitation, a 9-member Japanese Parliamentary Delegation, led by the Vice-Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Kozo Watanabe, visited India from 23 to 25 November 1998.

The Delegation called on the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; the then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Madan Lal Khurana; the Minister of Industry, Shri Sikander Bakht; and the Home Minister, Shri L.K. Advani on 24 November 1998. The Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted a banquet in their honour the same day.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Agra.

Mongolia: On our invitation, a 15-member Mongolian Parliamentary Delegation, led by the Chairman of the State Great Hural (Speaker of

Parliament), Mr. R. Gonchigdorj, visited India from 28 November to 4 December 1998.

The Delegation called on the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant; the Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; and the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi on 30 November 1998. The Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted a dinner in their honour the same evening.

The Delegation called on the President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan on 1 December 1998. The same day they also had a discussion with members of the Standing Committee on External Affairs.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Agra and Mumbai.

Portugal: On our invitation, a 10-member Portuguese Parliamentary Delegation, led by the President of the Portuguese Parliament, Dr. Antonio De Almeida Santos, visited India from 15 to 22 December 1998.

The Delegation called on the President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan and the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi on 15 December 1998. The Delegation had a meeting with the then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Madan Lai Khurana the same day. The Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted a banquet preceded by a Cultural Programme in honour of the Delegation. The Delegation had a meeting with the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri Sharad Pawar on 16 December 1998. The Delegation called on the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant on 17 December 1998. The Delegation also had a meeting with the members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs the same day.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Agra, Goa and Mumbai.

INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS GOING ABROAD

Iraq: An Indian Parliamentary Delegation, led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi visited Iraq from 20 to 26 August 1998. The other members of the Delegation were: Sarvashri M.A.A. Fatmi; C.P. Mudalagiriappa; Ramesh Chander Tomar; Amrik Singh Atwal; Mohd. Azam Khan; and M.A. Kadar, all members of Parliament and Shri S. Gopalan, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha. Shri Joginder Singh, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

Morocco: An Indian Parliamentary Delegation, led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, visited Morocco from 6 to 13 October 1998. The other members of the Delegation were: Sarvashri Manoranjan Bhakta; B.S. Rawat; Munavvar Hassan; Prasanna Patasani; M. Rajaiah;

Sushil Kumar Singh; Jayanthi Natarajan; and Smt. Krishna Bose, all members of Parliament. Dr. A.K. Pandey, Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

Russia: An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi visited Russia from 12 to 17 November 1998. The other members of the Delegation were: Sarvashri Ratilal Kalidas Varma; K.H. Muniyappa; Anant Gangaram Geete; Ramdas Athawale; Suresh Keshwani; and K.M. Saifullah, all members of Parliament; Shri S. Gopalan, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha; and Shri S.K. Kain, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat. Shri Brahm Dutt, Deputy Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

BUREAU OF PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES AND TRAINING

During the period 1 October to 31 December 1998, the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST), Lok Sabha Secretariat organised the following Programmes/Courses:

Orientation Programme: A two-day Orientation Programme for a group of new members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha and members of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly was organised under the joint auspices of the BPST, the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat and the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, on 29 and 30 October 1998 in Hyderabad. The Programme was inaugurated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Chandrababu Naidu was the guest of honour at the inaugural function. The Valedictory Address was given by the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. C. Rangarajan. The Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Y. Ramakrishnu; the Deputy Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Mohd. Farooq; and the Minister of Finance, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Shri P. Ashok Gajapati Raju, also spoke on the occasion. The Orientation Programme was attended by 45 new members of the Lok Sabha and 60 members of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

Fourteenth International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting: The Fourteenth International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting which began on 18 November 1998, concluded on 30 January 1999. The Programme was of ten weeks' duration. Nine participants from Afro-Asian countries, viz., one each from Bangladesh, Gambia, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Népal and Philippines, two from Sri Lanka. One officer from Lok Sabha Secretariat and two officers from the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat also participated in the Programme.

The Programme was designed to equip the parliamentary officials with the basic concepts, skills and techniques required for drafting legislation so that they could assist members of Parliament whenever required.

Appreciation Course: An Appreciation Course in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures was organised for the following: (i) Senior Audit/Accounts Officers from the Office of C&AG of India; and (ii) Probationers of Indian Railway Stores Service (14 to 18 December 1998).

Attachment Programmes: The following Attachment Programmes were organised: (i) for the participants attending the Forty-second International Training Programme on Audit of Social Service Sector at the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (8 to 9 October 1998); and (ii) for the participants from different countries attending the International Training Programme on Audit of Receipts at the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (9 to 10 December 1998).

Training Programme for Officers of the Lok Sabha and the State Legislature Secretariats: The following training Programmes were organised: (i) Training Programme for Editors/Assistant Editors/Translators/Hindi Assistants of the Lok Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats from 5 to 9 October 1998; (ii) Training Course for Senior Library Assistants/Junior Library Assistants of the Lok Sabha Secretariat and Librarians/Deputy Librarians of the State Legislature Secretariats from 2 to 6 November 1998; and (iii) Training Course for officials working in the Departmentally—Related Standing Committees (DRSCs) of the Lok Sabha and the State Legislature Secretariats from 16 to 20 November 1998.

Training Course for Officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat: Training classes in Stenography for candidates appearing in the Departmental Tests in the Lok Sabha Secretariat were organised from 12 to 27 November 1998.

Management in Government Programme for Middle Level Officers: Two officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, Shri R.T. Pillai, Deputy Director and Shri T.K. Mukherjee, Under Secretary attended a Training Programme on "Management in Government" organised by the Institute of Management in Government, Thiruvananthapuram from 2 to 14 November 1998.

Study Visits: Ten Study visits were organised for the participants from various leading training/educational institutions.

PRIVILEGE ISSUES

LOK SABHA

Alleged misbehaviour with a member by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Central Bureau of Investigation, Patna, Bihar and alleged derogatory remarks made against her and members of Parliament by him: On 28 April 1998, a notice of question of privilege was given by Smt. Rama Devi, member, alleging that she was misbehaved with and derogatory remarks were made against her and members of Parliament by the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Patna, Bihar.

Smt. Rama Devi alleged in her notice that on 4 April 1998, a CBI team led by the DSP, Shri R.K. Singh, came to her residence with a search warrant in connection with Special Case No. 23 of 1997 corresponding to R.C. Case No. 43 of 1997, in which her husband, Shri Brij Bihari Prasad, a former Minister of Science and Technology, Government of Bihar, was made an accused. At that point of time, according to Smt. Rama Devi, her husband was seriously indisposed. The doctor advised his immediate hospitalisation, but the DSP prevented the same. When she sought to intervene, the DSP humiliated her by saying that "*Tumhara husband chor hai aur tum bhi chor ho*". It was further alleged by Smt. Rama Devi that on disclosing her identity as a member of Parliament, the DSP retorted by saying "*Tumhare aise aise kitne saansad ko hum hathkari pahna chuke hain aur tumko bhi hathkari laga denge. Tum bogus vote se jiti hui saansad ho*".

Smt. Rama Devi further alleged that her husband was later forcibly taken to the CBI Headquarters at Patna and from there to the In-charge Court of the Special Judge, North Bihar, Patna. When she protested against the maltreatment meted out to her husband, she was slighted and even 'crudely pushed aside' by the DSP.

On 5 May 1998, a copy of the notice given by Smt. Rama Devi was forwarded to the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions for furnishing a factual note on the matter, which was received on 26 May 1998 for consideration of the Speaker. In their note, the Ministry *inter alia* stated that on 4 April 1998, when Shri Brij Bihari Prasad was arrested and produced before the Special Judge, he did not complain of

any ill-treatment by Shri R.K. Singh, the DSP, and Inquiry Officer of the case. This had also been specifically mentioned in the order sheet of 4 April 1998 of the said Court. No such complaint of harassment as alleged by the member was brought to the notice of the Patna High Court. It was asserted that 'the complaint made against the Inquiry Officer and DSP, was an afterthought to demoralise and divert the attention of the investigating agency.' Hence, the allegation that the DSP and Inquiry Officer had humiliated or misbehaved with the member was not substantiated.

On 8 June 1998, a copy of the factual note furnished by the Ministry was given to Smt. Rama Devi. Disagreeing with the facts furnished by the Ministry, Smt. Rama Devi stated that she would raise the matter in the House. The member wrote to the Speaker, Lok Sabha seeking permission to raise the matter in the House which was then raised on the same day, *i.e.* 8 June 1998. Thereupon, the Speaker referred the matter to the Committee of Privileges for examination, investigation and report.

The Committee of Privileges, after examining in person Smt. Rama Devi, member, Shri R.K. Singh, DSP, CBI, Patna; Prof. (Dr.) Gopal Prasad Sinha of Patna Medical College and Hospital, Patna; Dr. M. P. Singh of Central Government Health Scheme, Patna, Shri Dharmendra Kumar Singh, escort guard to late Shri Brij Bihari Prasad (husband of Smt. Rama Devi and former Minister of Science and Technology, Government of Bihar); and Sarvashri Jai Prakash Pandey and Bhola Prasad Premi (two persons stated by the member to have witnessed the alleged incident of misbehaviour with her by the DSP, CBI, Patna) and after considering the written comments of Shri R.K. Singh, DSP, CBI, Patna on the notice of question of privilege given by Smt. Rama Devi against him and all other relevant documents on record, in their First Report presented to the House on 22 December 1998, *inter alia* reported that out of the witnesses examined by the Committee, the evidence of Shri Dharmendra Kumar Singh was totally untrustworthy and unreliable.

The Committee noted that the evidence tendered by Dr. Gopal Prasad Sinha was not capable of shedding any light on the main point of the issue since, according to him, he was not present in the room at that particular time, when the alleged incident of misbehaviour took place. From the evidence, the Committee had doubts whether Shri Jai Prakash Pandey and Shri Bhola Prasad Premi had actually witnessed the incident of alleged misbehaviour with Smt. Rama Devi. It was established that the DSP, CBI, Shri R.K. Singh had gone to the residence of Smt. Rama Devi on 4 April 1998 with the intention to arrest her husband.

Under the circumstances, the Committee felt that the insistence by Smt. Rama Devi to get her husband hospitalised and the adamant stand of Shri R.K. Singh to arrest him must have resulted in some heated exchanges between the two. The Committee felt that Shri R.K. Singh should have been more careful while dealing with a member of Parliament. The Committee, however, noted that Shri R.K. Singh, during his evidence before the Committee had tendered his apologies for having in any manner hurt the feelings of the member. In view of the apologies tendered by Shri R.K. Singh, the Committee were of the view that the dignity of the House would best be served by taking no further action in the matter *vis a vis* allegations of derogatory remarks made by him against Smt. Rama Devi.

The Committee felt that it was expected of law enforcing authorities to exercise discretion and restraint in sensitive situations while in performance of their official duties. It had also found that Shri R. K. Singh was so keen on arresting Shri Brij Bihari Prasad that he did not care to give any serious consideration to the condition of Shri Prasad and the advice by a qualified doctor for his hospitalisation.

The Committee observed that the illness of Shri Prasad and the consequent request for his hospitalisation were key factors in the matter under consideration. The Committee found that had Shri R. K. Singh been more tactful in the matter, the differences which cropped up between him and Smt. Rama Devi could have been well avoided.

The Committee expressed their unhappiness on the conduct of Shri R. K. Singh in disregarding the advice of a qualified medical doctor and insisting upon the arrest of Shri Prasad thereby complicating the entire matter.

The Committee recommended that in view of their findings, their displeasure over the conduct of Shri R. K. Singh might be conveyed to the Director, CBI for such action as he deemed fit in the matter.

The Committee also recommended that this apart, no other action need be taken in the matter. No further action was taken by the House in the matter.

STATE LEGISLATURES

GOA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Alleged casting of reflections on a member by a newspaper and Councillor of Margao Municipal Council. On 14 August 1996, Shri Digambar Kamat, member, gave notice of a question of privilege against Shri Vijay

Sardessai, Councillor of Margao Municipal Council, for allegedly casting aspersions on him in a Press statement and against the Editor and Publisher of the daily, *The Herald* for publishing the Press statement in their newspaper.

The member, in his notice of question of privilege, alleged that *The Herald* dated 14 August 1996 had published a news item under the caption 'Nexus between Margao Legislators-builders alleged' which *inter alia* said:

His (Member's) frequent questions in the Legislative Assembly related to real estate business speaks for his integrity as a Legislator, Mr. Sardessai charged. Bharatiya Janata Party Legislators like Shri Digambar Kamat and Shri Manohar Parrikar (who) are posing as agents to get works done with the help of the Congress Government, should not needlessly accuse local self Government bodies of corruption.

Shri Kamat contended that the newsitem had cast aspersions on a member of the Legislative Assembly relating to his conduct as a member of the House. He further contended that the statement that he and another MLA were posing as agents to get works done with the help of the Congress Government was a derogatory reflection on his conduct as a member of the House.

On 16 August 1996, the Speaker, observing that a *prima facie* case of breach of privilege and contempt of the House was made out, referred the matter to the Committee of Privileges for examination, investigation and report.

The Committee of Privileges, after considering the written submissions/explanations of the Editor of *The Herald* and Shri Vijay Sardessai, Councillor of Margao Municipal Council and also after examining them in person, in their Report, presented to the House on 17 March 1997 *inter alia* reported that the statement of Shri Vijay Sardessai in the Press to the effect that the BJP legislators, viz. Shri Digambar Kamat and Shri Manohar Parrikar were 'posing as agents to get works done with the help of the Congress Government' did amount to casting aspersions on the conduct of the members.

The Committee also felt that Shri Sardessai's statement relating to 'frequent questions in the Legislative Assembly' by Shri Kamat to further the interests of real estate business was a reflection on the conduct of the member in his capacity as a member of the House. These statements, therefore, transgressed the boundaries of fair comment and amounted to breach of privilege and contempt of the House.

Shri Vijay Sardessai, Councillor, Margao Municipal Council, during his evidence before the Committee, had maintained that his Press statement had entirely been based on Press reports as to what transpired in the House regarding the Sub Committee of the Margao Municipal Council and he only reacted to what was reported in the Press wherein it was alleged that he (Shri Sardessai) was taking money/misusing his position to demand money. Shri Sardessai had further submitted that the only way he could defend himself was by giving a Press statement in the form of a rebuttal. He also maintained that after having gone through the proceedings of the Assembly of that particular day, he felt that there were no such allegations necessitating his rebuttal. In view of that, he had expressed his regrets.

The Committee appreciated the citizens' liberty to express their views freely and without fear or favour. The Committee, however, felt that such freedom should not be abused by attributing motives and while issuing Press notes based on newspaper reports, persons should take ample precautions to verify their authenticity, specially when it would relate to MLAs or MPs as that would obstruct or impede the members of the House in the discharge of their duties as had happened in the instant case.

The Committee felt that the Press would have also to guard itself against printing or publishing any libel casting reflections on the character or proceedings of the House or its Committees or any member, or relating to his character or conduct as a member of Parliament.

The Committee, after considering the circumstances of the case and the evidence tendered by Shri Vijay Sardessai, noted that there was a *prima facie* case of breach of privilege. At the same time, in view of the unqualified apology tendered by the Editor of the newspaper and the sincere regrets expressed by Shri Vijay Sardessai, the Committee decided to close the matter. The Committee recommended to the House that the matter might be dropped.

No further action appeared to have been taken by the House in the matter.

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Alleged obstruction caused to a member in performing his public duty by Police Officer : On 19 February 1997, Shri Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri, member, sought to raise a question of privilege in the House against the Director General of Police for ordering an inquiry against him. However, the Speaker directed the member to give a notice of question of privilege as per rules in that respect.

On 20 February 1997, the member gave a notice of question of privilege against the Director General (DG) of Police; Superintendent, District Hospital, Karwar (Shri Fernandes); and Smt. Christina Lawrance Fernandes (mother of Shri Fernandes) alleging that the DG of Police had ordered an inquiry against him on the basis of a complaint filed by Smt. Fernandes against him. The member, while questioning the DG's authority to order an inquiry against him, contended that he was prevented from serving the public and thereby a breach of privilege and contempt of the House had been committed by the concerned persons.

Smt. Christina Lawrance Fernandes, in her complaint filed with the Director General of Police, had alleged that the member was unnecessarily interfering in the administration of District Hospital, Karwar and harassing her son by influencing the concerned authorities to transfer him. Based on the complaint, the Police Officer of Ankola Police Station sent a letter through his subordinate to the member for obtaining his statement on the matter while he was attending a public function.

On 20 February 1997, the Speaker, referred the matter to the Committee of Privileges for examination, investigation and report.

The Committee of Privileges, after examining in person Smt. Jija Harisingh, Inspector General (IG) of Police; Shri Surat Prasad, Additional Director General of Police (KSRP), Bangalore; and Shri Fernandes (son of petitioner, Smt. Christina Lawrance Fernandes) and after visiting Karwar, in their Report presented to the House, *inter alia* reported that no question of privilege was involved in the matter.

The Committee accepted the statement of Shri Fernandes stating that the complaint against the member lacked factual basis and expressed his apologies for the same.

The Committee expressed their displeasure against the Police Officer, including the Sub Inspector of Police of Ankola Police Station, for taking a hasty decision and acting carelessly on the complaint against a member of the Legislative Assembly.

The Committee also expressed their displeasure over the conduct of Sub Inspector of Police (Shri P.S. Sudarshan). However, in view of the apology tendered by him, the Committee recommended that the matter might be treated as closed.

The Committee, however, felt that the Police Department should be more cautious and act with greater caution and responsibility while dealing with complaints against elected representatives.

The Report of the Committee was adopted by the House on 28 April 1998.

MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Alleged premature publication of the contents of the Report of Assembly Committee by a newspaper : On 21 November 1997, Shri Lal Biakzuala, member, gave notice of a question of privilege against the Editor *Zonunmawi*, a daily, for allegedly having published prematurely the contents of the Report of the Assembly Committee in the newspaper.

On 21 November 1997, the Speaker, Mizoram Legislative Assembly referred the matter to the Committee of Privileges, for examination, investigation and report.

The Committee of Privileges, after considering the written statement as well as examining Shri H.C. Vanlalruata, Editor, *Zonunmawi*, in person, in their First Report presented to the House on 23 March 1998, *inter alia*, reported that the Editor, during his evidence before the Committee had submitted that he did not know at the time of publication of the said newsitem that it was premature, as the Report of the Committee on the Greater Lunglei Water Supply Scheme was presented to the Speaker 4 November 1997 whereas the newsitem regarding the Report appeared in the newspaper on 14 November 1997. He further stated that there was no ulterior motive behind the publication of the said newsitem as it was done solely in discharge of his journalistic duties.

The Committee were of the view that *prima facie* a case of breach of privilege and contempt of the House was made out in the matter. The Committee, however, felt that it would be inconsistent with the dignity of the House to take a serious notice of, or action in, every such case. The Committee, therefore, recommended to the House that no further action need be taken in the matter and the matter might be treated as closed.

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

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Alleged obstructions caused to a member by Panchayat Union and District Collector by preventing him from receiving public complaints: Dr. K. Krishnaswamy, member, gave notice of a question of privilege alleging that he was prevented from receiving complaints from the people of his constituency in the office of Panchayat Union at Kayatharu on 7 January 1997 by its Chairman through a resolution which was also

endorsed by the District Collector (the entire staff of the Panchayat Union went on casual leave on 7 January 1997 and the office was locked). He also contended that when he protested against that and staged a demonstration before the Collector's office, he was arrested and remanded to custody.

The Speaker, after obtaining the comments of the District Collector and the Chairman, Panchayat Union, Kayatharu, referred the matter to the Committee of Privileges for examination, investigation and report.

When the matter was about to be examined by the Committee, the Government appointed a Commission of Inquiry to enquire into the alleged locking up of the Kayatharu Panchayat Union Office on 7 January 1997 and the subsequent developments. In view of that, the Committee decided to deliberate upon the matter on the basis of the findings of the Inquiry Commission.

The Committee of Privileges, after considering the Report of the Inquiry Commission and the action taken by the Government on the Commission's recommendations, in their Report presented to the House, *inter alia* reported that *prima facie* no question of privilege was involved in the matter. The Committee, therefore, recommended to the House that no action was called for in the matter.

The Committee felt that it was necessary to regulate the relationship between the Local Bodies and the members of the Legislative Assembly. The Committee were of the opinion that such unpleasant incidents could be avoided if the representatives of the Local Bodies as well as the members of the Legislative Assembly come forward to discharge their duties towards the public instead of trying to prove that one is superior to the other. The Committee recommended that the Government should evolve guidelines for the members of the Local Bodies as well as the people's representatives *vis a vis* their duties towards the public.

No further action appeared to have been taken by the House in the matter.

TRIPURA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

(i) *Alleged contempt of the House by the Editor and photographer of 'Syandan Patrika' for publishing a photograph of the Assembly Session without the permission of the Speaker; and (ii) Alleged unauthorised entry of the said photographer in the Assembly precincts with forged Press card* : On 21 February 1997, Sarvashri Pabitra Kar, Subal Rudra, Madhab Saha and Khagendra Jamatia, members, gave a notice of

question of privilege against Shri Subal Kumar Dey, Editor, *Syandan Patrika* and the magazine's photographer, Shri Buddha Gupta for publication of some of the photographs of the Assembly sittings without the permission of the Speaker, Tripura Legislative Assembly. According to the members, by publishing these photographs unauthorisedly, the Editor and the photographer had tried to cast reflections on the conduct of the members and lower the prestige of the House.

The same day, the Speaker referred the matter to the Committee of Privileges for examination, investigation and report.

In a related development, on 21 February 1997, the Watch & Ward {In-charge, Dy. SP (SB)} reported to the Secretary, Tripura Legislative Assembly about the incident of alleged unauthorised entry into the Assembly precincts by the magazine photographer, Shri Buddha Gupta on a forged Press pass. As the case was related to the above matter, the Speaker, Tripura Legislative Assembly also referred the matter of illegal entrance of Shri Gupta into the House precincts to the Committee of Privileges for examination, investigation and report.

The Committee of Privileges, after examining in person Shri Subal Rudra, Shri Madhab Saha, Shri Prabitra Kar and Shri Khagendra Jamatia, members, and Shri Subal Kumar Dey, Editor, *Syandan Patrika* and the written statement of Shri Subal Kumar Dey and Shri Buddha Gupta, photographer, in their Thirty-seventh Report presented to the House on 4 September 1997, *inter alia* reported that the members, during their evidence before the Committee, had alleged that the Editor and the photographer had violated the rules of the House by publishing the photographs of the agitated scenes of the sitting of the House held on 20 July 1997 without the prior permission of the Speaker, Tripura Legislative Assembly and by this act they had tried to lower the prestige and dignity of the House.

The Editor, during his evidence, denied the allegations and pleaded that even the proceedings of the Parliament were being telecast. The photographer, during his evidence, denied his entry to the Assembly Building on a forged pass and also denied of having made any statement to the Watch and Ward Officer during an enquiry in to the matter. He submitted that he took the photographs by telelens from outside the main entrance of the Assembly.

The Committee noted that the attitude of the Editor as evinced from his conduct before the Committee was always submissive and cooperative and he always responded to the queries of the Committee. The Committee observed that the photographer, Shri Buddha Gupta had

made a false statement before the Committee about his entry to the Assembly building, while the Watch and Ward Officer had found him in the corridors of the House.

The Committee were convinced that Shri Buddha Gupta had entered the Assembly precincts by forging the Press card and had violated the rules of the House by taking photographs without the permission of the Speaker. He also did not appear before the Committee on 27 June 1997 and 25 July 1997 and did not send any intimation to the Committee and the reasons for his absence, which amounted to disrespect and dishonour of the Committee.

After considering all the facts and circumstances, the Committee were of the opinion that Buddha Gupta had committed breach of privilege and contempt of the House. The Committee recommended that Shri Buddha Gupta be summoned to the Bar of the House and admonished by the Speaker.

The Report of the Committee was presented to the House on 4 September 1997. Thereafter, the Speaker informed the House that he had received a letter from Shri Buddha Gupta's mother stating that Shri Gupta had been ailing and would not be able to turn up at the Bar of the House to receive admonition. Thereupon, the then Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Tripura, Shri Baidyanath Majumdar, being the Leader of the House, proposed that Shri Gupta be pardoned. The House unanimously agreed to the proposal. Accordingly, no further action was taken by the House in the matter.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

LOK SABHA

Simultaneous membership of legislative bodies: During the Twelfth General Elections held in 1998, Shri Prem Singh Lalpura was declared elected to the Lok Sabha from Taran Taran parliamentary constituency (Punjab). At the time of his election to the Lok Sabha, he was a member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly. As such, he was declared elected to the Lok Sabha under provisions of Section 67A of the Representation of Peoples' (RP) Act, 1951. The notification regarding the constitution of the Twelfth Lok Sabha was published in the Gazette of India (E) dated 10 March 1998. In March/April 1998, there appeared reports in the Press to the effect that Shri Lalpura had decided to retain his seat in the Punjab Legislative Assembly and that he had been permanently expelled from his party, *i.e.* the Shiromani Akali Dal. The member, however, did not resign his seat in the Lok Sabha. Subsequently, the Punjab Legislative Assembly, *vide* their communication dated 20 April 1998, confirmed that Shri Lalpura continued to be a member of the Legislative Assembly.

The facts of the case were placed before the Election Commission and they were requested to take necessary action in the matter under intimation to the Lok Sabha Secretariat. Shri Lalpura was also requested to clarify: (i) whether he was a member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly at the time of his election to the Twelfth Lok Sabha; and (ii) if so, whether he had resigned his membership of the Punjab Legislative Assembly consequent upon his election to the Lok Sabha. While no reply was received from Shri Lalpura, the Election Commission, *vide* their communication dated 18 May 1998, intimated that it had considered the Lok Sabha seat of Taran Taran as vacant under provisions of art. 101(2) read with Rule 2 of Prohibition of Simultaneous Membership Rules, 1950 and Sections 67 and 73 of the Representation of People Act, 1951, as Shri Lalpura did not resign his seat in the Punjab Legislative Assembly within the stipulated period. Accordingly, the Election Commission had already issued a notification on 9 May 1998 to hold by-election to the Lok Sabha from the Taran Taran seat.

Consequently, Shri Lalpura's seat in the Lok Sabha became vacant with effect from 25 March 1998.

Thereafter, by-election was held in the Taran Taran constituency on 3 June 1998 in which Shri Tarlochan Singh Tur was elected to the Lok Sabha. A circular dated 8 June 1998 informing all officers and branches of the Lok Sabha Secretariat regarding the election of Shri Tur to the Lok Sabha against the vacancy of Shri Lalpura was also issued.

Instance when the notice of motion for election of the Deputy Speaker was withdrawn by the proposer of the motion: During the Second Session of the Twelfth Lok Sabha, on 28 July 1998, the Speaker fixed Tuesday, i.e. 4 August 1998, as the date for holding of election of the Deputy Speaker and members were accordingly informed *vide* Bulletin - II Para Nos. 491 and 514 dated 28 and 31 July 1998, respectively. Members were required to give notices of motion before noon on the preceding day of the scheduled date for election *viz.* Monday, 3 August 1998.

One notice of motion from Shri G.M. Banatwalla and seconded by Shri A.F. Gōlam Osmani proposing the name of Shri P.M. Sayeed for being chosen as the Deputy Speaker was received by the prescribed time on 3 August 1998 at 11.15 hours.

Subsequently, Shri G.M. Banatwalla sent a letter dated 3 August 1998 requesting withdrawal of the notice proposing the name of Shri P.M. Sayeed for the post of Deputy Speaker. The Speaker acceded to the request of Shri G.M. Banatwalla. The item was not included in the Revised List of Business for 4 August 1998. Therefore, the election of the Deputy Speaker could not take place.

Once a bill is introduced, there is no point in raising a point of order: On 14 December 1998, as soon as the House met, members of the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) came to the well of the House shouting slogans against the introduction of the Constitution (Eighty-fourth) Amendment Bill, 1998, popularly known as the Women's Reservation Bill. As interruptions continued, at 11.05 hrs., the Speaker adjourned the House till 13.00 hrs. When the House re-assembled at 13.00 hrs., some members of the RJD came to the well of the House shouting slogans. Since they continued to interrupt the proceedings, at 13.03 hrs., the Chairman, Shri K. Yerrannaidu adjourned the House till 14.00 hrs. When the House re-assembled at 14.00 hrs., the Speaker made an observation regarding the conduct of some members on the previous day when they were opposing the introduction of the Women's Reservation Bill and supporting the *Bharat Bandh* by some trade unions. Thereafter, papers, etc., were laid on the Table. At 14.10 hrs., the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Shri Thambi Durai introduced the Constitution (Eighty-fourth) Amendment Bill, 1998, with the leave of the House. Thereafter, the Coffee (Amendment) Bill,

1998 was taken into consideration. AT 14.13 hrs., some members again came to the well of the House shouting slogans against the Women's Reservation Bill. As interruptions continued, at 14.13 hrs., the Speaker adjourned the House till 15.00 hrs.

When the House re-assembled at 15.00 hrs., members raised some matters of urgent public importance. At 15.29 hrs., Shri Buta Singh and some other members raised objection to the manner in which the Constitution (Eighty-fourth) Amendment Bill, 1998 was introduced in the House and alleged that the procedure in that regard was not followed. The Chairman, Shri Basudeb Acharia ruled that once the Bill was introduced in the House, there was no point in raising objections later. At 15.34 hrs., the Chairman adjourned the House till 16.30 hrs.

When the House re-assembled at 16.32 hrs., Shri Buta Singh, rising on a point of order, again raised the same issue. The Chairman, Shri K. Yerrannaidu, overruling the point of order, observed that once the Bill was introduced in the House, there was no point in raising point of order time and again on it. Being dissatisfied with the ruling, Shri Buta Singh and some other members came to the well of the House and continued to interrupt the proceedings of the House. At 16.46 hrs., the Chairman adjourned the House for the day.

Members to maintain the decorum of the House: On 14 December 1998, when the House re-assembled at 14.00 hrs., after adjournment due to the interruptions regarding the introduction of the Constitution (Eighty-fourth) Amendment Bill, 1998, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi observed:

Hon'ble Members, it may be recalled that on the 11th of December 1998, when the House proceedings commenced, an acrimonious situation arose in the context of the *Bandh* that had been launched by certain political parties to demonstrate against the economic policies of the Government and in the context of the Women's Reservation Bill.

Several hon'ble members of the House committed transgression into the official area, that is, the Well of the House, and also menacingly pushed forward towards the Speaker's Chair, shouting slogans. In the process, seemingly physical assaults amongst the members also occurred.

This behaviour of the members is not merely a violation of the established Rules of Procedure of the House, but is also a serious breach of the solemn pledge made by this entire House during its special Golden Jubilee Session, not to speak of the criminality of the seeming assaults.

The incident has also been, *prima facie*, in the nature of a gross violation of the privilege of the House in that it has seriously detracted from the dignity of the House. Pursuant to the incident, certain privilege notices have also been received from some members.

Incidents of this sort strike at the root of the very credibility of this House and its survival and, therefore, are dangerous for our democratic polity.

In the circumstances, I strongly condemn the incident of 11th December 1998 and the behaviour of the participants in the incident.

I shall also refer the privilege notices to the Committee of Privileges with direction to give a time-bound report.

Instance when a member other than from the Panel of Chairmen presided over : On 16 December 1998, during the discussion on the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 1998, Smt. Geeta Mukherjee, who was in the Chair, suggested that as no member of the Panel of Chairmen was available in the House, Shri Motilal Vora, member, may preside for some time. The House agreed to that. Accordingly, Shri Motilal Vora presided from 17.51 to 19.06 hrs. when the House adjourned for the day.

Instance when only the English version of a report was laid on the Table: On 19 November 1997, the Home Minister sought the permission of the Speaker to lay on the Table of the House the next day (20 November 1997), the Interim Report of the Jain Commission to enquire into the circumstances relating to the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi along with Memorandum of Action Taken on the Report in English version only and a Statement giving reasons for not laying simultaneously the Hindi version of the above documents. On 20 November 1997, the Home Minister again informed the Speaker that he would not lay two annexures which formed part of the Report, in public interest. Accordingly, the Interim Report, etc., were laid on the Table of the House without two annexures, *i.e.* M-63 (Vol. XIII) and M-87 (Vol. XIV).

The Final Report, together with Memorandum of Action Taken thereon in English version only and a Statement giving reasons for not laying simultaneously the Hindi version of the documents, was subsequently laid on 31 July 1998.

Again on 2 December 1998, a copy of the Corrigendum to the Memorandum of Action Taken on the Final Report was laid in English version only,

Allotment of Seats in the Twelfth Lok Sabha: The Twelfth Lok Sabha was constituted on 10 March 1998. Seats were allotted to Ministers/ Members on 16 July, 1998 in the following order:

As per the decision taken by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, at a meeting held on 28 April 1998 with the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the strength of all the parties supporting the Government either from inside or outside, including the Telugu Desam Party which voted in favour of the Government on the Motion of Confidence, were included for determining joint entitlement of seats in each row in the House. Accordingly, parties supporting the Government but not participating from within were allotted seats on the suggestion of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. This was a departure from the earlier practice.

Thus, seats were allotted to individual Ministers as well as members of parties supporting the Government from inside or outside on the suggestion of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. Seat Number 1 (First Row) was allotted to the Prime Minister. The Leader of the Opposition was allotted seat number 458 in the front row to the left of the Chair, next to the Deputy Speaker.

Seats were allotted to individual members of parties/groups having strength of 5 members and above on the suggestion of their respective leaders and to members belonging to other parties and independent members, by the Speaker.

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

(1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 1998)

Events covered in this Feature are based primarily on reports appearing in the daily newspapers and, as such, the Lok Sabha Secretariat does not accept any responsibility for their accuracy, authenticity or veracity.

—Editor

INDIA

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNION

Resignation of Minister: The Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, resigned from the Union Cabinet on 11 October, 1998, following her election as the Leader of the BJP Legislature Party in the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

By-election result: The BJP candidate Shri Mansukh Vasava was declared elected to the Lok Sabha from the Broach constituency in the by-election held on 27 November 1998.

Death of member: Shri Ghasi Ram Yadav of the Congress(I), representing the Alwar constituency of Rajasthan in the Lok Sabha, passed away on 30 November 1998.

Expansion of Cabinet: On 5 December 1998, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee expanded the Union Cabinet by inducting three Ministers of Cabinet rank. The Ministers and their portfolios are:

Shri Jaswant Singh: *External Affairs*; Shri Pramod Mahajan: *Information and Broadcasting*; and Shri Jagmohan: *Communications*.

Sessions of Parliament: The Third Session of the Twelfth Lok Sabha and the Hundred and Eighty-fifth Session of the Rajya Sabha commenced on 30 November 1998. Both the Houses adjourned *sine die* on 23 December 1998 and were prorogued by the President on 31 December 1998.

Election of Deputy Speaker:* On 17 December 1998, Shri P.M.

* For details of the election of the Deputy Speaker, see Short Note, "Election of the Deputy Speaker of the Twelfth Lok Sabha," *The Journal of Parliamentary Information*, Vol. XLIV, No. 4, December 1998. pp. 414-22.

Sayeed of the Congress(I) was unanimously elected the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

AROUND THE STATES

ANDHRA PRADESH

Expansion of Cabinet: On 1 October 1998, the Chief Minister, Shri Chandrababu Naidu expanded the State Cabinet. The new Ministers are:

Cabinet Ministers: Sarvashri Chandrasekhar, S.A. Khaleel Basha, B.V. Mohan Reddy, K. Pratibha Bharati, K. Ramachandra Raju, M. Venkateswar Rao and Dr. Patnam Subbaiah.

Ministers of State: Sarvashri D. Anjaneyulu, C. Krishna Yádav, E. Peddi Reddy, P. Srinivas Reddy, G. Shyam Sundar Sivaji and Devineni Venkat Ramanna.

Resignation of MLA: Shri Alapat Rajendra Prasad, Telugu Desam MLA from the Venur constituency, resigned from the State Legislative Assembly on 11 November 1998.

ASSAM

By-election results: In the by-elections to the State Legislative Assembly held on 25 November 1998, the People's Democratic Front and the Congress won one seat each.

BIHAR

Expansion of Cabinet: On 4 October 1998, the Chief Minister, Smt. Rabri Devi expanded the State Cabinet. The new Ministers and their portfolios are:

Cabinet Ministers: Shri Ghulam Sarvar: *Agriculture*; Shri Ramai Ram: *Energy*; Shri Ashok Kumar Singh: *Tourism*; Shri Ashok Singh: *Higher Education*; Shri Chandrika Rai: *Science and Technology*; Shri Purnamasi Ram: *Food and Civil Supplies*; Shri Hind Kesri Yadav: *Fisheries and Panchayati Raj*; Shri Deonath Prasad: *Law*; Shri Sitaram Das: *Housing, Social Security and Pension*; and Shri Ram Chandra Purve: *Parliamentary Affairs and Planning*.

Ministers of State: Shri Brijnandan Yadav: *Industry*; Shri Mufti Mohammed Qasim: *Rural Development*.

By-election results: In the by-elections to the State Legislative Assembly held on 25 November 1998, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) won three seats and the CPI(M), one seat.

DELHI

Political developments: On 11 October 1998, the Union Information and Broadcasting Minister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj was unanimously elected as the Leader of the BJP's Legislature Party paving the way for her taking over as the Chief Minister from Shri Sahib Singh Verma.

On 12 October 1998, Smt. Sushma Swaraj was sworn in as the Chief Minister along with a six-member Cabinet. She retained all the old Ministers with the sole exception of Transport Minister, Shri Rajendra Gupta who was replaced with Shri Devinder Singh Shokeen.

The Ministers and their portfolios are:

-Smt. Sushma Swaraj (*Chief Minister*): *Home, Revenue, Urban Development, Vigilance, Irrigation, Flood Control, Administrative Reforms, Law, Justice and Legislative Affairs*; Shri Devinder Singh Shokeen: *Transport and Development Department*; Shri Jagdish Mukhi: *Excise, Technical Education, Finance, Planning, Sales Tax and College Education*; Shri Surendra Pal Ratawal: *Welfare, Labour, Tourism and Employment Department*; Shri Harsharan Singh Balli: *Industries, Jails, Administration of Gurudwaras*; Dr. Harsh Vardhan: *Health and Family Welfare, Education (excluding College Education) and Election Department*; and Smt. Purnima Sethi: *Civil Supplies, Environment, Forests and Wildlife*.

Elections to the Delhi Legislative Assembly: Elections to the Delhi Legislative Assembly were held on 25 November 1998. The party position following the elections is as under. Total seats: 70; Congress(I): 53; BJP: 14; JD: 1; and Independent: 2

On 30 November 1998, Smt. Sheila Dixit was unanimously elected as the Leader of the Congress Legislature Party.

On 3 December 1998, Smt. Sheila Dixit was sworn in as the Chief Minister along with six Cabinet Ministers. The Ministers and their portfolios are:

Smt. Sheila Dixit (*Chief Minister*): *Home, General Administration, Law, Public Grievances, Water and Justice and Vigilance*; Shri Yoganand Shastri: *Development, Food and Supplies, Irrigation and Flood Control*; Shri Parvez Hashmi: *Transport, Land and Building*; Shri Mahinder Singh Saathi: *Finance, Planning and Revenue*; Dr. Narendra Nath: *Industry, Tourism, Education, Training and Technical Education, Language and Power*; Dr. A.K. Walia: *Public Health, Medical, Urban Development, Family Welfare, Environment, Forests and Wild Life*; and Smt. Krishna Tirath: *Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Social Welfare, Labour, Employment and Elections*.

Resignation of MLA: On 5 December 1998, the former Chief Minister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj resigned from the State Legislative Assembly.

Election of Speaker: On 15 December 1998, Chaudhury Prem Singh of the Congress (I) was elected unopposed as the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

GOA

Political developments: On 19 November 1998, three Ministers belonging to the Goa Rajiv Congress resigned. They are: Shri Dayanand Narvekar: *Planning*, Shri Subhash Shirodkar: *Information*; and Shri Pandu Vasu Naik: *Housing*.

On 20 November 1998, the Goa Rajiv Congress split when the Planning Minister Shri Dayanand Narvekar with three other Ministers rejoined the Congress(I). Meanwhile, the Congress Legislature Party headed by Luizinho Faleiro called on the Governor, Lt. Gen.(Retd.) J.F.R. Jacob and staked claim to form a new Government.

On 26 November 1998, Shri Luizinho Faleiro was sworn in as the new Chief Minister, replacing Shri Wilfred D'Souza who had earlier in the day resigned from Office. Shri Dayanand Narvekar was sworn in as a Cabinet Minister.

On 30 November 1998, the Chief Minister, Shri Luizinho Faleiro won a Vote of Confidence in the State Legislative Assembly.

GUJARAT

Death of Minister: On 26 November 1998, the Minister for Road and Buildings, Shri Sabjibhai Korat passed away.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Expansion of Cabinet: On 9 October 1998, the Chief Minister, Shri Prem Kumar Dhumal expanded the State Cabinet by inducting six new Ministers of State. Besides, the Chief Parliamentary Secretary, Shri Roop Dass Kashyap was promoted as Minister of State. The new Ministers are:

Ministers of State: Sarvashri Rikhi Ram Kaundal, Mohan Lal, Rajan Shushant, Ravinder Singh Ravi, Praveen Sharma and Hari Narayan Singh.

Resignation of Ministers: On 22 October 1998, three Ministers of the Himachal Vikas Congress (HVC) in the BJP-HVC coalition Government resigned. They are: Sarvashri Mohinder Singh, Mansa Ram and Prakash Chaudhary.

By-election result : The BJP won the lone Baijnath seat in the State Legislative Assembly for which by-election was held on 25 November 1998.

KARNATAKA

Vote of Confidence: On 10 November 1998, the Chief Minister, Shri J.H. Patel won a Vote of Confidence in the State Legislative Assembly.

KERALA

Minister inducted: On 25 October 1998, Shri S. Sarma was inducted as the Minister for Electricity and Cooperation in the State Cabinet.

MADHYA PRADESH

Minister dropped: On 17 November 1998, the Chief Minister, Shri Digvijay Singh dropped the State Aviation Minister, Shri Dheru Prasad Dhritilahre from the State Cabinet for contesting against the Congress candidate from the Maro constituency in the elections to the State Legislative Assembly to be held on 25 November 1998.

Elections to the State Legislative Assembly: Elections to the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly were held on 25 November 1998. The party position following the elections is as under: Total seats: 320; Congress(I): 173; BJP: 120; BSP: 11; SP:4 and others: 12.

On 1 December 1998, Shri Digvijay Singh was sworn in as the Chief Minister. The new Ministers are:

Cabinet Ministers: Sarvashri Ajay Narayan Mushran, Mahendra Singh, Ramchandra Singh Deo, Shravan Patel, Indrajeet Patel, Prem Sai Singh, Ratnesh Soloman, Narendra Nahata, Ravindra Chaube, Satya Narayan Sharma, Subhash Sojatia, Ajay Singh, Chanesh Rathia, Mahendra Baudh, Dhanesh Patila, K.K. Gupta, Nand Kumar Patel, Likhiram Kawre, Hukumchand Karda, Sajjan Singh Verma, Deepak Saxena, Smt. Urmila Singh, Smt. Jamuna Devi and Smt. Vijay Lakshmi Saho.

Ministers of State (Independent Charge): Shri Arif Akeel and Shri Doman Singh Nagpure.

Ministers of State: Sarvashri Tejilasaiyiam, Shankar Sodhi, Govind Singh, Vir Singh, Bhupesh Baghel, Pooran Chand Bedia, Chandra Bhan Singh, Ghanshyam Patidar, Bala Bachan, Raja Pateria and Smt. Ganabai Ureti.

MAHARASHTRA

Elections to the Legislative Council: The Congress won five seats, the BJP and Shiv Sena shared one each, and independents won two seats in the elections to nine Legislative Council seats in the State on 15 November 1998.

MIZORAM

Elections to the State Legislative Assembly: Elections to the Mizoram Legislative Assembly were held on 25 November 1998. The party position following the elections is as under: Total seats: 40; MNF: 20; MPC: 13; Congress: 6; Independent: 1;

On 30 November 1998, Shri Zoramthanga of the Mizo National Front (MNF) was unanimously elected as the Leader of the United Legislature Party. The working President of the Mizo People's Conference (MPC), Shri Lakshminathanga, was elected as the Deputy Leader.

On 2 December 1998, Shri Zoramthanga was sworn in as the Chief Minister along with 14 other Ministers.

PUNJAB

Resignation of Ministers: On 14 December 1998, the following five Ministers resigned from the State Cabinet: Sarvashri Harmail Singh Tohra, Mahesh Inder Singh Grewal, Inderjit Singh Zira, Manjit Singh Calcutta and Surjit Singh Kohli.

RAJASTHAN

Elections to the State Legislative Assembly: Elections to the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly were held on 25 November 1998. The party position following the elections is as under: Total seats: 200; Congress(I): 153; BJP: 33; JD: 3; BSP: 2; and Independents: 9.

On 30 November 1998, Shri Ashok Gehlot of the Congress(I) was unanimously elected as the Leader of the Congress Legislature Party.

On 1 December 1998, Shri Ashok Gehlot was sworn in as the Chief Minister. The new Ministers and their portfolios are:

Shri Ashok Gehlot (*Chief Minister*): *Home, Planning, Civil Aviation, Administrative Reforms, Health and Family Welfare and State Investigation Bureau.*

Cabinet Ministers: Shri Chandan Mal Baid: *Finance, Excise and Taxation and Indira Gandhi Canal;* Shri Bhikha Bhai: *Labour;* Shri B.D.

Kalla: Education; Shri Bhanwar Lal Bairwa: Social Welfare and Tribal Development; Shri Chander Bhan: Energy and Sainik Welfare Department; Shri Gulab Singh Shekhawat: Cooperatives, Relief and Rehabilitation; Shri C.P. Joshi: Rural Development and Panchayat; Shri Chogaram Bakolia: Transport; Shri Kishan Motwani: Revenue; Shri Praduman Singh: Industries; Shri Taiyab Hussain: Agriculture; Shri Ramkishan Verma: Food and Civil Supplies; Shri Ram Singh Vishnoi: Public Health; Smt. Kamala Beniwal: Irrigation, Department of Sanskrit; Smt. Zakia Imam: Social Welfare, Science and Technology; and Smt. Shanti Dhariwal: Local Self Government.

Ministers of State (Independent Charge): Shri Abul Aziz: Wakf Board; Shri Dipender Singh Shekhawat: Agriculture Marketing; Shri Bhagraj Chaudhary: Environment and Forest; Shri Daya Ram Parmar: Printing and Stationary; Shri Hari Singh Kumher: Dairy and Animal Husbandry; Shri Hira Lal Indora: Mines; Shri Jitender Singh: College and University Education; Shri Bhanwar Lal: Panchayati Raj, Sports and Jails; Shri Parsadi Lal Meena: State Lotteries; Shri Rajender Chaudhary: Information and Public Relations; Shri Chander Shekhar: Home Guard and Civil Defence; Smt. Bina Kak: Tourism; and Smt. Indira Mayaram: Family Planning.

UTTAR PRADESH

Ministers dropped: On 9 October 1998, the Chief Minister, Shri Kalyan Singh dropped three Ministers of State. They are: Sarvashri Sunder Singh Baghel, Gorakh Nath Nishad and Shiv Ganesh Lodhi.

On 4 December 1998, the Chief Minister dropped the Minister of State for Basic Education, Shri Ravindra Shukla from the State Cabinet.

WEST BENGAL

By-election results: The CPI(M) won both the seats in the State Legislative Assembly for which by-elections were held on 25 November 1998.

DEVELOPMENTS ABROAD

ALGERIA

New Prime Minister: On 20 December 1998, Mr. Ismail Hamdani was sworn in as the Prime Minister.

AUSTRALIA

Election results: On 3 October 1998, the Prime Minister, Mr. John

Howard's coalition won a second term in Office following the elections to the 148-member House of Representatives.

BRAZIL

President re-elected: On 5 October 1998, Mr. Fernando Henrique Cardoso was re-elected as the President of Brazil.

CAMBODIA

New Prime Minister: On 26 November 1998, King Norodom Sihanouk appointed Mr. Hun Sen as the new Prime Minister.

COMOROS

Death of President: On 6 November 1998, the President, Mr. Mohammed Taki Abdoul Karim passed away.

GREECE

Vote of Confidence: On 4 November 1998, the Prime Minister, Mr. Kostas Smitis won a Vote of Confidence in Parliament.

ITALY

New Government: A new 25-member Centre-Left Government headed by the Prime Minister, Mr. Massimo d'Alema was sworn in on 21 October 1998.

KYRGYZSTAN

Resignation of Prime Minister: The Prime Minister Mr. Kubanytehbex Shuymaliyev resigned from Office on 23 December 1998.

LEBANON

New President: On 15 October 1998, Gen. Emile Lahoud was elected as the President of Lebanon.

MALDIVES

President re-elected: On 20 October 1998, Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom was re-elected as the President of Maldives.

MAURITANIA

New Prime Minister: On 17 November 1998, Mr. Maaoya Ould Sidi Ahmed Taya was appointed as the Prime Minister.

NEPAL

Political developments: On 10 December 1998, thirteen Ministers in the Coalition Government belonging to the Communist Party resigned.

On 21 December 1998, the Prime Minister, Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala resigned from Office paving the way for the formation of a new Coalition Government with the Communists, United Marxists-Leninists (UML) and the Nepal Sadbhavana Party.

On 25 December 1998, Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala was re-appointed the Prime Minister after a power-sharing deal with the United Marxist-Leninist Party and the Nepal Sadbhavana Party which agreed to support on the condition that he would appoint UML members to the Cabinet and hold early elections.

TURKEY

Resignation of Prime Minister: On 25 November 1998, the Prime Minister, Mr. Mesut Yilmaz resigned from Office.

VENEZUELA

New President: On 7 December 1998, Mr. Hugo Chavez was elected as the President of Venezuela.

SESSIONAL REVIEW

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

THIRD SESSION

The Third Session of the Twelfth Lok Sabha, which commenced on 30 November 1998, was adjourned *sine die* on 23 December 1998. The House was then prorogued by the President of India on 31 December 1998. A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period is given below.

DISCUSSIONS/STATEMENTS

*Election of the Deputy Speaker**: Shri P.M. Sayeed was elected as the Deputy Speaker of the Twelfth Lok Sabha on 17 December 1998.

Rise in the price of Essential Commodities: Initiating a discussion on 3 December 1998 under Rule 193, Shri Rajesh Pilot said that the Government should take urgent steps to curb the prices and the hoarders should not be tolerated at any cost. Agricultural production should also be increased, otherwise, it would be difficult to control the price. The farmers should be provided with all incentives and assistance and the fertilizers, seeds and all other inputs should be made available to them.

Participating in the discussion**, Shri P. Chidambaram urged the Government to push inflation control to the top of the agenda. He also said that the Government would have to alter the fiscal and monetary policies to deal with the situation.

* For details, see Short Note "The Election of the Deputy Speaker of the Twelfth Lok Sabha", *The Journal of Parliamentary Information*, Vol. XLIV, No. 4, December 1998, pp. 414-22.

** Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Krishan Lal Sharma, Sudip Bandopadhyay, Rupchand Pal, Mohan Singh, Shanta Kumar, Rajo Singh, C. Sreenivasan, T.R. Baalu, Prabhunath Singh, Rajveer Singh, N.K. Premachandran, E. Ahamad, Varkala Radhakrishnan, Shallendra Kumar, B. M. Mensinkai, Ratilal Kalidas Varma, H.D. Devegowda, Dr. Sushil Indora, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Dr. Ravi Mallu, Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra, Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta, Smt. Geeta Mukherjee and Smt. Jayanti Patnaik

Participating in the discussion on 7 December 1998, Kumari Mayawati said that the Government should have made the Essential Commodities Act more stringent and set up a monitoring cell. The Government should take care of the downtrodden who were adversely affected by the price rise.

Intervening in the discussion, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Shri Sompal said that inflation had risen for some time due to the increase in the prices of primary articles. Except the essential commodities, prices of other commodities did not increase. The Government had taken preliminary steps to ensure that such incidents would not recur. A price marketing cell had been set up to assess the price situation. The Government had planned to upgrade the storage facilities and would give 50 per cent grant for the construction of 2000 tonne cold storages in every block. Farmers would be given loans so that they would not be forced into distress sale of their crops. Steps were also being taken to make the cooperative movement strong and effective. In the Chief Ministers' Conference held in New Delhi on 27 November, 1998 it had been agreed that no State would put a ban on the transportation of agricultural goods. The Government would be setting up a seed Bank at the national level.

Shri K. Yerrannaidu said that the Central Government should take steps to control the rise in price of the essential commodities. A Central Price Monitoring Cell comprising the representatives of the Union and the State Governments should be formed to provide advance information about demand, production of various crops and cereals in the country and the world, along with wholesale and retail prices. The Government should ensure proper coordination between the Ministries of Agriculture, Food and Civil Supplies and Commerce. It should provide necessary input subsidies at a minimum level of 50 per cent which would encourage production of those items which would be found to be in short supply.

Participating in the discussion, Prof. Saifuddin Soz said that had the exports been stopped, the prices would have fallen. The price index in Srinagar had always been different from that in Delhi and other major cities. He suggested that, the State of Jammu and Kashmir must get a subsidy on transportation so that things would be sold in Srinagar at the same rates as in Delhi.

Shri P.C. Thomas said that lack of coordination among the Ministries had been one of the major reasons for price rise. The export of essential commodities was not controlled at the right time because of which they had to be imported at a very high price.

Taking part in the discussion, Shri Ramesh Thakur said that the farmers were not getting remunerative prices for their products.

Replying to the discussion on 8 December 1998, the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Food and Consumer Affairs, Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala said that the debate had started at a time when the prices were coming down. The Government had formulated schemes to set up cold storages in every district. Effective and punitive action would be taken under the existing provisions of law against speculators, hoarders, blackmarketeers and profiteers indulging in unfair trade practices, he added.

Atrocities committed on Minorities in various parts of the country: Initiating a discussion on 8 December 1998, under Rule 193, Shri Arif Mohammed Khan said that for the last so many months, there were newspaper reports that members of minority communities, particularly Christians, had been killed and efforts were made to desecrate churches. A sense of insecurity had spread among the minorities all over the country who felt that their constitutional rights were being infringed. If stringent action would be taken against the guilty, then that would be a step in the right direction. The Constitution of the country had given equal rights to all and as such everybody should be treated equally.

Participating in the discussion* on 9 December 1998, Shri Indrajit Gupta said that the pre-meditated attacks were aimed not only at the rights of the minorities but also at the entire pluralistic fabric of the Indian society on which the unity of its nationhood depended.

Taking part in the discussion on 10 December 1998, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan said that people in the majority community should not entertain a feeling of obliging the minorities by granting them their legitimate rights.

Intervening in the discussion, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said that there should not be any discrimination in the name of minority and

* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri P. Shiv Shanker, Satya Pal Jain, C. Gopal, Suresh Kurup, K.A. Sangtam, S.S. Owaisi, Akbor Ali Khandoker, T.R. Baalu, P.A. Sangma, Harin Pathak, Joachim Baxla, N. Dennis, P.R. Kyndiah, Shakuni Choudhary, Hira Lal Roy, V.M. Sudheeran, Motilal Vora, B.M. Mensinkal, Francisco Sardinha, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq, Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra, Prof. Jogendra Kawade, Prof. P.J. Kurlen, Dr. Beatriz D'Souza, Dr. Suguna Kumari Chellamella, Prof. A.K. Premajam, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Smt. Bhavna Kardam Dave and Kumari Kim Gangte

majority. There was poverty and unemployment in the country and the minorities were equally affected by that; such problems should be resolved with a proper approach.

Participating in the discussion on 15 December 1998, Shri Madhukar Sirpotdar said that it was our duty to preserve the dignity of the Constitution; if that was done, then we would not have to discuss the issue of minorities.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Kumari Uma Bharati said that if we wanted to check communalism then appropriate measures had to be taken in that direction and exemplary punishment should be meted out to those who were found guilty.

Shri G.M. Banatwalla said that there had been an alarming increase in the incidence of atrocities against the minorities. He felt that these attacks were in effect attacks against our culture of communal harmony and amity.

Shri P.C. Thomas said that the series of atrocities which had taken place should not continue any further and the Government should give an assurance that the minorities would be protected from all atrocities.

Prof. Saifuddin Soz said that we would have to address the malady very quickly. The Government should ensure that nobody was above the law of the land.

Shri Amar Roy Pradhan said that it was most unfortunate that atrocities and exploitation were being committed in the name of religion and caste.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani, said that it was the duty of the Government to take steps against injustices. No one should have any feeling of insecurity and the sense of intolerance should not grow in the country.

Reference regarding the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: On 10 December 1998, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi made the following reference in the House:

On this day, fifty years ago, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. India, as a Member State of the United Nations, made significant contributions to the establishment of the International Bill on human rights. The Bill consists of the Declaration and the two International Covenants, one on economic, social and cultural rights and the other on civil and political rights and their Optional Protocols.

True to our role in the United Nations and our tradition of respecting the rights of the individual since Vedic and Epic periods, we have provided for protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in our Constitution. Further, we have diligently tried to bring our practices in conformity with our commitments in this regard with the international community and in the Constitution. In the process, we have enacted appropriate laws, created institutional mechanisms and taken affirmative actions.

Considering that we have a pluralistic society of diverse religions, communities and vast masses of vulnerable people living below poverty line, we shall continue, with eternal vigilance, our efforts at respecting and actually protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. In particular, we shall give special attention to protecting these rights and freedoms of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Communities, minorities, women, children and persons with disabilities through democratic, constitutional, legal, developmental and educational processes, involving the legislative, executive and judicial arms of governance at the national and State levels as well as the civil society.

Statement on bilateral talks with the United States: Making a Statement in the House on 15 December 1998, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee reiterated India's commitment to global nuclear disarmament. India had consistently maintained that a nuclear weapon-free world would enhance not only its security but the security of all nations, for which numerous initiatives had been taken during the last fifty years.

The dialogue between India and the United States had been conducted on the basis of a set of proposals which comprised a voluntary moratorium on underground nuclear test explosions; India's willingness to move towards a *de jure* formalisation of the commitment; a decision to join negotiations on a treaty for a ban on future production of fissile material for weapons purposes; and India's determination to make more stringent the existing system of export controls over sensitive materials and technology.

During the discussions between the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Shri Jaswant Singh (presently Minister of External Affairs) and the US Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Strobe Talbott, the two countries had worked to narrow the gaps of perception and to establish common ground. In these talks, India had put across its security concerns and the imperative of maintaining a minimum, credible, nuclear deterrent. India expressed its willingness to join the Fissile Material

Control Treaty (FMCT) negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva. The objective of these negotiations was to arrive at a non-discriminatory treaty, which would end the future production of fissile materials for weapons purposes in accordance with the 1993 consensus Resolution of the UN General Assembly.

India also expressed its reservations about provisions of certain export control regimes which would seek to promote non-proliferation objectives. India's missile development programme was an indigenous one, regularly reviewed, taking into account India's security environment, particularly missile acquisition and deployment in the region. The Government would not accept any restraints on the development of India's R&D capabilities.

India would take initiatives in the international forums towards fulfilling the objective of complete elimination of all nuclear weapons. In addition to the talks between Shri Jaswant Singh and Mr. Strobe Talbott, India had detailed exchanges with France and Russia, the Prime Minister added.

Statement by the Prime Minister on Iraq: Making a Statement in the House on 17 December 1998 on the air strikes on Iraq by the USA and the UK, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that India had close historical ties and strong affinities with the countries and peoples of the West Asian region. India had called for the lifting of sanctions in tandem with Iraq's compliance with the relevant UN Security Council Resolution. We had consistently counselled restraint and moderation in resolving differences that had emerged from time to time in the interaction of the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) with Iraq. It was regrettable that the airstrikes had been undertaken at a time when the UN Security Council was in session to discuss the development arising from the report of the chief of the UNSCOM. The attack raised serious questions regarding the functioning of the collective and consultative procedures of the UN Security Council. It also undermined the ability of the Security Council to verify Iraq's compliance with the relevant Resolution. India had called for an immediate halt to the military action and a resumption of diplomatic efforts under the auspices of the UN. The Government had also been in touch with the Indian Embassy in Iraq and taking all measures to ensure the welfare of the Indian community in Iraq.

Statement on the Indo-Russian Press Statement issued on the official visit to India by the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation: Making a Statement in the House on 22 December 1998,

the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh said that the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, Mr. Yevgeny M. Primakov paid a visit to India from 20 to 22 December 1998, which marked a continuation of the long standing tradition of high level bilateral exchanges between India and the Russian Federation. During the visit, the two countries agreed to identify new ways to jointly exploit the capabilities, including scientific, technical and industrial skills, available in India and Russia and the new opportunities emerging from economic changes underway in both the countries. While appreciating the growth of Indo-Russian trade in 1997-98, it was hoped that the implementation of the long-term bilateral trading arrangements in jointly identified items would bring stability to bilateral trade and encourage its growth on a sustained basis. It was agreed to make concerted efforts to significantly increase trade in the years ahead. Bilateral cooperation was progressing well in such fields as power, oil and natural gas, coal, steel and transport, which would be strengthened to mutual benefit. It was also agreed to focus efforts on commercially exploiting the achievements of joint research in science and technology.

The two sides agreed to jointly contribute to securing international peace and security, democratisation of international relations as well as establishment of a new, just and stable world order with a strengthened role for the UN. Both the sides also supported the process of nuclear non-proliferation. It was observed that the development of active and constructive bilateral relations between India, Russia and other major countries of the Asia and Pacific region would contribute to stability and security.

The following bilateral documents were signed during the visit : Extradition Treaty; Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Consular Convention; Long-term Agreement on Military-Technical Cooperation upto the year 2010; Joint Document on Development of Trade, Economic, Industrial, Financial, Science and Technology Cooperation; Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Communications and Air Transport Agreement.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

*Statutory Resolution regarding Disapproval of Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Ordinance, 1998 and the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 1998**: Moving the statutory Resolution on 2 December 1998, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy said that in spite of all

* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 27 July 1998

efforts, India had not been able to produce more than 25 per cent of the total demand of oil in the country. He wanted to know the efforts being made by the Government for boosting production of petroleum.

Moving that the Bill be taken into consideration, the Minister of Petroleum and natural Gas, Shri Vazhappady K. Ramamurthy said that the Ordinance had been promulgated to accelerate production of oil and because of the urgency for a new exploration licensing policy which would augment private foreign investment and joint ventures in the field of oil exploration. The amendments to the relevant clause of the existing Act sought to make enabling provision to empower the Central Government to grant partial or full exemption from the payment of royalty in respect of off-shore areas and to confer upon the Central Government the powers to notify more than one rate of royalty in respect of the same mineral oil produced from different classes of leased areas.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri P.C. Thomas said the exploration and exploitation of oil was one of the major thrust areas where the Government should actively participate.

Intervening in the discussion, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar said that the Government had decided to implement the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and to see how maximum exploration work would be undertaken.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Vazhappady K. Ramamurthy said that the NELP sought to invite more capital, to invest more and more in the exploration ventures. While doing so, India would get more crude oil; and more areas would be covered under the exploration. The Government would be amending only those aspects that would relate to off-shore exploration but not on-shore drilling. If the Government would be fixing different rates of royalty for on-shore drilling, that would be done only in consultation with the States so that there would be no misuse of power in fixing the rates. The rates of royalty could not be fixed at random. India had signed some joint ventures with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries. During the South African Energy Conference, India had

* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri K.S. Rao, Satya Pal Jain, Lakshman Chandra Seth, T.R. Baalu, Mohan Singh, V.V. Raghavan, Bikram Keshari Deo, Kharabela Swain, Rajo Singh, P. Chidambaram, Dr. Shakeel Ahmad and Prof. Jogendra Kawade

bilateral talks with nine countries, including China. India's strategy would be to accelerate exploration work within the country as also encourage more and more participation by India in other countries.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn and the Bill, as amended, was passed.

*The Export-Import Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 1998**: Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 2 December 1998, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and in the Ministry of Finance (Banking, Revenue and Insurance), Shri Kadambur M.R. Janarthanan said that the Exim Bank had been assigned a special role in providing medium and long-term export credit to exporters on deferred payment terms; providing lines of credit to banks and foreign agencies to finance imports to eligible goods and services from the country; providing term loans to export-oriented units in the country and equity finance to Indian companies setting up joint ventures/wholly owned subsidiaries abroad; and providing information and advisory services to Indian exporters. In order to provide the Exim Bank an adequate capital base to support its future growth, maintain its credit-worthiness with international lenders, enable it to raise external commercial borrowings at competitive rates and retain adequate resource flows to maintain flexibility, the Bill proposed to raise the authorised capital for Exim Bank from Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 1,000 crore and enhance the maximum limit upto which the Central Government would increase the said capital from Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 2,000 crore.

The Bill was passed after the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and in the Ministry of Finance (Banking, Revenue and Insurance), Shri Kadambur M.R. Janarthanan replied to the debate.**

*The High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 1998****: Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 16 December 1998, the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs and Minister of Surface Transport, Dr. M. Thambi Durai said that representations had been received from Judges

* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 30 July 1998

** Those who took part in the discussion were : Sarvashri Konijeti Rosalah, Chetan Chauhan, Mohan Singh, Rupchand Pal, Chandrasekhar Sahu, Ramdas Athawale, Varkala Radhakrishnan, Dr. Shakeel Ahmed, Prof. Jogendra Kawade and Smt. Geeta Mukherjee

*** The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 28 May 1998

requesting for a provision in the High Court Judges Act to enable them to avail the benefit of carry forward of half-pay leave and deleting the restrictions of 240 days for the carry forward of leave. In view of that, it was proposed to make a suitable amendment to the High Court Judges Act to provide for the same. It was also proposed to increase the House Rent Allowance (HRA) to Rs. 10,000 per month in respect of the High Court and Supreme Court Judges instead of Rs. 2,500 and Rs. 3,000, respectively.

Participating in the discussion* on 17 December 1998, Prof. Saifuddin Soz said that accountability of Judges was necessary.

Dr. Subramanian Swamy said that there was not only a need to raise the salaries of the Judges but also to reduce their work load through the creation of a series of Benches.

Replying to the debate, the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs and Minister of Surface Transport, Dr. M. Thambi Durai said that due attention would be given by the Government as regards revision of pay and other facilities of the subordinate Judiciary. The Government had committed in the National Agenda of Governance to set-up a National Judicial Commission. As regards setting up of more Benches of the Supreme Court, the recommendation of the Chief Justice of India would be required.

The motion was adopted and the Bill was passed.

*The Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Bill, 1998***: Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 18 December 1998, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Madan Lal Khurana said that the Bill sought to provide additional secretarial and telephone facilities to the Leaders and Chief Whips of recognised parties and recognised groups in Parliament. These facilities would be in addition to the facilities already being provided to them. Under the Bill, they would be provided with a Grade III Stenographer of the level of Private Secretary. They could make 10,000 free local calls annually on their office and residence telephones in addition

* Others who took part in the discussion were : Sarvashri Motilal Vora, Valdyia Vishnu Datt, Ajay Chakraborty, Prabhunath Singh, Hira Lal Roy, Chandrasekhar Sahu, Thawar Chand Gehlot, N.K. Premachandran, Konijeti Rosalah, Satya Pal Jain, T.R. Baalu, B.M. Mensinkai, S. Mallikarjunalah, Varkala Radhakrishnan, K. Bapiraju, Bhagwan Shankar Rawat, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Prof. P.J. Kurien, Prof. Jogendra Kawade and Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta

** The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 17 December 1998

to the facility of free calls allowed to them as member of Parliament. The above two facilities would be available to the Leaders and Chief Whips of these parties till they continued in their office.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri G.M. Banatwala said that the needs of smaller parties, not falling within the scope of the Bill, would have to be taken care of.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Madan Lal Khurana requested that the Bill be passed unanimously.

The Bill was passed.

C. QUESTION HOUR

During the Third Session, in all, 18,586 notices of Questions (15,353 Starred, 3220 Unstarred and 13 Short Notice Questions) were received. Out of these, 360 Questions were admitted as Starred and 4092 Questions were admitted as Unstarred. Two notices of Short Notice Questions were admitted.

Due to interruptions in the House on 30 November 1998 and 1, 14, 22 and 23 December 1998, Starred Questions were not called for oral answer. Starred Questions listed for these days were treated as Unstarred and their answers together with the answers to Unstarred Questions were printed in the official report for those days.

On 11 December 1998, the House adjourned without transacting any Business. Replies to Starred Questions listed for the day were, therefore, treated as Unstarred and their replies together with the replies to the Unstarred Questions, were laid on the Table on the next sitting of the House *i.e.* 14 December 1998 and also printed in the official Report for the day.

Daily Average of Questions: The average number of Starred Questions answered orally in the House during the Session was three. The maximum number of Starred Questions answered was seven on 10 December 1998.

The average number of Questions in the Unstarred List came to 227 against the prescribed limit of 230, the minimum being 191 questions on 14 December 1998.

* Others who took part in the discussion were : Sarvashri V.V. Raghavan, Varkala Radhakrishnan, B.M. Mensinkal, P.C. Chacko, Rajo Singh and Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta

Half-an-Hour Discussion: In all, 29 notices of Half-an-Hour Discussions were received during the Session. Out of these, 11 notices were admitted, but only two notices were discussed.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made on 30 November 1998 to the passing away of Sarvashri Nikunja Behari Chowdhury, Dwaipayan Sen, Narsingh Yadav, Lakhan Lal Gupta, Banamali Babu, J. Rameshwar Rao and T. Abdul Wahid, all former members. Obituary references were made on the same day to the loss of several lives of pilgrims who were on their way to the Kailash-Mansarovar shrine in a landslide in the hilly terrain of Pithoragarh on 18 August 1998. Obituary references were also made to the loss of several lives in a train accident on 26 November 1998.

On 1 December 1998, obituary reference was made to the passing away of Shri Ghasi Ram Yadav, a sitting member of the Twelfth Lok Sabha. The House was later adjourned for the day as a mark of respect for the deceased.

Obituary references were also made on 4, 9, 21 and 22 December 1998 to the passing away, respectively, of Sarvashri L.V. Singh, Dasarath Deb, Abdul Hannan and Harinath Misra, all former members of Lok Sabha.

Members stood in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

RAJYA SABHA

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIFTH SESSION*

The Rajya Sabha, which met for its One Hundred and Eighty-fifth (185th) Session on 30 November 1998, was adjourned *sine die* on 23 December 1998. The House was then prorogued by the President on 31 December 1998.

A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period is given below:

A. DISCUSSIONS/STATEMENTS

Statement by the Prime Minister regarding bilateral talks with the United States of America: Making a Statement on the above subject on

* Contributed by the Research and Library Section, Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

15 December 1998, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee reiterated India's commitment to a nuclear weapons-free world which would enhance the security of all nations. Due to the reluctance of some countries having nuclear weapons to pursue the same objective, it had become imperative for successive Governments to continue with safeguarding India's nuclear options.

India had been engaged in a wide ranging and broad-based dialogue with the United States on disarmament, non-proliferation and the larger strategic issues on the basis of a set of comprehensive proposals put forward by us to the international community soon after the nuclear tests in May 1998. The proposals comprised a voluntary moratorium on underground nuclear test explosions and a *de jure* formalisation of the commitment; negotiations for a ban on future production of fissile material for weapons purposes; and stringent export controls over sensitive materials and technology. The Indo-US talks were premised on the basis of our security concerns and the imperative of maintaining a minimum credible nuclear deterrent. After six rounds, the talks had narrowed down to focus on four issues—the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT); Fissile Material Control Treaty (FMCT); Export Controls; and Defence. India had expressed its willingness to join the FMCT negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva. The Government was taking steps to make more stringent laws in the Export Control Regime. On India's defence posture, the Government had formally announced a policy of no-first-use and non-use against non-nuclear weapons states. India would not enter into an arms race with any country.

The Prime Minister said that India's missile development programme was an indigenous programme which was regularly being reviewed, taking into account the security environment, particularly missile acquisitions and deployments in the region. The flight-testing of the new version of the *Agni* missile would be conducted fully in accordance with established international practice. The Government would not accept any restraints on the development of India's R & D capabilities. India would continue to take initiatives in the international forums towards fulfilling the objective of complete elimination of all nuclear weapons.

The Prime Minister said that there was no time-frame for the conclusion of the Indo-US talks, but the intention of both the countries was to reach a stable understanding on the remaining issues at an early date. In addition to the talks between Shri Jaswant Singh and Mr. Strobe Talbott, discussions had also taken place with France, Russia, Germany, UK and China.

On 16 December 1998, replying to the points raised by members, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh, said that it was national interest and national security that guided deliberations with the U.S.A. Regarding the proposed FMCT, although India had supported multilateral negotiations on the subject, a unilateral moratorium on fissile material production would not be possible for India for the present. As far as the Export Control Regime was concerned, the Foreign Trade Development and Regulatory Act authorised the Government to restrict exports.

Regarding CTBT, Shri Jaswant Singh said that India's approach and position would be as stated in the Statement of the Prime Minister in the UN General Assembly. India would not accept third-party mediation on bilateral issues. The Atomic Energy Act of 1962 had entitled the Government to use, develop and exploit nuclear materials and technology for transfer or for other purposes of national interest. As stated in the National Agenda for Governance, the Prime Minister had announced the constitution of a National Security Council which would address itself to the structuring of a strategic defence review. The Government would continue to make all efforts and take all initiatives towards the universal elimination of all nuclear weapons. India looked ahead towards a more stable and productive relationship with all the countries, he added.

Threat of American terminator seeds to Indian agriculture : On 1 December 1998, Shri K.R. Malkani called the attention of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Shri Sompal, to the threat of American terminator seeds to Indian agriculture.

Replying to the Calling Attention, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Shri Sompal said that there was no threat of American terminator seeds to Indian agriculture as the legal entry of such seeds had not been allowed in the Indian market. Adequate steps had already been taken by the Government not to allow terminator genes inside India. The terminator gene technology had not been perfected in the field. So far as *Bacillus Thuringiensis* (BT) cotton was concerned, it was not a terminator gene and it had been allowed in India after due care by the Department of Bio-Technology. Farmers would never be put to a situation where they would lose their right to reuse their seeds. The Government would give permission to use hybrid seeds only if the technology would be in the interest of the farmers. He further said that the interests of the farmers would be fully protected.

Net Asset Value (NAV) of Unit Scheme (US)-64 and status of other

Schemes of Unit Trust of India affecting lakhs of small investors: On 2 December 1998, Shri Narendra Mohan called the attention of the Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha to the Net Asset Value (NAV) of US-64 and the status of other schemes of the Unit Trust of India affecting lakhs of small investors.

Replying to the Calling Attention, the Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha said that the Unit Trust of India had been set up under the UTI Act in 1963 as a vehicle for promoting savings and investments and as a means for investors to participate in the income, profits, gains accruing to the Corporation from the acquisition, holding, management and disposal of securities. The UTI had introduced the Unit Scheme-64 (US-64) as a saving vehicle as well as a means for investors to participate in the Capital Market, which would provide a reasonable return to the investors. He said that the depreciation in the value of investment, when the balance sheet of US-64 was drawn on 30 June 1998, was on account of the after-effects of world wide and domestic adverse movement of stock price. Since the UTI had decided to charge the depreciation to the reserve account of US-64, the reserve account showed a negative balance of Rs. 1098.49 crore. The depreciation was notional and as and when the stock market price improved, the notional depreciation would be recouped. The UTI had also stated that none of the UTI schemes had a negative Net Asset Value.

Replying to the points raised by the members, the Minister said that some decline in the value of shares had to be indicated in the audit report of the UTI as it had been prepared when fluctuations were taking place in the Mumbai Stock Market. He said that after the recommendations of the Deepak Parekh Committee were received, the UTI would take appropriate decisions about the assets. The Government would see that the interests of the small investors were not harmed, he added.

Reported decision of the Government to close down eight Public Sector Units (PSUs): On 10 December 1998, Shri Gurudas Das Gupta called the attention of the Minister of Industry in this regard.

Replying to the Calling Attention, the Minister of Industry, Shri Sikander Bakht said that as a result of the decision of the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), eight PSUs were facing the prospect of being wound up.

The Government's decision to extend Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) benefits to the employees of the sick PSUs provided a more humane and practical solution to the problems of sick PSUs facing the prospect of winding up. In addition, the Government had decided to pay

statutory dues. The BIFR's proceedings were quasi-judicial and the final winding up of units would be as per the decision of the BIFR/Courts. The Government would not stand in the way of eventual revival of any of the PSUs listed if a revival scheme was sanctioned by the BIFR.

Replying to the points raised by members, the Minister of Industry, Shri Sikander Bakht said that the purpose of the closure of the sick PSUs was not to commit excesses on the workers but because of an interest in their welfare. The decision to wind up the sick units had been taken unanimously after Cabinet approval, he concluded.

The alarming situation arising due to cracks in the Railway lines in different parts of the country and the resultant train accidents: On 16 December 1998, Shri Solipeta Ramachandra Reddy called the attention of the Minister of Railways in this regard.

Replying to the Calling Attention, the Minister of Railways, Shri Nitish Kumar said that Rail/weld failures were a cause of serious concern to the Railway administration. The main causes of cracks in rails were due to defect in rail manufacture, sudden failure due to high impact, failure due to corrosion, bolt hole fatigue, weld failure and fatigue failure in rails overdue for renewal. Several important measures had been taken over the years to reduce rail/weld failures in the Indian Railways such as improvement in rail manufacturing and inspection facilities at steel plants, close monitoring of rail/weld failure, up-gradation of welding specifications, preventive maintenance, and participation in the research project jointly undertaken by Japanese, Chinese, American, European and Indian Railways at the European Rail Research Institute (ERRI) of the International Union of Railways as the same problem was also faced by the other world railways. A decision had also been taken to study rail-wheel interaction.

The Minister agreed to give top priority to the safety and maintenance of Railways and added that a decision had been taken to introduce safety audit with effect from November 1998.

Short Duration Discussion on the current economic situation and its implications on various aspects of Indian economy, including price rise and recession: Initiating a Discussion on 7 December 1998, Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that in recent times, the rate of inflation had almost doubled. There had been some achievement in exports but not revival. The trade gap had also doubled and import growth varied between five and six per cent. The member pointed out that a 10 to 12 per cent growth in excise duty or the customs duty would require a minimum industrial growth rate of 12 to 15 per cent.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri J. Chitharanjan said that the country had been facing serious economic recession for more than a year. There was a need to reconsider the entire policy of development which had been dictated by the IMF and the World Bank. He said that the Plan and development as such had to be aimed at improving the living conditions of the ordinary people by reducing unemployment and poverty. The whole economic development programme had to be considered on the basis of actual experience.

Replying to the discussion on 8 December 1998, the Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha said that the Government was trying its best to ensure that it could contain fiscal deficit at the fixed targeted level. The rise in price had taken place due to the decline in agricultural production.

To deal with shortages in essential commodities like edible oil, pulses and onions, the Government had reduced and abolished import duties, wherever necessary. The export of pulses and onions was banned. With regard to the import of any essential commodity, the Government had decided to meet the cost of subsidy on a matching basis which meant 50 per cent would be borne by the Government of India and 50 per cent by the States. In anticipation of the pressure on the Balance of Payments, the Government had made a suggestion to go in for the Resurgent India Bonds which had become a resounding success, raising nearly \$ 4.2 billion. As far as the economic situation was concerned, there were pressures on the fiscal and current accounts apart from having inherited a full blown recession. The Government would take sectoral steps to ensure that Indian industry survived the onslaught of competition, he added.

Sugar Policy. Initiating a Short Duration Discussion on 9 December 1998, Shri Solipeta Ramachandra Reddy said that sugar cane growers were getting no subsidy, though they were adding money to the Government exchequer. Expressing concern over the Central Government's decision on the Statutory Minimum Price which could lead the farmers to switch over to other crops, the member appealed to the Government to take into account the actual cost of cultivation and the involvement of sugar

* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Raghvji, Ashok Mitra, Jitendra Prasad, C. Ramachandraiah, Praful Goradia, Janeshwar Misra, Narendra Mohan, P. Soundararajan, Gandhi Azad, Suresh A. Keswani, Vayalar Ravi, Jilbon Roy, H.K. Javare Gowda, Rama Shanker Kaushik, Sangh Priya Gautam, Ish Dutt Yadav, Dr. Raja Ramaruna, Prof. M. Sankaralingam, Shrimati Kamla Sinha and Miss Mabel Rebello.

cane growers' representatives in the process of fixing the Statutory Minimum Price. The Central Government could use its influence on State Governments to see that on-the spot payments were made to the sugarcane cultivators. The import duty on sugar could be enhanced to 150 per cent, which was within the limit prescribed by the WTO.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri S. Viduthalai Virumbi said that the sugar industry had ample opportunities for employment but the Government had succumbed to the pressure exerted by vested interests. He requested the Government to enhance import duty from five per cent to thirty per cent. The policy adopted by the Government of Tamil Nadu in sanctioning Rs. 80 crore to the public sector as well as the sugar industries to pay the agriculturists had only benefited the intermediaries.

Shri R. Margabandu said that the Government had to appoint a proper monitoring agency to see to it that the interests of agriculturists were protected.

Replying to the debate on 10 December 1998, the Minister of Food and Consumer Affairs and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Shri Surjeet Singh Barnala said that there was a larger scope for stability and increase in sugar production. Three important factors-farmer, industry and consumer-had to be taken care of. As regards the question of low Statutory Minimum Price, he said that it was a notional price and not the actual price of sugarcane. The State Advised Price which was different for different States had been fixed to keep the farmers happy. The sugar industry had been de-licensed. A decision would be taken soon in the matter regarding the distance from one sugar mill to another. The Government intended to restrict imports to a large extent. If the sugar industry was able to work properly, it would benefit the cane farmers. A good production would also maintain the prices for consumers at a reasonable level. There was a large scope for technological improvement in the sugar industry. In this regard, the Sugar Technology Mission had identified a number of sugar mills for technology upgradation.

* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri S.B. Chavan, Khagen Das, Krishna Kumar Birla, S.M. Krishna, Narendra Mohan, Rama Shanker Kaushik, John F. Fernandes, Naresh Yadav, Nagendra Nath Ojha, Vayalar Ravi, Amar Singh, M.J. Varkey Mattathil, Dr. Ranbir Singh, Dr. Gopalrao Vithalrao Patil and Shrimati Kamla Sinha

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

*The Export-Import Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 1998**: Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 15 December 1998, the Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Shri R. Janarthanam said that in order to provide the Exim Bank an adequate capital base to support its future business growth, maintain its credit worthiness with international lenders, enable it to raise external commercial borrowings at competitive rates and retain adequate resource flows to maintain flexibility, the Bill proposed to raise the authorised capital for Exim Bank from Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 1,000 crore and enhance the maximum limit upto which the Central Government would increase the said capital from Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 2000 crore.

Replying to the debate,** the Minister said that the purpose of bringing forward the Bill was to meet the additional capital requirements in the next five years. The Exim Bank's outstanding loan assets had grown by 19 per cent on an average during the last ten years and the Bank had projected its business to grow by 20 per cent, and to achieve the above growth the Exim Bank would need to make net disbursements of about Rs. 6000 crore.

The Motion for consideration of the Bill, clauses, etc., were adopted and the Bill was passed the same day.

*The Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Bill, 1998****: Moving the motion for the consideration of the Bill on 21 December 1998, the then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Madan Lal Khurana said that the Bill provided for some additional secretarial and telephone facilities to the Leaders and Chief Whips of the recognised parties and political groups in both the Houses of Parliament while they remained in office. They would have a Private Secretary equivalent to the status of a Grade 'C' stenographer. They could also avail free local calls to the extent of 10,000 calls per year. The decision to grant these facilities to them had been taken so that they could discharge their parliamentary duties smoothly and effectively.

* The Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table on 3 December 1998.

** Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri H. Hanumanthappa, P. Vedaprakash Goyal, A. Vijaya Raghavan, R.K. Kumar, Nagendra Nath Ojha, John F. Fernandes and Prof. M. Sankaralingam.

*** The Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table on 21 December 1998.

Replying to the debate,* the then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Madan Lal Khurana said that the Bill had been proposed on the basis of the recommendations of the All India Whips' Conference. Efforts were also on to bring a comprehensive Bill regarding providing facilities to the members and former members of Parliament.

The motion for consideration of the Bill, clauses, etc., were adopted and the Bill was passed the same day.

C. QUESTION HOUR

During the Session, 7,217 Notices of questions (6,776 Starred and 441 Unstarred) were received. Out of the these, 360 Questions were admitted as Starred and 2,790 as Unstarred. Two Short Notice Questions were received but none was admitted.

Daily Average of Questions: For all the days, the lists of Starred Questions contained 20 Questions. On an average, 4.05 Questions were orally answered per sitting. The maximum number of Questions orally answered on a particular day was 6 on 14, 21, and 23 December 1998 and the minimum number of Questions orally answered was 2 on 7 December 1998. The number of Unstarred Questions listed on each day was 155.

Half-an-Hour Discussions: Out of the nineteen notices of Half-an-Hour Discussions received, five were admitted but none was discussed.

Statements/Correcting Answers to Questions: On 30 November 1998 and 22 December 1998, two Statements were laid on the Table correcting replies to the Unstarred Questions which were answered in the Rajya Sabha on 1 December 1997 and 1 December 1998, respectively. On 23 December 1998, Statements were laid on the Table correcting replies to Unstarred Questions answered in the Rajya Sabha on 23 July and 6 August 1997, and 29 July and 16 December 1998.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, references were made to the passing away of Sarvashri G.C. Bhattacharya, Banamali Babu, Ramanath Anandilal Podar and Sushil Chand Mohunta, all former members.

* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri John F. Fernandes, Bijoy Kumar Malhoutra, H. Hanumanthppa, R. Margabandu, Ramdeb Bhandari, Smt. Veena Verma, and Smt. Kamla Sinha.

STATE LEGISLATURES

ARUNACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Second Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Eleventh Session on 9 November 1998, was adjourned *sine die* on 10 November 1998. Later, the House was prorogued.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following two Bills were introduced and passed by the House: (i) The Arunachal Pradesh Homoeopathic Council Bill, 1998; and (ii) The Arunachal Pradesh Khadi and Village Industries Board (Amendment) Bill, 1998.

Financial business: During the Session, the Finance Accounts of the Government for the year 1996-97 and the Appropriation Accounts of the Government for the same year were laid on the Table of the House.

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Tenth Assam Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Seventh Session on 11 November 1998, was adjourned *sine die* on 5 December 1998 and was subsequently prorogued. There were six sittings in all.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were introduced and passed by the House: (i) The Assam Agricultural Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (ii) The Assam Contingency Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1998, (iii) The Assam Junior College (Provincialisation) Act Repealing Bill, 1998; (iv) The Assam Health Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (v) The Assam Handicrafts Artisans Welfare Fund Bill, 1998; (vi) The Assam College Education (Provincialisation) Act Repealing Bill, 1998; (vii) The Assam Prohibition of Ragging Bill, 1998; and (viii) The Assam Appropriation (No. III) Bill, 1998.

Financial business: On 3 December 1998, the Chief Minister, who also holds the charge of Finance, presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 1998-99. The Assam Appropriation (No. III) Bill was also passed by the House.

Obituary reference: During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of twenty-six leading personalities.

* Material contributed by the Arunachal Pradesh Legislature Secretariat

** Material contributed by the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat

HIMACHAL PRADESH VIDHAN SABHA*

The Ninth Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, which commenced its Fourth Session on 3 December 1998, was adjourned on 10 December 1998. The House was prorogued on 11 December 1998. There were 6 sittings in all.

Legislative business: The following Bills passed by the House were assented to by the Governor: (i) The Himachal Pradesh Passengers and Goods Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (ii) The Himachal Pradesh Contingency Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (iii) The Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (H.P.) Second Amendment Bill, 1998; (iv) The Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Speakers and Deputy Speakers Salaries (Second Amendment) Bill, 1998; and (v) The Salaries and Allowances of Deputy Ministers (H.P.) Second Amendment Bill, 1998.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of Sarvashri Hari Singh, Guler Chand and Tara Chand, all former members of the Legislative Assembly.

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Tenth Karnataka Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Seventh Session on 29 October 1998, was adjourned *sine die* on 11 November 1998. The House had 10 sittings in all.

Legislative business: During the Session, eight Bills were considered and passed by the House.

Financial business: On 11 November 1998, the Deputy Chief Minister presented the Second Instalment of Supplementary Estimates for the year 1998-99 which was passed the same day.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away to ten eminent personalities.

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL***

The Karnataka Legislative Council commenced its Eighty-eighth Session on 29 October 1998. The House was adjourned *sine die* on 11 November 1998. There were 10 sittings in all.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were

* Material contributed by the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Secretariat

** Material contributed by the Karnataka Legislative Assembly Secretariat

*** Material contributed by the Karnataka Legislature Secretariat

made to the passing away of some former members and important personalities.

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Second Session of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly commenced on 20 July 1998. The House was prorogued on 7 August 1998. There were 13 sittings in all.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Maharashtra District Planning Committee (Constitution and Functions) Bill, 1996; (ii) The Maharashtra Tax on Entry of Motor Vehicles into Local Areas (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (iii) The Bombay Civil Courts (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (iv) The Bombay Entertainments Duty (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (v) The Maharashtra Godawari Marathwada Irrigation Development Corporation Bill, 1998; (vi) The Maharashtra (Second Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 1998; and (vii) The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy and Amendment) Bill, 1998.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of Sarvashri Homi Jehangir Teleyarkhan and Ravindra Narayan Raut and Liladhar Shamji Vyas, former Ministers. Obituary references were also made to the passing away of Sarvashri Dattatraya Govind Valse-Patil, Vithal Laxman Reelkar, Aabasaheb Baburao Killedar, Vishnu Gopal Valvi, Ramchandra Jagoba Gharphalkar-Kadu, Baburao Bapuji Tanpure, Dhanji Maharu Bonde, Vijaysinh Ramrao Daphale, Shankar Dhondi Patil and Smt. Prabhavatibai Jayvant Jakatdar and Smt. Kamala Raman, all former members of the House.

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

The Maharashtra Legislative Council, which met for its Second Session of the year 1998 on 20 July 1998, was prorogued on 7 August 1998. The House had 13 sittings in all.

Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman: On 24 July 1998, Prof. N.S. Pharande of the BJP was unanimously elected as the Chairman of the Council. Shri Vasant Davkhare of the Congress(I) was unanimously elected as the Deputy Chairman.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Maharashtra District Planning Committee

* Material contributed by the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat

** Material contributed by the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat

(Constitution and Functions) Bill, 1998; (ii) The Bombay Civil Courts (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (iii) The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy and Amendment) Bill, 1998; (iv) The Maharashtra University of Health Sciences Bill, 1998; and (v) The Maharashtra Godawari Marathwada Irrigation Development Corporation Bill, 1998.

The following Money Bills as passed by the Assembly were also considered by the House: (i) The Maharashtra Tax on Entry of Motor Vehicles into Local Areas (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (ii) The Bombay Entertainments Duty (Amendment) Bill, 1998; and (iii) The Maharashtra (Second Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 1998.

Financial business: During the Session, the Minister of State for Finance presented the Supplementary Demands for the year 1998-99 on 21 July 1998. The discussion on the Supplementary Demands was held on 27, 29 and 30 July 1998.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of former Minister Shri Ravindra Narayan Raut and Sarvashri Kamla Prasad, Parmanand Dube, Vithal Laxman Reelkar, Vithal Tukaram Nagpure, Ramchandra Jagoba Gharphalkar-Kadu, Mohanlal Deepchand Golecha and Shankarrao Vithalrao Lingras, all former members.

MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Fourth Mizoram Legislative Assembly which commenced its First Session on 8 December 1998 was adjourned *sine die* on 10 December 1998. The House was prorogued on 14 December 1998. There were 3 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Mizoram, Shri A. Padmanabhan addressed the House on 9 December 1998. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address, which was moved by Pu Sanghmingthanga H. Pautu and seconded by Pu Lalthan Kunga, was adopted by the House.

Election of Speaker/Deputy Speaker: During the Session, Pu R. Lalawia was elected unopposed as the Speaker on 4 December 1998. Pu Vanlahlana was elected unopposed as the Deputy Speaker on 8 December 1998.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were

* Material contributed by the Mizoram Legislative Assembly Secretariat

made to the passing away of a sitting member Pu Hari Kristo Chakma and Pi Rokungi, a former member of the House.

NAGALAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Ninth Nagaland Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Second Session on 21 July 1998, was adjourned *sine die* on 24 July 1998. The House had 3 sittings in all.

Election of Deputy Speaker: During the Session, Shri Joshua Sumi was elected unanimously as the Deputy Speaker.

Legislative business: During the Session, the Nagaland Appropriation (No. 7) Bill, 1998 was passed by the House.

Financial business: During the Session, the general discussion on the Budget for the year 1998-99 took place. The Chief Minister, Shri S.C. Jamir replied to the discussion. The discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants for the year 1998-99 were also completed.

WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Twelfth West Bengal Legislative Assembly commenced its Sixth Session on 8 December 1998 and was adjourned *sine-die* on 24 December 1998. The House was prorogued on 28 December 1998. There were 11 sittings in all.

Legislative business: During the Session, ten Bills were introduced in the House and one was reported back by the select committee and all were passed after discussion.

Obituary references: On 8 December 1998, obituary references were made to the passing away of former Chief Minister of Tripura, Shri Dasarath Deb; State Minister, Smt. Chhaya Bera and Shri Santi Ranjan Ganguly, a sitting member of the Legislative Assembly. Obituary references were also made to the passing away of some other leading personalities.

* Material contributed by the Nagaland Legislative Assembly Secretariat

** Material contributed by the West Bengal Legislative Assembly Secretariat

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APPENDIX I
STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK
TRANSACTIONED DURING THE THIRD SESSION
OF THE TWELFTH LOK SABHA

1. PERIOD OF THE SESSION	30 November 1998 to 23 December 1998	
2. NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD		18
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	99 Hours 36 minutes	
4. NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD		Nil
5. GOVERNMENT BILLS		
(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session		11
(ii) Introduced		19
(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Rajya Sabha		6
(iv) Referred to Joint Committee		1
(v) Referred to Departmentally-related Standing Committees by Speaker/Chairman, Rajya Sabha		3
(vi) Reported by Standing Committees		9
(vii) Discussed		15
(viii) Passed		14
(ix) Part-discussed		1
(x) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any recommendation		6
(xi) Pending at the end of the Session		22
6. PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS		
(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session		56
(ii) Introduced		55
(iii) Discussed		3
(iv) Withdrawn		2
(v) Part-discussed		1
(vi) Pending at the end of the Session		109
7. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)		
(i) Notices received		117
(ii) Admitted		5
(iii) Discussions held		2
(iv) Part-discussed		2
8. NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 197 (Calling Attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance)		2

9. STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS UNDER RULE 372	18
10. MOTION OF NO-CONFIDENCE IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS	Nil
11. HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS HELD	3
12. STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notices received	40
(ii) Admitted	40
(iii) Moved	3
(iv) Adopted	1
(v) Negatived	1
(vi) Withdrawn	1
13. RESOLUTIONS PLACED BEFORE THE HOUSE BY THE SPEAKER	Nil
14. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	Nil
15. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Received	3*
(ii) Admitted	3
(iii) Part-discussed	1 (Part-discussed during the last Session)
16. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
(i) Notices received	4
(ii) Admitted	4
(iii) Part-discussed	1 (was discussed during the last Session)
17. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
(i) Notices received	242
(ii) Admitted	83
18. MOTION REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULES	Nil
19. NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES CREATED, IF ANY, DURING THE SESSION	
20. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED DURING THE SESSION	13, 059
21. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND THE DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	1,322 Passes on 10 December 1998
22. NUMBER OF ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS	47
Consent withheld by the Speaker outside the House	47
23. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
(i) Starred	360
(ii) Unstarred	4092
(iii) Short Notice Questions	2

* Private Members Resolutions were not transacted during the Session

24. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held during the period 1 October to 31 December 1998	No. of Reports presented
1	2	3	4
i)	Business Advisory Committee	3	3
ii)	Committee on Absence of Members	1	1
iii)	Committee on Public Undertakings	9	1
iv)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	2	3
v)	Committee on Petitions	2	1
vi)	Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions	—	—
vii)	Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	6	8
viii)	Committee on Privileges	—	—
ix)	Committee on Government Assurances	—	—
x)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	2	2
xi)	Estimates Committee	5	4
xii)	General Purposes Committee	1	—
xiii)	House Committee	—	—
	a) Accommodation Sub-Committee		
	b) Sub-Committee on Amenities		
xiv)	Public Accounts Committee	—	—
xv)	Railway Convention Committee	2	1
xvi)	Rules Committee	—	—
JOINT/SELECT COMMITTEES			
i)	Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	2	1
STANDING COMMITTEES			
i)	Committee on Agriculture	—	—
ii)	Committee on Communications	—	—
iii)	Committee on Defence	—	—
iv)	Committee on Energy	—	—
	Sub Committee	5	1 (12 Action Taken)
v)	Committee on External Affairs	—	—
vi)	Committee on Finance	5	2
vii)	Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution	4	3 (Action Taken)
viii)	Committee on Labour and Welfare	2	—
ix)	Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals	—	—
x)	Committee on Railways	—	—
xi)	Committee on Urban and Rural Development	11	2
xii)	Committee on the Empowerment of Women	2	—
25.	NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE		7
26.	PETITIONS PRESENTED		1
27.	NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN, WITH DATE		1

on 1.12.1998

APPENDIX II**STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED
DURING THE ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIFTH
SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA**

1. PERIOD OF THE SESSION	30 November to 23 December 1998	
2. NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD		18
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	101 hours and 23 minutes	
4. NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD		5
5. GOVERNMENT BILLS		
(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session		35
(ii) Introduced		5
(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha		13
(iv) Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment		NII
(v) Referred to Select Committee by the Rajya Sabha		NII
(vi) Referred to Joint Committee by the Rajya Sabha		NII
(vii) Referred to the Departmentally related Standing Committees		5
(viii) Reported by Select Committee		NII
(ix) Reported by Joint Committee		1
(x) Reported by the Departmentally related Standing Committees		9
(xi) Discussed		17
(xii) Passed		11
(xiii) Withdrawn		NII
(xiv) Negatived		NII
(xv) Part-discussed		NII
(xvi) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any recommendation		6
(xvii) Discussion postponed		NII
(xviii) Pending at the end of the Session		36
6. PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS		
(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session		114
(ii) Introduced		25
(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha		NII

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101

(iv) Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment and laid on the Table	NI
(v) Reported by Joint Committee	NI
(vi) Discussed	4
(vii) Withdrawn	3
(viii) Passed	NI
(ix) Negatived	NI
(x) Circulated for eliciting opinion	NI
(xi) Part-discussed	1
(xii) Discussion postponed	NI
(xiii) Motion for circulation of Bill negatived	NI
(xiv) Referred to Select Committee	NI
(xv) Lapsed due to retirement death of Member-in-charge of the Bill	NI
(xvi) Pending at the end of the Session	136
7. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 176 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
(i) Notices received	63
(ii) Admitted	20 (on 4 subjects)
(iii) Discussions held	2
NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 180 (Calling attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance).	
8. STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS	5
9. HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS HELD	NI
10. STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notices received	26
(ii) Admitted	26 (on 5 subjects)
(iii) Moved	1
(iv) Adopted	NI
(v) Negatived	1
(vi) Withdrawn	NI
11. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notices received	1
(ii) Admitted	1
(iii) Moved	1
(iv) Adopted	1
12. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Received	4
(ii) Admitted	4
(iii) Discussed	NI
(iv) Withdrawn	NI

(v) Negatived	NH
(vi) Adopted	NH
(vii) Part-discussed	NH
(viii) Discussion postponed	NH
13. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
(i) Notices received	4
(ii) Admitted	4
(iii) Moved	1
(iv) Adopted	1
(v) Part-discussed	NH
14. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
(i) Received	78
(ii) Admitted	78
(iii) Moved	NH
(iv) Adopted	NH
(v) Part-discussed	NH
(vi) Negatived	NH
(vii) Withdrawn	NH
15. MOTIONS REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULE	
(i) Received	NH
(ii) Admitted	NH
(iii) Moved	NH
(iv) Adopted	NH
(v) Negatived	NH
(vi) Withdrawn	NH
(vii) Part-discussed	NH
(viii) Lapsed	NH
16. NUMBER, NAME AND DATE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CREATED, IF ANY	NH
17. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED	859
18. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS	1,822
19. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	136 on 23.12.98
20. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND DATE	213 on 15.12.98
21. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
(i) Starred	360
(ii) Unstarred	2,790
(iii) Short Notice Questions	NH
22. DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRIES	NH

23. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

S.J. No.	Name of the Committee	No. of meetings held during the period 1 October to 31 December 1998	No. of Reports presented during the 185th Session
1	2	3	4
i)	Business Advisory Committee	3	NIL
ii)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	3	2
iii)	Committee on Petitions	1	2
iv)	Committee on Privileges	NIL	NIL
v)	Committee on Rules	NIL	NIL
vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	7	1
vii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	1	2
viii)	General Purposes Committee	1	NIL
ix)	House Committee	1	NIL
DEPARTMENTALLY-RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES ON:			
x)	Commerce	3	3
xi)	Home Affairs	4	4
xii)	Human Resource Development	5	10
xiii)	Industry	3	4
xiv)	Science & Technology, Environment & Forests	4	3
xv)	Transport and Tourism	1	1
OTHER COMMITTEES			
xvi)	Ethics Committee	5	1
xvii)	Committee on Provision of Computers to the Members of Rajya Sabha	3	NIL
xviii)	Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme	1	Nil
24.	NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE		02
25.	PETITIONS PRESENTED		Nil
26.	NAME OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN WITH DATES		

Sl.No.	Name of Member	Party	Date
Nil			

27. OBITUARY REFERENCES

Sl.No.	Name	Sitting member/Ex-member/dignitary
1.	Shri G.C. Bhattacharya	Ex-member
2.	Shri Banamali Babu	-do-
3.	Shri Ramnath Anandilal Podar	-do-
4.	Shri Sushil Chand Mohunta	-do-

APPENDIX III

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 1998

Legislature	Duration	Sittings	Govt. Bills	Private Bills	Starred Questions	Unstarred Questions	Short Notice Questions
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
STATES							
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	16.11.98 to 28.11.98	11	13(10)	—	431(78)	(112)a	65(4)
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam L.A.	11.11.98 to 5.12.98	6	6(6)	—	458(120)	87(300)	14(14)
Bihar L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C.	21.12.98 to 24.12.98	4	(1)	—	336(324)	0(6)	99(96)
Delhi L.A.	14.12.98 to 17.12.98	4	—	—	—	—	—
Goa L.A.	30.11.98 to 30.11.98	1	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	372(302)	—
Haryana L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.	3.12.98 to 10.12.98	6	5(5)	—	193(103)b	10(6)	7
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.	29.10.98 to 11.11.98	10	8(8)	—	1241(150)	1019	12
Karnataka L.C.	29.10.98 to 11.11.98	8	14(13)	2	150(151)	361(263)	—
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Madhya Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.A.	20.7.98 to 7.8.98	13	1	—	—	3,023(485)(c)	2(150)d	—	—	15
Maharashtra L.C.	20.7.98 to 7.8.98	13	1	—	—	3023(485)(e)	2(150)(f)	—	—	15
Manipur L.A.	16.3.98 to 17.3.98	2	—	—	—	58(30)	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.	15.3.98 to 17.3.98	3	4(3)	—	—	100(97)	19(19)	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.	8.12.98 to 10.12.98	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	10.12.98 to 10.12.98	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Orissa L.A.	1.12.98 to 24.12.98	17	3(3)	—	—	2,202(1,459)	1,951(2,569)	—	—	33
Punjab L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	170(165)	117(113)	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.	23.11.98 to 28.11.98	6	21(21)	—	—	1,369(386)	(319)	—	—	1(1)
Tripura L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	18.9.98 to 23.9.98	3	4(1)	—	—	333(257)(g)	188(139)	—	—	160(128)(h)
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	—	—	—	—	—	2,242(1,642)(l)	897(720)	—	—	383(311)(j)
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES										
Pondicherry L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

**Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

Notes:

a) Notices given as starred questions are admitted as unstarred questions

b) 103 notices of starred questions excluding 28 notices which were classified as unstarred and 35 questions were bracketted or clubbed being identical

- c) (+bracketing): 390
- d) This includes questions which are originally tabled as starred question but converted as unstarred question
- e) Questions received as starred: 56
Questions received as unstarred: 201
- f) As short notices: 38
As starred: 32
As unstarred: 58
- g) As starred: 288
As unstarred: 1404
- h) As starred: 122
As unstarred: 189

APPENDIX III (Contd.)
COMMITTEES AT WORK/NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD AND NUMBER OF REPORTS
PRESENTED DURING THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 1998

STATES			
	9	Business Advisory Committee	
	10	Committee on Govt. Assurances	
	11	Committee on Petitions	
	12	Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions	
	13	Committee on Privileges	
	14	Committee on Public Undertakings	
	15	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	
	16	Committee on the Welfare of SC and ST	
	17	Estimates Committee	
	18	General Purposes Committee	
	19	House/Accommodation Committee	
	20	Library Committee	
	21	Public Accounts Committee	
	22	Rules Committee	
	23	Joint Select Committee	
	24	Other Committees	
Andhra Pradesh L.A.	1		19
Anurachal Pradesh L.A.	—		—
			11
			—
			3
			10
			8
			12
			10
			—
			—
			—
			6
			4
			—
			24(1)a

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Assam L.A.	1	2	2	—	1	—	4	—	2	1	—	1	4(1)	—	—	12(1)(b)
Bihar L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C.	1(1)	12	11	22	11	—	11	16	—	—	11	11	—	—	—	32(2)(c)
Delhi L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat L.A.	—	9	—	—	—	7	4	12	6	—	3	1	11	1	—	15(d)
Haryana L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.	1(1)	—	3	—	—	9(9)	—	13(5)	—	—	2	1	12(23)	—	—	—37(25)(e)
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.	3	8	7	—	13	9	14	15	8	—	5	—	8(1)	—	—	34(f)
Karnataka L.C.	2	15(1)	10(1)	1	9(1)	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	7	6	11(g)
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.C.	2(1)	1	3	2(2)	—	12(2)	8	20(1)	20(3)	—	—	—	16	—	—	51(3)(h)
Manipur L.A.**	1(1)	1	2	—	—	3	—	1	3	—	4	—	9	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.	1	9	6	—	—	—	4	6	4	—	2	5	—	—	—	2(i)
Mizoram L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A.	—	1(1)	—	—	—	1(1)	—	—	2(1)	—	—	—	1(1)	—	—	—

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Orissa L.A.	4	5	8	—	1	5	5	4	7	4	2	8	10(3)	—	—	12(1)(l)
Punjab L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	1	1	2	—	—	—
Skikim L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.	1	7(1)	172	—	—	6(7)	4	—	23	—	3	—	21(30)	—	—	—
Tripura L.A.	—	2	1	—	—	4	—	5	2	—	2	—	4	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	—	14	4	—	—	5	6	6	33	—	—	—	14	—	—	1(k)
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	245(l)
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES																
Pondicherry L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

- (a) Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-8 sittings; Sub Committee on Rules: 1 sitting; and Committee on Ethics-15 sittings and 1 report
- (b) Employment Review Committee-4 sittings and 1 report; Act Implementation Committee-2 sittings; Committee on OBC & MOBC-2 sittings; Departmentally-related Standing Committee on Education-1 sitting; on Development Department-2 sittings; and Empowerment of Women-1 sitting
- (c) Question and Call-attention Committee-11 sittings and 2 reports; Nivedan Committee-11 sittings; and Implementation Committee-10 sittings
- (d) Committee on Panchayati Raj-6 sittings; Committee on Welfare of Socially & Educationally Backward classes-3 sittings; Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-6 sittings
- (e) Revenue Committee-6 sittings and 2 reports; Agriculture & Horticulture Committee-5 sittings and 14 reports; General Administration Committee-7 sittings and 2 reports; Education Committee-6 sittings and 3 reports; Tourism Committee-7 sittings and 3 reports; and Health & Family Welfare Committee-6 sittings and 1 report
- (f) Backward Classes and Minorities-9 sittings; Women and Child Development-4 sittings; Paper Laid on the Table-1 sitting; Farmers Relief Committee-14 sittings and Sira Firing Incident Committee-6 sittings

- (g) House Committee on Government Purchase Policy-5 sittings
- (h) Committee on Welfare of Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes-10 sittings; Committee on Employment Guarantee Scheme-11 sittings; Committee on Leave of Absence of Members from sittings of the House-1 sitting and 1 report; Panchayati Raj-22 sittings and 2 reports, and Catering Committee-7 sittings
- (i) Committee on Empowerment of Women-2 sittings
- (j) House Committee on Prawn Culture-1 sitting; Sub-Committee of House Committee on Prawn Culture-2 sittings; House Committee on Women & Child Welfare-2 sittings; House Committee to Investigate Breach of Law & Order situation at R. Udaygiri-3 sittings; and House Committee to Inquire into Notice served to Shri S. Nayak, MLA by Executive Magistrate-3 sittings; and House Committee on Administrative Reforms-1 sitting
- (k) Question and Reference Committee-1 sitting
- (l) Vidhyai Samadhikar Samiti-3 sittings; Pradeshiya Vidyut Valvastha Sambandhi Samiti-21 sittings; Awasiya Parivad Sambandhi Janch Samiti-6 sittings; Vidhiya Evam Prashashkiya Vhamb Samiti-6 sittings; Vinishchay Sankalan Samiti-6 sittings; Prashan Evam Sandarbh Samiti-19 sittings; Dr.(Smt.) Indira Hirdyadesh, Sadasya, Vidhan Parishad Par Pranghatak Hamla Kiya Jane Tatha Lawaris Roop Se Aspatal Mein Bharti Karaye Jane Se Sambandhit Gathith Janch Samiti-19 sittings; Yachika Samiti-22 sittings; Sansadiya Adhyan Samiti-12 sittings; Lucknow Nagar Nigam Evam Vibhinya Pradhikarno Se Sambandhit Samiti-11 sittings; Niyam Punarkshan Samiti-6 sittings; Prashnow ka Kram Nirchharan Evam Prakriya Niyaman Samiti-23 sittings; Sansadiya Evam Samajik Sadbhav Samiti-21 sittings; and Visheshadhikar Samiti-29 sittings

APPENDIX IV**LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF
PARLIAMENT AND ASSENTED TO BY THE
PRESIDENT DURING THE PERIOD
1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 1998**

Sl. No.	Title of the Bill	Date of assent by the President
1	2	3
1.	The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 1998	21-12-1998

APPENDIX V**LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE
LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND THE
UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD****1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 1998****ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

1. The National Academy of Legal Studies and Research Bill, 1998
2. The Indian Stamp (Andhra Pradesh Second Amendment) Bill, 1998
3. The Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj (Second Amendment) Bill, 1998
4. The Andhra Pradesh Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 1998
5. The Andhra Pradesh Co-operative Societies (Second Amendment) Bill, 1998
6. The Andhra Pradesh (Agricultural Produce and Livestock) Markets (Amendment) Bill, 1998
7. The Andhra Pradesh Infrastructure Development Corporation Bill, 1998
8. The Andhra Pradesh Co-operative Societies (Third Amendment) Bill, 1998
9. The Andhra Pradesh Farmers' Management of Irrigation Systems (Amendment) Bill, 1998
10. The Andhra Pradesh Rural Electric Co-operative Societies (Temporary Provisions) Bill, 1998

BIHAR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Bihar Vinlyog (No. 4) Vidheyak, 1998

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Mysore Tobacco Company Limited (Acquisition of Shares) Bill, 1998
2. The Karnataka Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 1998
3. The Karnataka Public Libraries (Amendment) Bill, 1998
4. The Hyderabad Karnataka Area Development Board (Amendment) Bill, 1998
5. The Karnataka Excise (Second Amendment) Bill, 1998
6. The Karnataka Legislature Salaries, Pensions & Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 1998
7. The Karnataka Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 1998
8. The Karnataka Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 1998
9. The Karnataka Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 1998
10. The Tungabhadra Sugar (Devi Sugar) Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertaking) Bill, 1998
11. The Karnataka Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 1998

12. The Kamataka Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1998

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Maharashtra District Planning Committee (Constitution and Functions) Bill, 1996
2. The Maharashtra Tax on Entry of Motor Vehicles into Local Areas (Amendment) Bill, 1997
3. The Bombay Entertainments Duty (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *4. The Bombay Civil Courts (Amendment) Bill, 1998
5. The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy and Amendment) Bill, 1998
6. The Maharashtra (Second Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 1998
7. The Maharashtra Godawari Marathwada Irrigation Development Corporation Bill, 1998

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Meghalaya Transfer of Land (regulation) Amendment Bill, 1998
2. The Employees State Insurance (Extension to the Tribal Areas of Meghalaya) Bill, 1998
3. The Meghalaya Forest Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1998
4. The Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1998

ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Orissa Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1998
2. The Orissa Electricity Reform (Amendment) Bill, 1998
3. The Bihar and Orissa Excise (Orissa Amendment) Bill, 1998

PUNJAB VIDHAN SABHA

1. The Punjab Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 1999
2. The Punjab Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1999
3. The Court Fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 1999
4. The Punjab Affiliated College (Security of Service of Employees) (Amendment) Bill, 1999

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

- *1. The Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Bill, 1998
2. The Tamil Nadu Payment of Salaries (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *3. The Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling on Land) Third Amendment Bill, 1998
4. The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage (Second Amendment) Bill, 1998
5. The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage (Third Amendment) Bill, 1998
6. The Tamil Nadu Panchayat (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 1998

7. The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Second Amendment Bill, 1998
8. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 1998
9. The Tamil Nadu Entertainments Tax (Amendment) Amendment Bill, 1998
10. The Tamil Nadu Entertainments Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 1998
11. The Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Eve-Teasing Bill, 1998
12. The Tamil Nadu Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 1998
13. The Tamil Nadu Municipal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1998
14. The Tamil Nadu District Municipalities (Third Amendment and Validation) Bill, 1998
15. The Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies (Appointment of Special Officers) Second Amendment Bill, 1998
16. The Tamil Nadu Prohibition (Second Amendment) Bill, 1998
17. The Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 1998
18. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 1998
19. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Sixth Amendment) Bill, 1998
20. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Seventh Amendment) Bill, 1998
21. The Tamil Nadu Municipal Laws (Second Amendment) Bill, 1998
22. The Tamil Nadu Manual Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Work) Amendment Bill, 1998

APPENDIX VI

ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD
1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 1998

Sl. No.	Subject	Date of Promulgation	Date on which laid before the House	Date of cessation	Remarks
UNION GOVERNMENT					
1.	The Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998	27.10.1998	2.12.1998	8.1.1999	—
2.	The Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998	31.10.1998	2.12.1998	8.1.1999	—
3.	The Finance (No. 2) Amendment Ordinance, 1998	31.12.1998	—	—	—
STATE GOVERNMENTS					
ANDHRA PRADESH					
1.	The National Academy of Legal Studies and Research Ordinance, 1998	25.8.1998	16.11.1998	—	—
2.	The A.P. Municipalities (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 1998	30.8.1998	16.11.1998	—	—

3.	The A.P. Farmers' Management of Irrigation Systems (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998	10.9.1998	16.11.1998	—	—
4.	The A.P. Infrastructure Development Corporation Ordinance, 1998	13.9.1998	16.11.1998	—	—
5.	The A.P. Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998	22.10.1998	16.11.1998	—	—
			ASSAM		
1.	The Assam Agricultural Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998	20.7.1998	30.12.1998	—	—
2.	The Assam College Education (Provincialisation) Act Repealing Ordinance, 1998	9.6.1998	30.12.1998	—	—
3.	The Assam Junior College (Provincialisation) Act Repealing Ordinance, 1998	2.9.1998	30.12.1998	—	—
4.	The Assam Contingency fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998	20.10.1998	30.12.1998	—	—
5.	The Assam Prohibition of Ragging Ordinance, 1998	29.11.1998	30.12.1998	—	—

MAHARASHTRA						
1.	The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy and Amendment) Ordinance, 1998	1.5.1998	20.7.1998	30.8.1998	—	—
2.	The Bombay Entertainments Duty (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998	1.5.1998	20.7.1998	30.8.1998	—	—
3.	The Maharashtra University of Health Sciences Ordinance, 1998	3.6.1998	20.7.1998	30.8.1998	—	—
4.	The Maharashtra Contingency Fund (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 1998	3.6.1998	20.7.1998	30.8.1998	—	—
5.	The Maharashtra Pre-School Centres (Regulation of Admission) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998	2.7.1998	20.7.1998	12.8.1998	—	—
6.	The Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (Continuance) Ordinance, 1998	20.7.1998	29.8.1998	9.10.1998	—	—
7.	The Maharashtra Pre-School Centres (Regulation of Admission) (Amendment and Continuance) Ordinance, 1998	20.7.1998	29.8.1998	9.10.1998	—	—

3.	The U.P. Post Graduate Medical Education (Reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998	20.10.1998	9.2.1999	23.3.1999	—
4.	The U.P. High School and Intermediate College (Payment of Salaries of Teachers and other Employees) (Amendment) (Second) Ordinance, 1998	30.10.1998	9.2.1999	23.3.1999	—
5.	The U.P. Krishi Utpadan Mandi (Sanshodhan) (Dwitiya) Adhyadesh, 1998	31.10.1998	9.2.1999	23.3.1999	—
6.	The U.P. Rajarshi Tandon Open University Ordinance, 1998	2.11.1998	9.2.1999	23.3.1999	—
7.	The U.P. Bhagirathi River Valley Authority Ordinance, 1998	12.11.1998	9.2.1999	23.3.1999	—
8.	The U.P. Gow-Sewa Ayog Adhyadesh, 1998	18.12.1998	9.2.1999	23.3.1999	—

APPENDIX VII

A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA
(AS ON 31 MARCH 1999)

Sl. States No.	Seats	BJP	INC	J.D	CPM	TMC(M)	DMK	SP	TDP	SHIV SENA	BSP	CPI	SAD	SMP	ORS	IND/NOMINATED	TOT-AL	VACANCIES
1. Andhra Pradesh	42	4	22	1	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	42	—
2. Arunachal Pradesh	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
3. Assam	14	1	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	14	—
4. Bihar	54	20	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	18(d)	—	54	—
5. Goa	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
6. Gujarat	26	19	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—
7. Haryana	10	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	5(e)	—	10	—
8. Himachal Pradesh	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
9. Jammu & Kashmir	6	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3(f)	—	6	—
10. Karnataka	28	13	9	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3(g)	—	28	—
11. Kerala	20	—	8	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	4(h)	—	20	—
12. Madhya Pradesh	40	30	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	—
13. Maharashtra	48	4	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	5(i)	—	48	—
14. Manipur	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1(j)	—	2	—
15. Meghalaya	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
16. Mizoram	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
17. Nagaland	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
18. Orissa	21	7	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9(k)	—	21	—

- (e) Haryana Vikas Party-1; Indian National Lok Dal-4
- (f) National Conference-3
- (g) Lok Shakti-3
- (h) Muslim League-2; Revolutionary Socialist Party-1; Kerala Congress (M)-1
- (i) Republican Party of India-4; Peasants and Workers Party-1
- (j) Manipur State Congress Party-1
- (k) Biju Janata Dal-9
- (l) All India Indira Congress (Secular)-1
- (m) Sikkim Democratic Front-1
- (n) All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-18; Pattali Makkal Katchchi-4; Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-3; Janata Party-1
- (o) Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya)-1
- (p) West Bengal Trinamool Congress-7; Revolutionary Socialist Party-4; All India Forward Block-2

B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA

(AS ON 12 JANUARY 1999)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
		Seats	INC	BJP	CPI(M)	TDP	JD	RJD	SP	CPI	DMK	AIA-DMK(I)	Shiv Sena	SAD	Others	Inden-	Total	Vacancies	
1.	STATES																		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18	3	1	1	11	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	18	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
3.	Assam	7	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3(e)	—	7	—	—
4.	Bihar	22	2	3	—	—	3	9	—	3	—	—	—	—	1(b)	1	22	—	—
5.	Goa	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
6.	Gujarat	11	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	11	—	—
7.	Haryana	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2(c)	—	5	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(d)	—	3	—	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3(e)	—	4	—	—
10.	Karnataka	12	6	1	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—
11.	Kerala	9	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3(f)	—	9	—	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	16	10	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	—
13.	Maharashtra	19	6	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	1(g)	3	19	—	—
14.	Manipur	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
16.	Mizoram	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
17.	Nagaland	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
18.	Orissa	10	6	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3(h)	—	10	—	—

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19. Punjab		7	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	1	7	—
20. Rajasthan		10	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
21. Sikkim		1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(0)	—	1	—
22. Tamil Nadu		18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6	6	—	—	4(0)	2	18	—
23. Tripura		1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
24. Uttar Pradesh		34	3	15	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	4(k)	4	34	—
25. West Bengal		16	1	—	11	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3(0)	—	16	—
26. UNION TERRITORIES																		
Delhi		3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Pondicherry		1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Nominated		12	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	12	—
TOTAL		245	64	45	17	11	9	9	9	7	7	6	5	5	29	22	245	—

(a) A.G.P.-2; A.S.D.C.-1

(b) J.M.M.-1

(c) I.N.L.D.-1; H.V.P.-1

(d) H.V.C.-1

(e) J&K N.C.-3

(f) M.L.-2; K.C.-1

(g) M.V.A.-1

(h) B.J.D.-3

(i) S.S.P.-1

(j) T.M.C.-3; A.I.A.D.M.K. (II)-1

(k) B.S.P.-4

(l) F.B.-2; R.S.P.-1

● Excluding Speaker

- * Information received from the State/Union territory Legislature contained NIL report.
- ** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislature
- a) Telugu Desam Party-217; Majlis Batchao Tahreek-1; All India Majlis-Itehad-Ul-Muslimeen-2; NTR Telugu Desam Party(LP)-1; and Nominated 1
- b) Asom Gana Parishad-63; Autonomous State Demand Committee-5; and U.M.F.-2
- c) Rashtriya Janata Dal-26; MCC-1; and Samata-1
- d) Goa Rajiv Congress-6, and Maharashtra Gomantak Party-8
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