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* Appendices I and II—Statement showing the work transacted during the Second Session of the Eleventh Lok Sabha and Statement showing the work transacted during the One Hundred and Eighty-fourth Session of the Rajya Sabha, respectively—will be included in the December 1998 issue of the *Journal* (Vol.XLIV, No.4)

EDITORIAL NOTE

India's freedom struggle has been a remarkable saga in the annals of world history. Men and women from every walk of life rose in unison against the alien rulers and the perils of thralldom. The people of India stood as one in the non-violent struggle irrespective of their caste or creed, religion or region. The epic struggle eventually led to the dawn of freedom on the Indian horizon on 15 August 1947. Independent India shall ever be grateful to all those who suffered in the cause of the freedom of the motherland. In the Parliament House Complex stand statues of several eminent freedom fighters and makers of modern India. To these were added the statues of two more illustrious sons of India, Shri K. Kamaraj and Prof. N.G. Ranga, in the Golden Jubilee Year of Independence.

On 15 July 1998, the Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee unveiled the statue of the veteran freedom fighter, eminent parliamentarian, distinguished political leader and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Shri Kumarasami Kamaraj in the precincts of Parliament House. At the function held in the Central Hall subsequently, the distinguished gathering was addressed by the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant; the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; and the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri V.K. Ramamurthy. We carry in this issue of the *Journal* the texts of the Addresses by the dignitaries on the occasion.

On 27 July 1998, the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant, unveiled the statue of the renowned freedom fighter and eminent parliamentarian, Prof. N.G. Ranga, in Parliament House. Later, in the Central Hall, the distinguished gathering was addressed by Shri Krishan Kant; the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; and the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu. The texts of the Addresses by these dignitaries are also included in this issue of the *Journal*.

One of the remarkable features of the Twelfth Lok Sabha has been the presence of a very large number of members who are new entrants. There are around 50 members with no previous legislative experience and about 200 members who are first-timers in Parliament. Time and again, utmost stress has been laid on organising Orientation Programmes for new members so as to enable them to get themselves familiarized

with the operational mechanics of our parliamentary institutions. The Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) has been organising such Orientation Programmes for new members of the Lok Sabha and members of State Legislatures. In line with this, an Orientation Programme for the new members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha was organised by the BPST from 9 to 22 July 1998, which was inaugurated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi. The Programme consisted of interactive discussion sessions on topics of parliamentary interest. Discussion on each topic was initiated by experienced parliamentarians and other experts. The text of the Inaugural Address delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, at the Programme is included in this issue of the *Journal*.

In modern times, Parliaments all over the world have been assuming added responsibilities in response to the growing hopes and aspirations of the people. Their role and functions have increased manifold, commensurate with the unprecedented growth in the range, magnitude and complexity of governmental activity. Many Parliaments have evolved a chain of Committees to cope with the emerging needs. In India, Parliament transacts a great deal of its business through Parliamentary Committees which are in fact microcosms and extensions of the House. Besides performing those functions which are delegated to them and which the House by itself is not adequately equipped to perform, viz., finding out the facts of a case, examining witnesses, sifting evidence and drawing up reasoned recommendations, the Parliamentary Committees assist the House in its principal task of ensuring executive accountability to the Legislature. These Committees also provide additional time to the members for detailed deliberations on the legislative and financial business of the House. In Indian Parliament, there are 45 Parliamentary Committees of which 24 are Joint Committees of the two Houses, and 9 belong to the Rajya Sabha and 12 to the Lok Sabha. We include in this issue of the *Journal* an article by Shri G.C. Malhotra, Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat, titled "Parliamentary Committees, with Special Reference to Departmentally Related Standing Committees" wherein the author discusses the role and functions performed by the Parliamentary Committees in India. The study presents a detailed analysis of the evolution and growth of the seventeen Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs) which were set up in 1993. The successful functioning of these subject-based Committees covering under their jurisdiction all the Ministries and Departments of the Union Government has been analysed through several statistical tables. Beyond the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, the author has taken into consideration the performance of Subject Committees established so far in various State Legislatures also.

The Constituent Assembly of India had a galaxy of eminent personalities as its members. Women members of the Constituent Assembly played as much a significant role in the framing of the Constitution as their male counterparts. The areas of their interest in the debates of the Constituent Assembly cover not only the issues concerning the uplift of women but also other issues of national and international importance. We include in this issue of the *Journal* an article titled 'Women Members in the Constituent Assembly of India' by Dr. Naresh Singh, Officer on Special Duty in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly. The statistical analysis by the author enumerates the representation of women members in the Constituent Assembly from various Provinces/States and their remarkable contributions in framing the supreme document of our nation. The article would be of interest in highlighting the role of the women members of the Constituent Assembly who took an active part in the proceedings of the Constitution making body and made effective use of every available opportunity to present their viewpoints on various matters.

Information Technology continues to have not only an enormous influence on the global economy, but also on Governments and political parties. To deliberate, discuss and take decisions, Parliament needs non-partisan, factual, objective and full information. The Parliament of India, like Parliaments elsewhere in the world, has taken several steps in developing appropriate technology to assist its members in the effective discharge of their duties. This issue of the *Journal* carries a short note titled, 'Applications of Computers in Indian Parliament'. The note, contributed by the Parliament Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, describes the steady growth of computerisation in our Parliament. Parliament Library made a modest beginning towards automation in December 1985, when a computer based information service, Parliament Library Information System (PARLIS), was set up to cater to the instant information needs of members of Parliament as also of other users of the Library. Since then, the computerisation programme has taken a quantum jump. In this context, we are delighted to inform our readers that the *Journal of Parliamentary Information* is now available on-line at the Parliament of India's website, <http://www.alfa.nic.in>

Besides, we carry in this issue of the *Journal* our other regular Features, viz. Parliamentary Events and Activities, Procedural Matters, Parliamentary and Constitutional Developments, Sessional Review, Documents of Constitutional and Parliamentary Interest and Recent Literature of Parliamentary Interest. Also included in this issue of the *Journal* is a

summary of the book *Reorganisation of India's Federal Polity*, authored by Kuldeep Fadia.

We felicitate Sarvashri Chowna Mein and Setong Seva on their election as the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, respectively, of the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

We have been constantly endeavouring to make the *Journal* more useful and informative. We would greatly welcome suggestions for its further improvement. We also welcome practice and problem-oriented non-partisan articles in the realm of parliamentary procedures and institutions from members of Parliament and State Legislatures, scholars and others interested in the practice of parliamentary democracy.

—S. Gopalan
Editor

ADDRESSES AT THE UNVEILING OF THE STATUE OF SHRI K. KAMARAJ

On 15 July 1998, a statue of the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Shri Kumarasami Kamaraj was unveiled in the precincts of Parliament House by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The statue has been sculpted by the well-known artist, Dr. Mani Nagappa and donated by Thiru Vazhappadi K. Ramamurthy, President, Tamizhaga Rajiv Congress. The ceremony was followed by a meeting in the Central Hall of Parliament House which was attended by a distinguished gathering. The function was addressed by the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant; the Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; and the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri V.K. Ramamurthy.

We reproduce below the texts of the Addresses delivered by the dignitaries on the occasion.

—Editor

ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS, SHRI VAZHAPPADI K. RAMAMURTHY

His Excellency, Vice-President of India and Chairman of Rajya Sabha; Honourable Prime Minister; Honourable Speaker, His Excellency, Shri R. Venkataraman, Former President of India; Honourable Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, President, AICC; Honourable Ministers, Honourable Leaders of Different Political Parties in Parliament, Honourable Members of Parliament and Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Tamizhaga Rajiv Congress, first of all, I welcome you all for unveiling the statue of Bharat Ratna *Perunthalaivar* late Shri Kamaraj. Today, it is coinciding with his 96th birth day, and we are proud and it is our privilege to extend our warmest welcome.

India's freedom struggle attracted almost every section of society. The nationalist fervour gripped the rich, the poor, the strong, the weak, both in the upper strata of society and lower, men and women without any distinction of caste, creed, religion or region. Into the waters of freedom struggle, many plunged regardless of the sacrifices, the suffering and the distress facing them. The late Kamaraj who belonged to the poorer among the poor people of India, threw himself in a frenzy; right

from the agitation against the Rowlatt Act till the final Quit India Struggle. Kamaraj participated in every one of the struggles for freedom initiated by Gandhiji.

Even in his younger days, Kamaraj was the great organizer and he was largely responsible for organizing every one of these movements in his native place, Virudhunagar. So popular was Kamaraj with the masses that without any facility and advantage, he was elected as the Chairman of the Municipal Council of Virudhunagar.

Former Prime Minister Nehru once said of Kamaraj that if a person without means, money, formal education and social status could lead the masses so effectively, then there must be some strange power in him. That hidden quality was none other than his total identification with the masses. At all times, he was concerned with the weaker sections of the society, their distress, their sufferings and their problems. He had an uncanny capacity to read the minds of the masses and to know exactly what they wanted. Often-times, he used to say that he was able to see, as a photograph, the thoughts that are passing through the minds of the people while addressing public meetings.

Kamaraj was no orator but he was the most convincing and persuasive speaker in the mother tongue. This capacity to read the minds of the people enabled him to win the confidence, appreciation and affection of the masses.

Kamaraj was a nationalist to the core. To him, national integration and national unity were articles of faith. He fought against the fissiparous tendencies and divisive forces like caste, creed, language or religion. He regarded national unity as a sacred trust which every patriotic citizen must protect and preserve.

During the ten years that Kamaraj was the Chief Minister of the then State of Madras, the State achieved all round growth and development. Rural development by way of schools, roads, health care, mid-day meals for school children and rural employment, took a leap forward. He had a Cabinet of only eight ministers and his administration achieved a reputation of efficiency.

If the bureaucracy pleaded that the rules did not permit any progressive or welfare measures, Shri Kamaraj used to ask them to amend the rules. At the same time, he had a very high regard for the bureaucracy and treated the bureaucracy with utmost consideration and earnestness. He would never decide any issue without looking to the other side. Even to the most insistent representation he would say, 'Let us see', or *Parkalam* in Tamil. Kamaraj had the foresight to realise that the concen-

tration of talented people in political offices and administration had led to a vacuum in the party organisational work, particularly in the rural areas. It was with a genuine desire to see some of the party leaders revert to organisational work that he proposed the well known 'Kamaraj Plan'. Many people affected by it were annoyed with him and sooner or later came back to office. It was only Kamaraj who left the office of the Chief Minister under the Plan but never came back to the office.

When Kamaraj was elected as the President of the All India Congress Committee, in about a year, a great challenge to his ability came up in the shape of the demise of Prime Minister Nehru. Both in India and abroad people used to ask repeatedly the question, 'After Nehru who?' Detractors of India used to gleefully predict that India would disintegrate. Yet, there was some apprehension that some political confusion might arise in this country. The task of effecting a smooth succession fell upon the Congress President Kamaraj. The way it was handled and the smooth succession achieved is within the knowledge of the present generation. Kamaraj's reputation soared high in the country and abroad.

Within a short time, Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri died, and Kamaraj, the President of the Congress, was able to arrange a smooth transition. Countries like the Soviet Union and the U.S.A. took note of the great achievement and they invited him to visit their countries. Kamaraj was a man of principles and seldom compromised in such matters. He did not agree with the imposition of the Emergency. He never sought any office. In fact, it was Panditji who, as President of the Congress, decided that Kamaraj should himself contest the election when the leadership of Rajaji was to be changed in 1954.

He was a man of exemplary courage. He died a *Sanyasi* without any property or assets. Let us hope that his life will inspire the future generation of politicians to emulate his example.

Thank you very much.

**ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA,
SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI**

Honourable Vice-President, Shri Krishan Kantji, Honourable Prime Minister Shri Vajpayeeji, Shri Ramamoorthyji, Honourable Ministers, Honourable Members of Parliament, Dignitaries and Friends:

It gives me immense pleasure to have the statue of Thiru Kumarasami Kamaraj installed in the precincts of Parliament House and I am indeed very happy to extend a warm welcome to you all on this occasion.

We are extremely grateful to the Honourable Vice-President for having graced this occasion, in spite of his hectic parliamentary schedule.

We are beholden to the Honourable Prime Minister for unveiling the statue of Shri Kamaraj in the Parliament House.

We are grateful to Thiru K. Ramamurthy, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas for having donated this life size statue of a great son of our nation. I congratulate Dr. Mani Nagappa for having made a piece that looks so real.

Shri Kamaraj was a unique personality in ways more than one. The saga of Kamaraj's life symbolises a spirit of sacrifice, courage of conviction, capacity to resist temptation, ability to withstand trials with dignity and above all the nobility to exercise power with humility.

Shri Kamaraj did not have the Western education nor a great legacy to fall back on. Kamaraj had only elementary education and could not go beyond, having lost his father at the tender age of six. It soon fell to his lot to support his family by taking up odd trades. But his heart was elsewhere. Young Kamaraj was drawn to political work and soon he jumped into our historic non-violent struggle for freedom under the banner of the Indian National Congress. He was imprisoned for two years during the Salt Satyagraha. He suffered imprisonment again in 1941, 1942 and 1945.

Starting as a grass-root worker, Kamaraj had an eventful political career, culminating in his becoming the President of the Congress. The journey had many ups and downs, triumphs and tragedies and other vagaries of politics. However, the man always came out of all these varied experiences with the same humility, with the same conviction and with the same courage.

Kamaraj was a man of the masses who drew comfort from his closeness to the people—the ordinary workers and voters. He was gifted with plenty of native intelligence. His approach was down to earth, his perception pragmatic and his method simple. He was remarkably free from any kind of complex or prejudice, ever receptive to new ideas and made himself available to people at any time of the day.

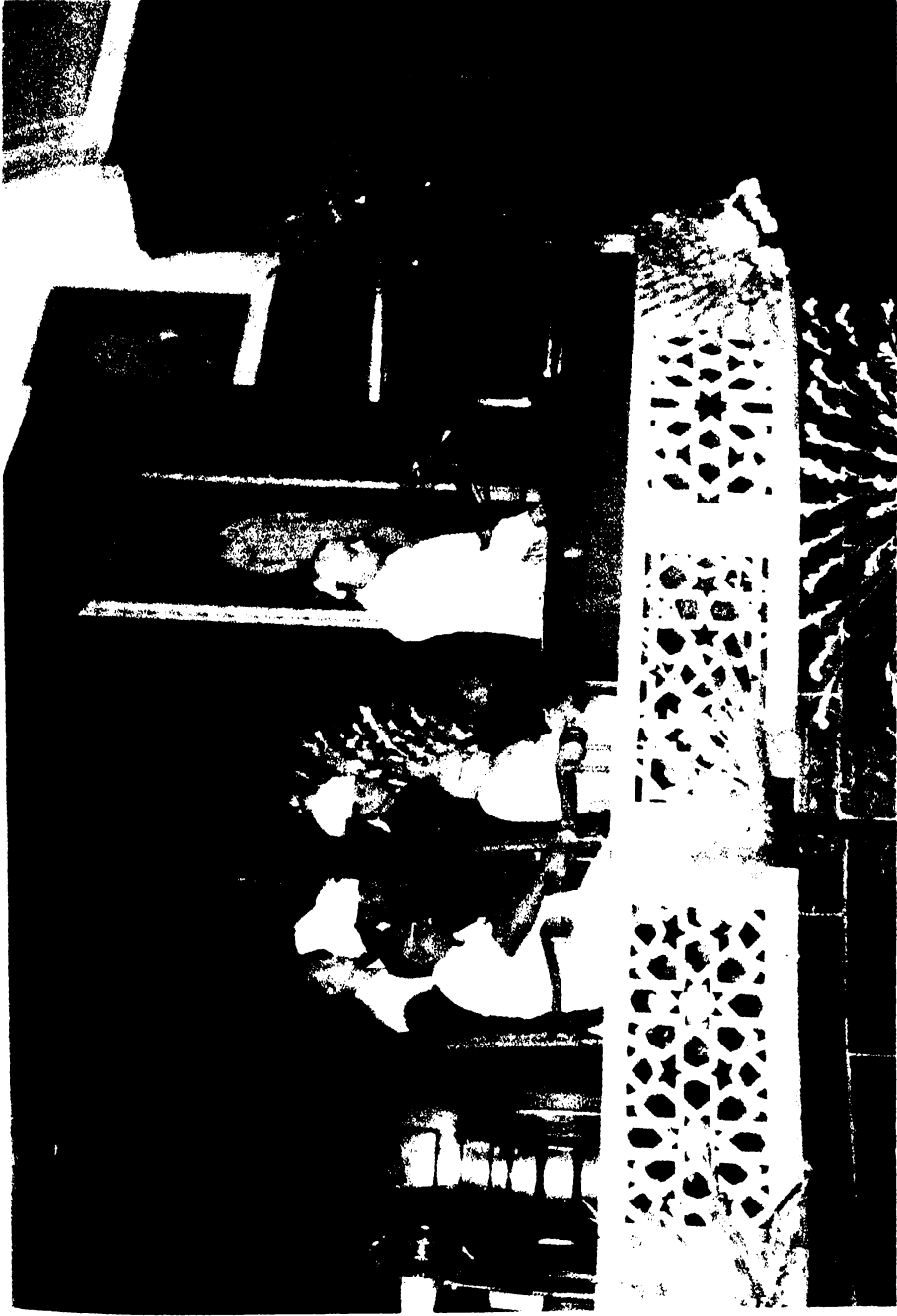
When he became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, he laid a firm foundation for modern Tamil Nadu and introduced many novel schemes and innovations in administration. The introduction of free primary education goes to his credit as the Chief Minister of Madras. When the Party fared badly at the elections, he had the courage to quit office and take up party work full time, thus paving the way for what is called the



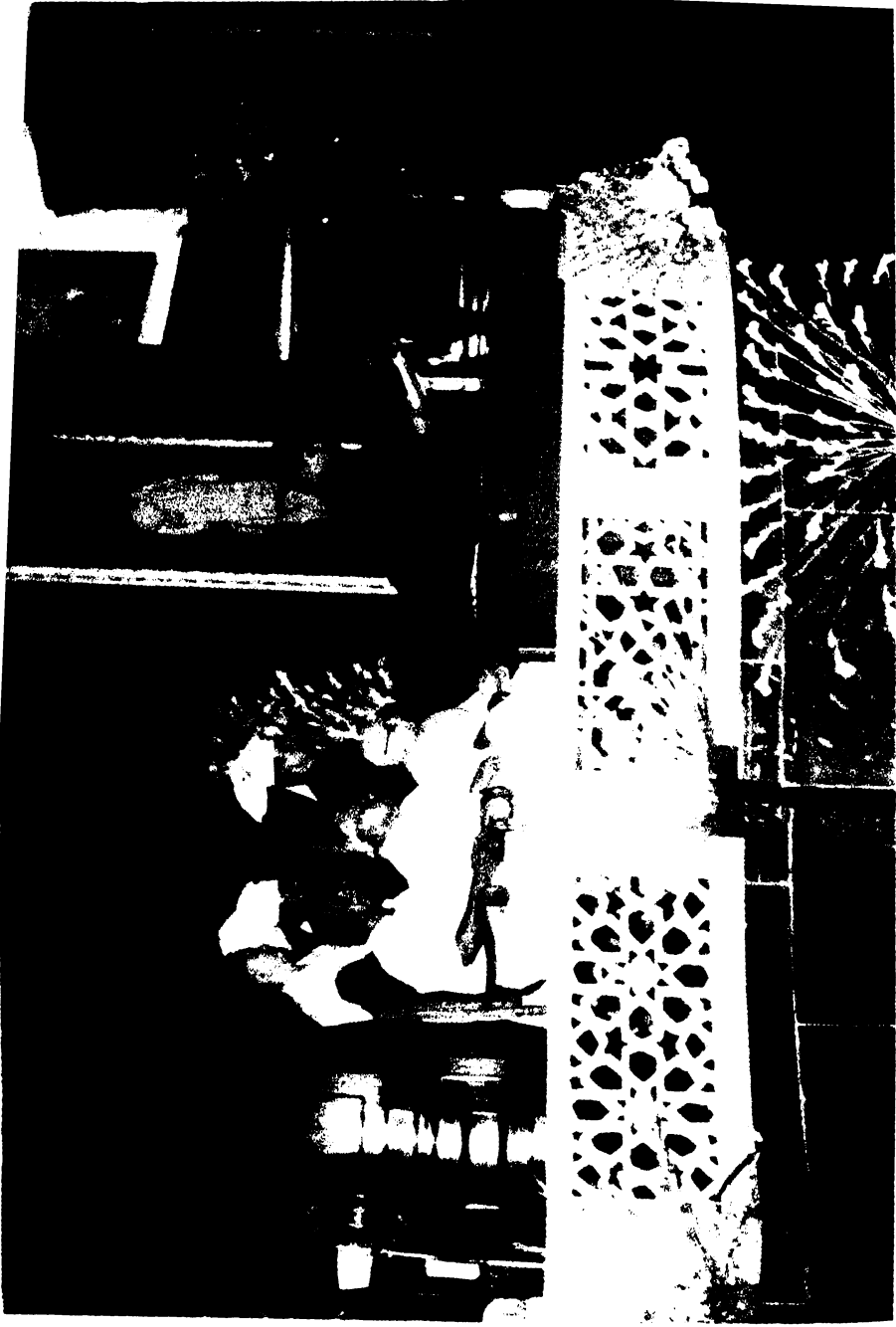
The Statue of Shri K. Kamaraj



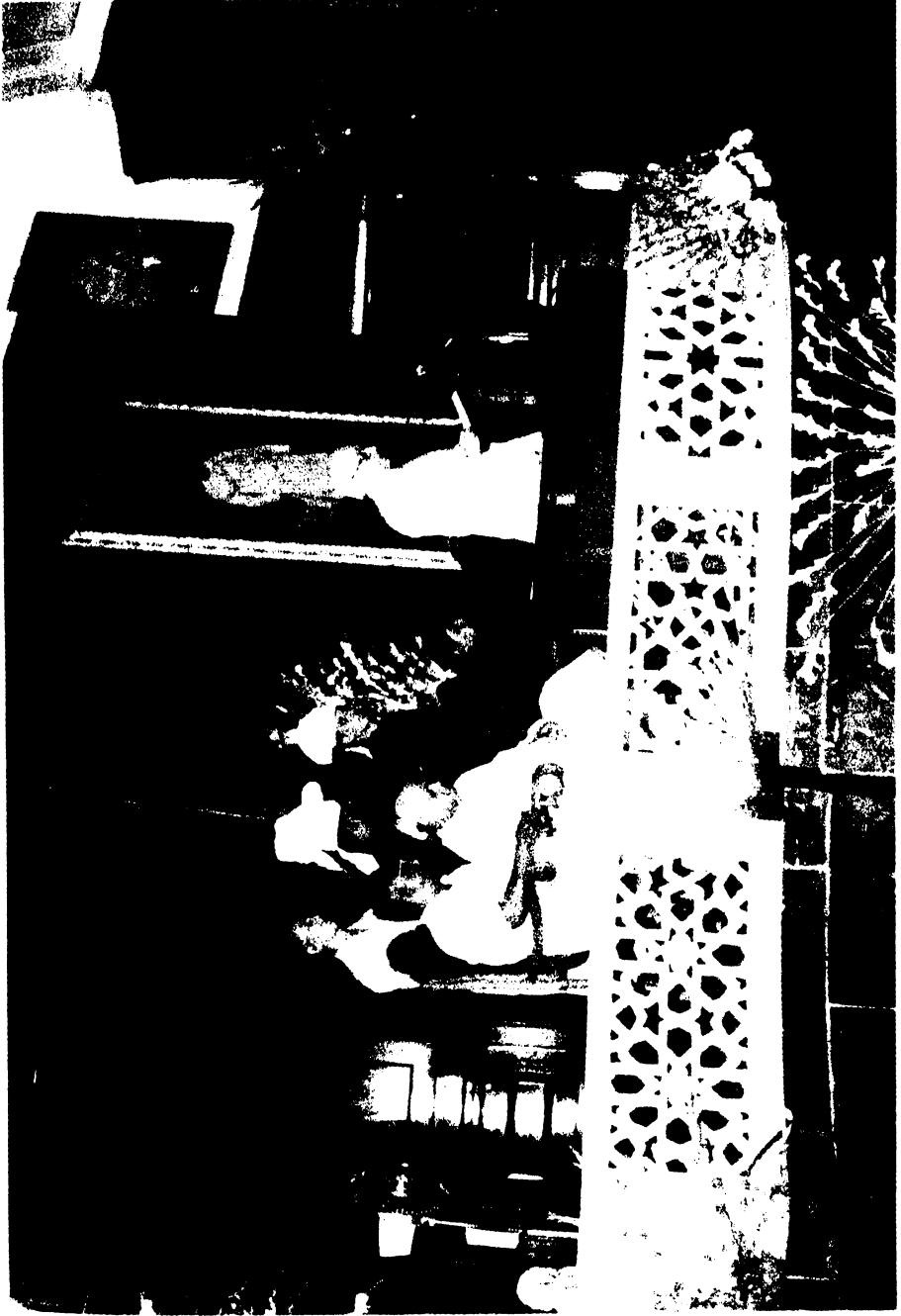
The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri V.K. Ramamurthy addressing the distinguished gathering



The Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee addressing the distinguished gathering



The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri. G. M. C. Balayog, addressing the gathering



The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha,
Shri Krishan Kant addressing the distinguished gathering



Dignitaries after the unveiling of the statue of Shri K. Kamaraj

Kamaraj Plan. This ability to relinquish office came to him easily because he never sought after power in the first place.

Kamaraj firmly believed in the Gandhian principles that to serve the people, it is not necessary to hold an office. Yet, he never shirked from responsibility when it was entrusted to him.

When Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri passed away rather too untimely and too suddenly, Kamaraj played a historic role in steering the nation through those critical times with his quiet efficiency and immense wisdom. He built a great respect for the country as Congress President by his handling of many a crisis at the Centre and in the States.

His efforts to build a consensus approach over the question of succession to the top job are important lessons in political management. When it did not work in 1966, he followed the democratic path of holding an election for the post of Prime Minister. That was the first time in the history of our parliamentary democracy when a Prime Minister was elected through a ballot and the credit goes to Kamaraj.

As we see his statue everyday, his sterling qualities of head and heart, his unassuming personality, keen political insight, high integrity of character, fairness of conduct, openness to suggestion, closeness to people and his humility in disposition should guide us as political workers, public servants and parliamentarians.

By unveiling the statue of Shri Kamaraj, we have attempted to express our humble tribute to one of the greatest sons of our country.

May the statue and the towering personality of Shri Kamaraj keep inspiring us for ever.

Thank you.

**ADDRESS BY THE PRIME MINISTER,
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE***

Revered Up-Rashtrapatiji, Honourable Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri Balayogiji, Shri Ramamurthyji, Respected Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a matter of great pleasure that the statue of Shri Kamaraj has been installed in the precincts of the Parliament House and it has been unveiled today. Shri Kamaraj does not belong to any particular State or a particular party. He is one of the great men of our country who will continue to inspire our future generations.

* Original delivered in Hindi

Born in a poor family of Virudhunagar, in a small village deprived of higher education, associated with a neglected community, a child rose from his humble existence to reach the top position in the public life of the country by dint of his hard work, talent and original ideas. This symbolises the strength of the Republic of India. It is not essential to be born in an elite or rich family to rise in life. For this, what is required is the spirit of selfless rendering of social service, a firm resolve to struggle for the sake of one's ideals and inspire the people by mixing with them naturally. This is what Shri Kamaraj had accomplished in his life. He struggled for freedom and suffered torture in prisons. He did not bother to raise a family and dedicated his entire life to the nation. He sacrificed his life now and then. He held various offices, but never allowed his position to go to his head. He handled various responsibilities; took crucial decisions; played a decisive role in the election of two Prime Ministers, yet he always remained humble. As a Chief Minister, he laid the foundation of modern Tamil Nadu. He was well aware of the scourge of poverty; hence, he always strived to alleviate it. To create equality in society, he believed in uplifting the downtrodden instead of bringing down the affluent. Besides making efforts for alleviation of poverty, he also took concrete measures to remove illiteracy. Since he was well aware of the importance of education, he made primary education compulsory in the State of Tamil Nadu.

I am told that the 'Mid-Day Meal Programme' was started under his able guidance. It has now become a country-wide programme. This programme which was conceived long back by him, speaks volumes of his farsightedness and is indeed commendable. He had unflinching faith in social justice and he was opposed to all types of discrimination. He abhorred narrow-mindedness. He did not believe in sectarianism and served the country selflessly. He accepted the post when offered but did not hanker after it and continued his work unmindful of any post. He can indeed be called a *Karmyogi* in the real sense. He had set an example in public life.

By installing his statue in the precincts of the Parliament today, we resolve to draw inspiration from him. His personality transcends the barriers of time and we are paying tributes today to this great soul.

**ADDRESS BY THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA AND CHAIRMAN,
RAJYA SABHA, SHRI KRISHAN KANT**

Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji, Honourable Speaker, Shri Balayogiji, Shri K. Ramamurthyji, Leaders of Political Parties, Members of Parliament, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are sitting here after unveiling the statue of Shri K. Kamaraj. He is one of the tallest Indian political personalities of this century. Kamaraj's personality was moulded in the great tradition of the personalities of Vijayaraghavachariar Rajaji and Satyamurti. He was a true representative of this genius of the South which combines simplicity with wisdom. His personality showed that he was hewn out of the granite of the South. There are very few personalities in public life and perhaps none who used the fewest of words in his speeches or conversations. There was a fragrance of Tamil culture. No public figure in Indian politics has used so few words and yet created profound impression. In a sense one can say that it is not the word which speaks as the personality does or it is the personality of the man which speaks and not the words. Pt. Nehru, in a similar vein, has said about Dr. Rajendra Prasad that through his eyes truth speaks. Similar was the case with Kamaraj.

To become Congress President with little knowledge of either English or any other Indian language was no mean achievement. Once, when a journalist asked him whether not knowing two of India's link languages was a handicap, Kamaraj replied:

"Why don't you think honesty is a language, that character also speaks?... When I went to Punjab, hundreds of thousands turned up, why?"

He had native genius. He required no property, no family to look after. A man of the highest integrity in personal life, his family was India, without any attainment of property and material things. He remained a bachelor all his life and had never been mindful either of personal comfort or wealth.

Kamaraj was a self-effacing personality. He never projected himself. He became the President of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) rather late in his life in 1964. It was at his suggestion that Sanjeeva Reddy and Sanjivayya were made the Presidents of the AICC earlier.

For him, there was no such thing as the North and South divide. When a question of the first President of the Indian Republic came, Kamaraj and his other colleagues in the South threw their weight on the side of Dr. Rajendra Prasad against a great stalwart from the South, Shri C. Rajagopalachari, who was already occupying the position of the then Governor-General. But Kamaraj rallied the whole of South in favour of Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

As history would confirm and many have referred that in all moments of crises in the Congress Party, Kamaraj emerged as the leader who could resolve crises. After the passing away of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru

he was the President of the Indian National Congress, the most important position in the organisation. He could have projected himself but he did not. He projected Lal Bahadur Shastri and Smt. Indira Gandhi.

Shri Satyamurti was his political *guru*, who had produced many personalities in Tamil Nadu. Satyamurti, as many know, was one of the greatest orators in the country. After getting elected as the Chief Minister of Madras, his first act was to take the blessing of Mrs. S. Satyamurti, wife of the *guru* who was no more. Similarly, Kamaraj built up many leaders of Tamil Nadu. When I meet some of them, I find a touch of their training under Kamaraj.

There are three milestones in Kamaraj's political life. There was never a conflict between Nehru and Kamaraj and they worked in perfect harmony and unison. It was at the Avadi Congress in Tamil Nadu where the Resolution on the Socialist pattern of the Society was passed. This was a historic Session of the Congress. It was under the inspiration of Jawaharlal Nehru. But before the Resolution came up in Avadi, a member of Lok Sabha, Shri N.M. Lingam, had a discussion in the Lok Sabha on the same subject under the guidance of Kamaraj. So, the Avadi Resolution and the debate in the Lok Sabha could take place with the joint working of Jawaharlal Nehru and Kamaraj.

The second is, as we call it, the Kamaraj Plan. It was adopted on 9 August, 1963 at a requisitioned meeting of the AICC at Sapru House, New Delhi, to consider the situation arising out of the reverses of the Congress in three Parliamentary Constituencies when, for the first time, Dr. Rammanohar Lohia, Acharya Kriplani and Minoo Massani won. This was to emphasise that work to strengthen the organisation is as much important as that of the Government.

The third is which Shri Ramamurthy mentioned to me when he met me, about the Ooty Seminar. After the Hyderabad Session of the All India Congress Committee, a Seminar at Ooty was held. He had a great faith in planning. The Seminar was to lay down the principles which should govern the formulation of the Third Five Year Plan. The Party was discussing the Government programme first and then the Government took it up. All the people in the Seminar lived together except Panditji because of security reasons and they had a lot of discussions. I know Kamaraj used to invite experts and economists to understand and discuss economic or other issues. With his common sense, he used to grasp quickly and suggest innovative ideas which, probably, the learned people cannot.

As he mentioned, and I would like to refer to that, he was the first

Chief Minister in the country to introduce the 'Mid-Day Meals Scheme' in the elementary schools. It was opposed by the Planning Commission, that it was not a Plan scheme. Then on one of the visits of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to Madras, Kamaraj showed him how the scheme was working. Panditji asked the Planning Commission to approve it and recommended that it should be implemented in all the States.

In spite of the splitting of the Congress, his thinking was not changed as regards national issues. His relations with Indiraji did not stop and they continued. At his instance, a meeting between Jayaprakash Narain and Indiraji took place. In spite of the differences, Indiraji respected Kamaraj and his wisdom. She awarded *Bharat Ratna* to Kamaraj post-humously.

On nationalism and probity in public life, he could not accept any compromise and although he suffered heavily, he was a true statesman. Today, when casteism and communalism are trying to spread over through various ways, we have to remember Kamaraj. In spite of the fire through which he had to pass, he stood like a rock as a nationalist. I hope that message will continue. We are proud of Kamaraj.

Before I end, I am reminded of a couplet. We have today unveiled the statue of Kamaraj.

ए आसमान अपनी बुलंदी से होशियार,
ले सर उठा रहे हैं किसी आसता से हम।

"O' Sky! Beware of your own vastness

We are raising our head after bowing at the threshold of a great person."

ADDRESSES AT THE UNVEILING OF THE STATUE OF PROF. N.G. RANGA

On 27 July 1998, a statue of Prof. N.G. Ranga, a veteran parliamentarian and freedom fighter, was unveiled at the Entrance Hall to the Lok Sabha Lobby in Parliament House by the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant. The ceremony was followed by a meeting in the Central Hall of Parliament House which was attended by a distinguished gathering. The function was addressed by the Vice-President of India and the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi and the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu. The statue, sculpted by D. Shankar and Brothers, was donated by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

We reproduce below the texts of the Addresses delivered by the dignitaries on the occasion.

—Editor

ADDRESS BY THE CHIEF MINISTER OF ANDHRA PRADESH, SHRI N. CHANDRABABU NAIDU

His Excellency the Vice-President of India, Shri Krishan Kant Garu, Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Garu, Honourable Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi Garu, Honourable Union Home Minister, Members of Parliament, Friends, the Media and Distinguished Invitees, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am honoured to be present today for the unveiling of the statue of late Professor N.G. Ranga in Parliament. Professor Ranga was without doubt a rare and distinguished parliamentarian. He was born in Nidubrolu village of Guntur District and went on to distinguish himself at the Oxford University where he completed his B. Litt.

Professor Ranga was a Gandhian par excellence. Simplicity and unquestionable integrity were the hallmarks of his character. As a student, I was myself drawn towards the ideas and ideals of Professor Ranga. He represented an era when politicians, in discharging their responsibilities, maintained the highest standards.

Professor Ranga was a parliamentarian with the longest standing.

He started as a member of the Central Legislative Assembly in 1930 and was a member of the Constituent Assembly and the Provisional Parliament between 1946 and 1951. He was a member of the Rajya Sabha twice and of the Lok Sabha five times till 1991. He was most regular in attending Parliament. He headed many parliamentary panels, including the Public Accounts Committee.

Professor Ranga was a great champion of kisans, women, weavers and artisans. He was the founder President of the All India Kisan Congress. He also set up an Indian Peasants Institute at Nidubrolu and founded the Federation of Rural Peoples' Organisations.

Professor Ranga was a prolific writer and authored 33 books in English and six in Telugu.

Professor Ranga was associated with such stalwarts like Gandhiji, Rajaji, Nehru, Sardar Patel, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. Radhakrishnan, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Andhra Kesri Prakasam, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri and Shrimati Indira Gandhi. He also worked in close liaison with Shri Jayaprakash Narayan, Shri Ashok Mehta, Shrimati Aruna Asif Ali and Dr. Lohia.

Politics today has lost the moral high ground. There has been a distinct fall in moral values and ethical standards in politics. This is a matter of grave national concern. We need to restore the dignity to politics in our country. This is possible only by systematically building up credibility. Building credibility is not an easy task. Credibility can be established only by leading through example. I firmly believe that there is a need to radically alter the Agenda for the nation. Politics must be secondary to development. We should concentrate on politics only during elections. Rest of the time, we must devote exclusively to development.

Professor Ranga belonged to a generation that sacrificed a lot for the country. Professor Ranga spent six years in jail during the freedom struggle. We must build our country by defining a clear vision for the future and by working hard in a disciplined manner to realise the vision. Indian as a people are highly capable. The very same Indians who distinguish themselves abroad are unable to achieve as much in India. Obviously, this is due to the lack of a proper environment in our country. We have bound ourselves with so much of inane procedure and complexity that it is difficult to attain high levels of performance and achievement. We need to address this weakness in a systematic manner. We need to show that we too can realise our true potential and surpass others on the path of excellence.

We must make a clear break from the past and invent our own future. We must discard old mindsets and bring about a fundamental change in our thinking. We must concentrate on equipping our people with the knowledge, skills and values that will be vital to the next millennium.

It was Winston Churchill who said, "The empires of the future are the empires of the mind". Sweating of the mind and not of the body will become the essential ingredient of success in the future. Knowledge will be the single most important determinant of success or failure in the future. We must also promote a culture of self-discipline, simplicity, intellectual honesty and public-spiritedness. By doing so, we would be paying the highest tribute to Professor Ranga who was an outstanding parliamentarian, eminent leader and a true son of India.

**ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA,
SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI**

Honourable Vice-President of India, Shri Krishan Kantji, Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji, Honourable Shri Chandrababu Naidu Garu, Honourable Ministers, Honourable Leaders of Opposition, Madam Sonia Gandhi, Honourable Members of Parliament and Friends:

It is a matter of great pleasure to associate myself with the unveiling of the statue of Prof. N.G. Ranga in the Parliament House. I am indeed very happy to extend a warm welcome to you all on this occasion. Statues of several eminent Indian leaders have been unveiled in the Parliament House and these have been donated by the State Governments, public sector undertakings and various Trusts. This is one statue of a great son of our country in this series. We are going to have the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel—another towering leader—very soon.

We would like to express our gratefulness to the Honourable Vice-President, Shri Krishan Kantji for unveiling the statue of Prof. Ranga and for agreeing to address this distinguished gathering.

We are also thankful to the Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji for taking time off his busy schedule and gracing this function.

We also express our deep gratitude to the Andhra Pradesh Government and Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu Garu for donating this statue of Prof. Rangaji to the Parliament.

We also thank Shri D. Shankar and Brothers who made this excellent statue of Prof. Rangaji.



The Statue of Prof. N.G. Ranga



The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri. N. Chandrababu Naidu



The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi addressing the gathering



The Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, addressing



The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha,
Shri. Krishan Kant addressing the distinguished gathering



Dignitaries at the unveiling of the statue of Prof. N.G. Ranga

Prof. N.G. Ranga was one of the longest serving parliamentarians in our parliamentary history. A follower of Mahatma Gandhi, Rangaji was attracted by the National Movement at an early age and suffered imprisonment several times for his active participation in the freedom struggle.

Rangaji had an excellent academic career. After completing his initial education at his home town Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, he went to Oxford for appearing in the Indian Civil Service (I.C.S.). He gave up his plans for I.C.S. and obtained a D.Litt. degree for his thesis on 'The Economics of Handloom'. It was during his stay in Oxford that he was greatly attracted by the ideologies of socialist thinkers. A very good and balanced mix of the influence of social reformers like Bipin Chandra Pal and other Indian revolutionaries during his early days in his home town and the socialist ideas received from the West, guided all his future actions.

Prof. Ranga took a special interest in the welfare of the peasants, weavers, labourers and the downtrodden of the country. Throughout his public life, he acted as the spokesman and stood in the forefront for the farmers' welfare. His vast experience in peasant movements came handy when he became the President of the All India Kisan Conference for five times between 1936 and 1952. Later, he became the President of the National Union of Agriculturists in 1977.

Rangaji had great faith in the Indian democracy. He believed that the people should have the freedom of expression. He was very outspoken and forthright in airing his views in Parliament. During his long parliamentary life, he was mainly associated with the Congress Party. On a call by Rajaji, he joined the Swatantra Party for a short period. However, he returned to the Congress party later.

Rangaji's sharp mind, humour, parliamentary discipline and skills were at their best during his days in the Opposition Benches. He was one of those who had differences of opinion with his colleagues on the role of the public sector. He did not hesitate to cross swords with even Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the House. Yet, what is important is that in spite of differences, Nehruji held Rangaji in high esteem and always called him 'Acharya Ranga' in all cordiality.

He was a man of simple living and high thinking. The role played by him in the affairs of this country, and particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh, is unique and unparalleled.

He was awarded the *Padma Vibhushan* in 1991. He was also honoured by the parliamentarians on his completion of 50 years in parliamentary service. I am confident that his statue in the Parliament House would

always be a source of inspiration for all of us. His Gandhian approach and commitment to the national cause would ever remain a shining example for us and the whole nation.

Thank ycu.

**ADDRESS BY THE PRIME MINISTER,
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE .**

Respected Vice-President, Honourable Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri Balayogi ji, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Naidu, Honourable Members of Parliament, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The statue of yet another giant of modern India has been unveiled today in the precincts of the Parliament House. When I was elected to the Lok Sabha in the year 1957, Prof. Ranga was riding the crest of fame and glory. Acharya Ranga was an able parliamentarian, a freedom fighter, a thinker in his own right, a crusader for the cause of the farmers—the qualities which helped him in getting elected repeatedly. Though educated in Oxford, he remained simple and unpretentious. The Gandhi cap always adorned his forehead.

Rangaji came in contact with several ideologies. In England, when his friends were leaning towards the Communist movement, he remained wedded to democratic socialism. On his return to India, he selected his field of activity and joined the freedom struggle as a Congress leader. He toured the whole country and also travelled abroad to gain an insight into the conditions of farmers. The thrust of his services and that of his organisation was mainly aimed at the farmers. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru used to call him Acharya Ranga. Professor Ranga expressed his views boldly. He never shied away from raising a voice of dissent. However, he did not allow the difference of opinion to result in bitterness in relationship. He maintained friendly relations with all and always encouraged the new Members. His regular presence in the House set an example for all of us. It appeared to the members that Professor Ranga was sitting disinterested in the proceedings, but it was not so. He showered appreciation whenever required and always listened to the members with rapt attention.

Rangaji was in the ruling party but later on, joined the Opposition. When he felt that the farmers will have to lose the ownership of their land holdings in the name of co-operative farming, then he took up their cause. He believed that the tillers should be the owners of the land and

* Original delivered in Hindi

they should be free. If they are free, the freedom of the country can never be in danger and if at all such a danger arises, the farmers and the entire country will unite to face the challenge.

The number of books he managed to author in English and Telugu despite his busy schedule is amazing. His immense contribution to the Parliamentary proceedings will always be remembered. I pay my humble tribute to him.

**ADDRESS BY THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA AND THE
CHAIRMAN, RAJYA SABHA, SHRI KRISHAN KANT**

Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Balayogi, Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh, Shri Chandrababu Naidu, Leaders of Political Parties, Members of Parliament, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am happy that today, in an appropriate homage to a great son of India, the statue of Prof. N.G. Ranga is installed here in the premises of the Parliament of India. It is also appropriate that the statue is donated by N. Chandrababu Naidu, who is the Chief Minister of the State in which Prof. N.G. Ranga was born. Ranga was known as Prof. Ranga to many but to an equally large number of friends, comrades, colleagues and followers, he was also known as Acharya Ranga, a great teacher.

For me, personally, it is a day of great happiness because not only was Prof. Ranga a colleague of my father in the freedom struggle as well as in Parliament but also because I had the good fortune of being in Parliament, in the same House with Acharya Ranga. Almost three decades before joining him in the Lok Sabha, I had, as a small boy of less than twenty years of age, been spellbound by his inspiring presence at a training camp for Congress workers on the banks of the River Ravi at Lahore.

It was because of his organisational abilities and clear thinking that the Congress leadership, during the freedom struggle, had called upon Prof. Ranga to organise such training camps for Congress workers throughout the country. These training camps as well as the close association with Swami Sahajanand Saraswati, the greatest leader of the Kisan movement in India, created in Prof. Ranga a national vision even though he remained, till the very end, a son of the Andhra soil on which he was born.

I am reminded here, his wife Bharati Ranga was equally a helper in his work on the Kisan movement. When Swami Sahajanand Saraswati

was in jail, Rangaji sent her to meet him in Hazaripur jail to discuss some matters concerning the peasants and the Kisans.

His extensive travels through the country and intensive interaction with a diverse spectrum of people convinced him that the key to national resurgence lay in the uplift of the Indian villages where an overwhelming number of Indians lived.

Prof. Ranga's work for and amongst the peasants reads like an epic. The various campaigns that he led against the domination of the landlord and for promoting land reforms, for organising the farmers and for the dissemination of literacy, education and technology, were all part of a wholistic approach for enabling the farmers to realise their full potential.

Conscious of the inequalities suffered by the agricultural labour and the crucial role they could perform for enhancing farm production, he submitted to the Royal Commission on Labour, as early as in 1928 and 1929, a Charter of Demands of the Agricultural Labour. And in 1933, he started the first Indian Peasant Institute which was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi at Nidubrolu. The Institute was born out of his firm conviction that only the adoption of advanced technologies and better methods of production would ensure the prosperity of the Indian villagers. Simultaneously, he also focussed on creating awareness amongst the farmers about their rights and responsibilities.

Even though he was widely travelled in India and abroad and had friends in the peasant movement across Europe, it was primarily in Andhra Pradesh that he spent the bulk of his time working. So extensive was his work that it was believed that Acharya Ranga had visited every single village in the Andhra region. The Kisan movement of Andhra, indeed of the rest of India too, owes a great deal of gratitude of him. It was this affinity with the Indian peasant and the Indian village which guided a large part of his parliamentary work.

His speeches in Parliament, shorn of populist rhetoric or fire works, were solid and substantive. His wide experience and interests enabled him to speak on subjects as diverse as economy and foreign affairs. The flow and clarity of thought, articulated in simple and easy language, invariably ensured that Parliament heard him in rapt attention. He was also listened to with great attention because of the respect that fellow parliamentarians had for his deep knowledge of politics and economics, especially of the farmers. Prof. Ranga would undoubtedly be ranked amongst the most outstanding Indian parliamentarians.

Like many of his contemporaries, Prof. Ranga too was deeply in-

spired by that silent whirlwind called Gandhi. His values, his ideologies, his purpose were shaped by a generation whose defining feature was the thoughts and actions of the Mahatma. Fearless to the core, he was affectionate towards the workers and colleagues alike, even though at times, I dare say, a trifle too blunt. But then he was the product of a generation that respected bluntness and ruthless truth to sycophancy and insincerity.

Even as he started aging, the sharpness of his mind and memory refused to be cowed down by an increasingly frail body. When I went to Andhra Pradesh as the Governor of the State, he insisted as a matter of right, as only Acharya Ranga could, that as a son of his old friend, I must visit him at his village home. When I went to his village home, I found him with a fractured leg. Sweeping aside the doctor's advice, Acharya Ranga led me from one room of the house to another, simultaneously recalling to me, event after event that shaped the history of the twentieth century peasants movement in India. And I stood there, convinced that with age though the laws of nature could not be reversed, the spirit of Acharya Ranga remained undying, strong as ever, surviving the tempests of time and tide, the fire in the spirit still lighting his face.

By placing his statue here in the Parliament House, Acharya Ranga is in his rightful place as one of the dreamers and creators of a strong and resurgent India. The legislators of the new generation shall derive, I hope, inspiration from that redoubtable and yet, kindly, figure who gave the finest years of his life towards creating an India in which the dignity of the poor was as important as that of the rich, an India where exploitation of the poor was part of a distant nightmare, an India where there was no divide between the rural and the urban.

I join all my colleagues and friends in offering my heartfelt homage to this great son of India.

Thank you.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI AT THE ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE TWELFTH LOK SABHA

An Orientation Programme for the new members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha was organised by the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST), Lok Sabha Secretariat from 9 to 22 July 1998. The Programme consisted of interactive discussion sessions on topics of parliamentary interest. Discussion on each topic was initiated by experienced parliamentarians and other experts.

We reproduce below the text of the Inaugural Address delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi on 9 July 1998.

—Editor

*Honourable Ministers, Honourable Members, Secretary-General,
Officers and Friends:*

I am very pleased to meet you all at this inaugural of the Orientation Programme for the newly-elected members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha. The General Election to the present Lok Sabha has taken place during the Golden Jubilee Year of our Independence. Particularly in view of this, you should consider your election a matter of great privilege and honour. Considerable responsibilities also go with this privilege and honour. Discharge of responsibilities calls for equipment in terms of knowledge of our Parliament, its Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, apart from the provisions of our Constitution. This Orientation Programme is meant to provide this equipment.

I am aware that some of you have the experience of having been the members of State Legislatures. But, as you may know, there is a difference between Parliament and State Legislatures. While there is a fair degree of similarity in terms of practice and procedure, it must be borne in mind that the concerns of Parliament are much wider in sweep and scope than that of the State Legislatures. The issues debated in Parliament have a profound significance internally as well as externally because the House reflects the collective will and wisdom of the nation as a whole. In this context, a member of Parliament has four aspects of representation to keep in mind. One, he represents the constituency

which elects him; two, he represents the political party on whose symbol, manifesto and machinery he fights the election; three, he represents the nation in a very broad sense; and finally he represents and projects himself as an individual.

His concerns must, therefore, reflect 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 parliamentarians. This is not accomplished in a day but in a long drawn process which calls for the will and desire to excel. Eminence is not inherited but is achieved through endeavour and industry, through commitment and integrity. From the eminence and excellence of members, the House benefits, Parliament as an institution is enriched and the nation's march to progress becomes much easier.

To play a meaningful role as members, we must understand the place of Parliament in our polity. Parliament is not a talking shop. It is visualized by the Constitution as an important instrument of socio-economic change. As such, it has to closely watch the functioning of the Government and influence its performance for social good.

How do the members articulate their views? In our Parliament, there are a number of procedural devices available for members to raise matters of concern and they should make full use of them. While doing so, they should bear in mind that Parliament is not the forum to raise issues that are basically the concerns of State Governments for which the Legislative Assemblies are the proper platform. The issues proposed to be raised in Parliament should have a wider significance to the society and the nation at large.

The Question Hour has a sanctity of its own as a primary device to call upon the Government to explain its actions and stand on a wide variety of subjects. This is a time when the Government is put to a thorough scrutiny by Parliament and a number of important pronouncements are made by Ministers. Members should, therefore, resist the temptation to demand the suspension of the Question Hour to discuss matters of political interest.

To facilitate adequate preparation by the members on the subjects likely to come up for discussion, the business of the House is circulated to the members well in advance. In this context, the members should fully utilise the support services provided by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. Among the various support services available to the members to help them in their parliamentary work are the Parliamentary Notice Office, Table Office, Legislative Branch, Interpreters' Branch and the Reporters

Branch. We have also an excellent Library which is a store house of information on almost all subjects. The Library is backed by efficient Research and Reference Services and Computer Centre. Honourable members should find some time to take advantage of this facility. Once they start using these services, they can themselves feel the difference as far as the effectiveness of their participation in the House is concerned.

Acquiring knowledge and information has, as we all know, its own significance in enriching one's horizon of thought. But to make use of the information to further an objective is yet another thing. My sincere advice to the members is that they must watch keenly the way our veteran parliamentarians articulate themselves in the House and put forth their views in an organised manner. Members can learn a lot by trying to emulate the examples set by our seasoned parliamentarians.

This is the age of specialization. There is so much explosion in knowledge in various fields that it is often difficult to keep track of developments in all the spheres. While a certain level of general awareness is welcome, an in-depth understanding of one or two subjects is desirable, and even essential.

This would enable members to play an effective role in the functioning of the Departmentally-related Standing Committees which are constituted to make parliamentary scrutiny of the Government more meaningful. So, I would suggest that all of you should develop some expertise on the subjects of your aptitudes to perform effectively in Committees.

Parliamentary proceedings are watched keenly by the whole nation. Therefore, members have to be careful of the way they conduct themselves in the House. The proceedings sometimes get vociferous and noisy, leading to pandemonium and turmoil. This projects the Parliament in a poor light, especially in view of the fact that the proceedings are shown live on T.V. Members should refrain from the tendency to rush to the well of the House, raise slogans and create unruly scenes. A lot of precious time of the House is wasted this way, leaving behind a good deal of business unattended. This must come to an end if the credibility of the institution of Parliament is to be sustained.

It is also important that the members must imbibe the etiquette of Parliament. In the heat of the moment when passions run high, members sometimes tend to use unacceptable language. There is of course a practice to expunge objectionable remarks from the records. But with the live telecasting such expunction becomes infructuous as the people

बारहवीं लोकसभा
के नए सदस्यों के लिए
प्रबोधन कार्यक्रम

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME
FOR NEW MEMBERS OF
12TH LOK SABHA
9 - 22 JULY 1998



Inaugural address by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi at the
Orientation Programme for New Members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha



New Members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha attending the Orientation Programme.

would have already heard it. There are also occasions when foreign dignitaries come to visit our national Parliament and address us in the Central Hall. During such times particularly, as also during the Address by the President, the members must maintain decorum and order. Not that we can be agitated and volatile at other times! Members are honourable and must behave as such.

It is very important that all of you attend the sittings and take part in the proceedings. While the Question Hour and the Zero Hour have a packed House, the post-lunch House thins sometimes to the point when even the quorum becomes a problem. In democracies, the legislator is a vital link between the Government and the society. He has to present the views of the people to the Government and convey the message of the Government to the people. The legislator is especially suited as a medium of communication in political education as he can speak in the idiom of the people and relate himself to them rather easily. It is, therefore, the duty of the parliamentarians to make the views of the people heard, their expectations fulfilled, grievances redressed, aspirations appreciated and urges understood by the Government. For this, the floor of the House is the best forum and so members should attend the House diligently.

It is the responsibility of every member to raise the level of debate. This calls for thorough preparation on the given subject, patience to wait for one's turn and respecting the time limit. A good parliamentarian, to be a communicator, should be brief in his presentation. Brevity is the soul of not just wit but wisdom too. One can speak at length without saying much and one can say a lot even within a short time. The manner of presentation of views is as important as the views themselves.

The speeches delivered in Parliament should have content, relevance to the subject under discussion and not just political rhetoric. Members can be very effective speakers without necessarily being orators. The temptation to read out written speeches may be avoided as it lacks spontaneity. Speeches should further have contextual relevance to the situation as it develops on the floor of the House as distinct from a written speech prepared at home in advance. This alone will enrich parliamentary proceedings, with wit and spontaneity.

The composition of the Twelfth Lok Sabha is very complicated with about 40 political parties being represented in the House. It also has many eminent political personalities among whom are three former Prime Ministers, three former Speakers of the Lok Sabha, twelve former Chief

Ministers, and many former Governors and Ministers. All of us should put such a fund of experience to the betterment of the lot of our people very effectively. For this purpose cooperation from all sections of the House is indispensable. It is my earnest plea to all of you that you should abide by the Chair and show due regard to the time and views of one another.

The new members have been in the House for some weeks now. Some of them might have even begun to feel that the Chair gives more opportunities and time to the senior members to participate in the debates. I can assure the Honourable members that there is no intention to discriminate between the members. However, given the rich experience of the senior members, the Chair may at times allow them to speak so as to enrich the debate. It is always the endeavour of the Chair to see that all sections of the House, including the backbenchers, are given adequate opportunities to participate in the debates.

I am happy that the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) has been organising this kind of Orientation Programmes for the benefit of the newly-elected members of the Lok Sabha from time to time and as and when a new Lok Sabha is constituted. The activities of the Bureau have increased phenomenally in recent times for the benefit of parliamentarians and parliamentary officials and its reputation has spread far and wide. Speakers, Presiding Officers and Clerks of various Parliaments from abroad are showing keen interest in our parliamentary institutions. Requests have been pouring in at the Bureau to organise Study Tours and Attachment Programmes for Speakers and Clerks of various Parliaments. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association also looks upon the BPST as an effective institution to give Orientation and training to functionaries of Parliaments of other Commonwealth countries.

Finally, I would like all of you to strive to become good parliamentarians and I wish you all the very best in your parliamentary career. I am sure you will find deliberations of this Orientation Programme to be meaningful and interactive. Depending upon your response, we may organise similar Orientation Programmes on various topics of parliamentary and procedural importance not only in Delhi but also at other places so that we may devote our time and attention to exclusive sessions, away from the hurly burly of parliamentary routine. Although the officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat are always available to help the honourable members in the discharge of their parliamentary duties, we can also think of organising exclusive "Procedural Orientation Meetings" in which senior officers of the Secretariat may clarify doubts of the honourable

members with regard to finer procedural matters. I understand such type of procedural Orientation Meetings have been organised by the Bureau in the past. With these words, I have great pleasure in formally inaugurating this Orientation Programme.

Thank you.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES

G.C. MALHOTRA

Parliament transacts a great deal of its business through Committees which are in fact microcosms and extensions of the House. Besides performing those functions which are delegated to them and which the House by itself is not well-fitted to perform, viz. finding out the facts of a case, examining witnesses, sifting evidence and drawing up reasoned recommendations, the Parliamentary Committees assist the House in its principal task of ensuring executive accountability.

TYPES OF COMMITTEES

Parliamentary Committees may be distinguished from the Consultative Committees and the Government Committees.

A Parliamentary Committee means a Committee which is appointed or elected by the House or nominated by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha or Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. It works under the direction of the Presiding Officer and presents its report to him or to the House. Its Secretariat is provided by one of the two Secretariats of Parliament.

The Consultative Committees are constituted by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs by nomination of members of both the Houses. The strength of these Committees is fixed by the Government in consultation with Opposition parties with due regard to the respective strength of various parties in Parliament. The maximum membership of a Consultative Committee is 40. The Consultative Committees are formed for the Ministries and Departments of the Government.

The Government Committees, Councils, Boards, etc. are constituted by the Government either in pursuance of statutes or by the Government resolutions, on which members of Parliament are represented. At present, there are 56 such Government Committees.

Parliamentary Committees may be categorised as *ad hoc* Committees and Standing Committees.

Ad hoc Committees are those which are constituted by the House or by the Presiding Officers singly or jointly to consider and report on specific matters. These *ad hoc* Committees become *functus officio* as soon as they complete their work. The usual *ad hoc* Committees are Select/Joint Committees on Bills, the Railway Convention Committee set up to review the rate of dividend payable by Railways to the General revenues and those constituted to inquire into and report on specific subjects.

Standing Committees are those which are elected by the House or nominated by the Speaker periodically and are permanent in nature. The functions of these Committees are either to enquire or scrutinise and control or advise or provide facilities to members or look after the day-to-day business of the House. Most important among these Committees are the three Financial Committees, *viz.* Public Accounts Committee, Estimates Committee and the Committee on Public Undertakings.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

In all, there are 45 parliamentary Committees of which 24 are Joint Committees of the two Houses, while 9 belong to the Rajya Sabha and 12 to the Lok Sabha.

Tables I and II, contain information about the membership, chairmanship and tenure and functions of these 45 Parliamentary Standing Committees. As may be seen, 17 of the 24 Joint Committees are Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs) - 11 managed and serviced by the Lok Sabha Secretariat and 6 by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. The remaining 7 Joint Committees are: Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; Committee on Empowerment of Women; Committee on Public Accounts; Committee on Public Undertakings; Joint Committee on Offices of Profit; Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of MPs; and Library Committee. All these seven Joint Committees are serviced by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Of the 21 single House Committees, 9 each in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have similar functions in the respective Houses. They are: Business Advisory Committee; Rules Committee; General Purposes Committee; Committee of Privileges; Committee on Petitions; Committees on Government Assurances; Committee on Subordinate Legislation; Committee on Papers Laid on the Table; and House Committee. The remaining three Committees, *viz.* Estimates Committee; Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House; and Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions exist only in the Lok Sabha.

The Estimates Committee consists only of members of the Lok Sabha because it is only this House which has financial powers. There is no Committee on Absence of Members in the Rajya Sabha and the House itself undertakes the task of granting leave to the members. The Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions also does not exist in the Rajya Sabha and the House deals with the Bills and Resolutions of Private Members directly.

TABLE I
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES
MEMBERSHIP, CHAIRMANSHIP AND TENURE

S. No.	Committee	Membership			Mode of appointment		Tenure
		LS*	RS**	Total	Members	Chairmen	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Joint Committees							
1-17	Departmentally Related Standing Committees (11 of LS+6 of RS)	30	15	45	Nominated	Nominated	Not exceeding One year
18.	Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	20	10	30	Elected	-do-	-do-
19.	Committee on Empowerment of Women	20	10	30	Nominated	-do-	-do-
20.	Committee on Public Accounts	15	07	22	Elected	-do-	-do-
21.	Committee on Public Undertakings	15	07	22	-do-	-do-	-do-
22.	Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	10	05	15	-do-	-do-	Duration of Lok Sabha
23.	Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of MPs	10	05	15	Nominated	Elected by the Cte.	One year
24.	Library Committee	06	03	09	-do-	Dy. Speaker as <i>ex officio</i> Chairman	Not exceeding One year

* LS-Lok Sabha

** RS-Rajya Sabha

Single House Committees of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha

25-26. Business Advisory Committee	15	11	-	Nominated	Speaker LS/ Chairman RS as <i>ex officio</i> Chairman	Till reconstituted (No fixed term)
27-28. Rules Committee	15	16	-	Nominated	Nominated	Till reconstituted
29-30. General Purposes Committee	See Note 3			-do-	-do-	See Note 3
31-32. Committee of Privileges	15	10	-	-do-	-do-	Till reconstituted
33-34. Committee on Petitions	15	10	-	-do-	-do-	-do-
35-36. Committee on Government Assurances	15	10	-	-do-	-do-	Not exceeding One year in the case of L.S. till reconstituted in the case of RS
37-38. Committee on Subordinate Legislation	15	15	-	-do-	-do-	-do-
39-40. Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	15	10	-	-do-	-do-	-do-
41-42. House Committee	12	07	-	-do-	-do-	-do-
Committees of Lok Sabha						
43. Estimates Committee	30	-	-	Elected	-do-	Not exceeding one year
44. Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House	15	-	-	Nominated	-do-	-do-
45. Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	15	-	-	-do-	-do-	-do-

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- Notes:
1. Nominated means nominated by Speaker, Lok Sabha in respect of Lok Sabha Committees and by Chairman, Rajya Sabha in respect of Rajya Sabha Committees.
 2. Elected means elected by the House on the basis of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote.
 3. There is no fixed term for General Purposes Committee (GPC) of the Lok Sabha and it continues in office till reconstituted. It consists of Speaker, Deputy Speaker, members of the Panel of Chairmen, Chairmen of all Standing Parliamentary Committees, Leaders of recognised Parties/Groups in the Lok Sabha and such other members as may be nominated by the Speaker. The Speaker, Lok Sabha acts as the *ex officio* Chairman of the Committee. The GPC of the Rajya Sabha is not provided for in the Rules but is constituted every year it is composed of similar membership as in the Lok Sabha. The Chairman, Rajya Sabha acts as the *ex officio* Chairman of the Committee.

TABLE II
FUNCTIONS OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

S.No.	Committee	Functions
1	2	3
Joint Committees		
1-17	Departmentally Related Standing Committees (11 of LS+6 of RS)	To examine Demands for Grants; Bills; Annual Reports and Annual Basic Long Term Policy Documents.
18.	Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	To consider the reports submitted by the Commissioner for SCs and STs; to examine the representation of SCs and STs in services of Central Government, PSUs, Nationalised Banks, etc. and to review the working of welfare-programmes for SCs and STs in the Union Territories.
19.	Committee on Empowerment of Women	To consider the reports of National Commission for Women and to report on the measures that should be taken by the Union Government for improving the status and conditions of women.
20.	Committee on Public Accounts	To examine accounts showing the appropriation of sums granted by the House for the expenditure of Government, the annual finance accounts of the Governments, etc.
21.	Committee on Public Undertakings	To examine the reports and accounts of the Public Undertakings.
22.	Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	To examine and recommend what offices should disqualify and what offices should not disqualify a person for being chosen as, and for being a Member of Parliament under Article 102 of the Constitution
23.	Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of MPs	To make rules to provide for travelling and daily allowances, medical, housing, telephone, postal, water, electricity, constituency and secretarial facilities, etc. to Members of Parliament
24.	Library Committee	To consider and advise the Speaker on matters concerning the Parliament Library.
Single House Committees of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha		
25-26	Business Advisory Committee	To recommend allocation of time for discussion of legislative and other business of Government and suggest particular subjects for discussion.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 27-28. Rules Committee | To consider and recommend any amendments or additions to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business. |
| 29-30. General Purposes Committee | To advise the Speaker, Lok Sabha or Chairman, Rajya Sabha on matters concerning the affairs of the House. |
| 31-32. Committee of Privileges | To examine questions involving breach of privilege of the House or of the members or of any Committee thereof and make suitable recommendations. |
| 33-34. Committee on Petitions | To consider and report on petitions and representations. |
| 35-36. Committee on Government Assurances | To follow up all assurances given by the Ministers during the proceedings of the House. |
| 37-38. Committee on Subordinate Legislation | To scrutinize and report to the House whether the powers to make regulations, rules, sub-rules, bye-laws, etc. conferred by the Constitution or delegated by Parliament are being properly exercised by the executive within the scope of such delegation. |
| 39-40. Committee on Papers Laid on the Table | To examine all papers laid on the Table of the House by the Ministers and to report to the House on delay cases. |
| 41-42. House Committee | To deal with all questions relating to residential accommodation and other facilities for members. |
| Committees of Lok Sabha | |
| 43. Estimates Committee | To report what economies, improvements in organisation, efficiency or administrative reform consistent with the policy underlying the estimates may be effected, to suggest alternative policies; and to examine whether the money is well laid out within the limits of the policy implied in the estimates. |
| 44. Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House | To consider applications from members for leave of absence from the sittings of the House and examine every case where a member has been absent for a period of 60 days or more, without permission, |
| 45. Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions | To allot time to Private Members' Bills and Resolutions and to examine Private Members' Bills seeking to amend the Constitution before their introduction. |

Composition

All the 45 Committees, whether elected or nominated, are constituted by members in proportion to the respective strength of the parties and groups in the Houses. The all party composition of the Committees and their propensity to operate across party lines are important features of parliamentary Committees. This bipartisan approach generally manifests itself through the conduct of inquiries and the drawing up of conclusions.

Department Related or Subject Based Committees

In modern times, Parliaments all over the world have been assuming added responsibilities in response to the growing hopes and aspirations of the people. Their role and functions have increased manifold commensurate with the unprecedented growth in the range, magnitude and complexity of governmental activities. No wonder then that they are devoting more and more time in the deliberation of issues pertaining to the redressal of grievances of the people.

Lesser scrutiny of Legislative and Financial Business

The other important functions of the Legislatures connected with the passing of laws and budget are, as a result, getting relegated. A similar pattern, in this regard, is discernible in India too. The comparative figures of the time devoted by the successive Lok Sabhas to legislative as well as financial business are indeed revealing. Table III, given below,

TABLE III
TIME TAKEN ON VARIOUS KINDS OF BUSINESS IN FIRST,
TENTH AND ELEVENTH LOK SABHAS

(Figures in brackets indicate percentage to total time)

Business transacted	Time taken (In Hrs/mts.)		
	1st LS (1952-57)	10th LS (1991-96)	11th LS (1996-97)
Bills	1,844.23 (48.74)	560.03 (22.16)	128.15 (15.76)
Budget	702.22 (18.56)	439.50 (17.40)	143.11 (17.59)
Questions	551.51 (14.58)	298.23 (11.80)	77.56 (9.54)
Motions, Resolutions and other discussions, etc.	685.18 (18.12)	1,229.36 (48.64)	464.16 (57.11)
Total	3,783.54 (100.00)	2,527.52 (100.00)	813.38 (100.00)

shows that while the First Lok Sabha (1952-57) had spent 67.30 per cent of its time to transact legislative and financial business, the Tenth (1991-96) and Eleventh (1996-97) Lok Sabhas could spend just 39.56 per cent and 33.35 per cent respectively, of their total time on these two important activities taken together.

Besides this, over the years, there has been a gradual decrease in the number of Ministries and Departments whose Demands for Grants could be scrutinised and in the total time taken for such scrutiny on the floor of the House. This trend is shown in Table IV over the period 1987-97. This indeed is a matter of concern, as no legislative body can afford to overlook its primary responsibility of law making and scrutinising the budget proposals.

TABLE IV
NUMBER OF MINISTRIES/DEPARTMENTS WHOSE
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS WERE DISCUSSED
(1987-97)

Year	No. of Ministries	Time taken (Hrs./mts.)
1985	15	101.54
1986	16	89.01
1987	10	83.28
1988	10	71.34
1989	3	27.48
1990	9	72.16
1991	5	46.08
1992	8	40.16
1993*	3	22.37
1994	2	15.41
1995	2	19.39
1996	2	3.22
1997	5	10.49

* 17 DRSCs were constituted with effect from 8 April 1993.

Short Sessions

For some State Legislatures in India, the matter is more disturbing, as they usually hold their Sessions for very short durations as is evident from Tables V to VII which give an account of the number and duration of the sittings of Parliament and State Legislatures in India during the last five years from 1993 to 1997.

TABLE V
NUMBER AND DURATION OF SITTINGS OF PARLIAMENT AND
STATE LEGISLATURES IN INDIA

Legislature		No. and duration (in brackets in Hrs./mts.) of sittings					
Name	Strength	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	Annual average
Rajya Sabha	245	79 (491-30)	75 (404-17)	77 (358-06)	64 (316-41)	59 (322-47)	70.8 (378-16)
Lok Sabha	545	89 (569-45)	77 (444-49)	78 (402-32)	70 (415-25)	65 (446-42)	75.8 (455-50)
Andhra Pradesh L.A.	295	45 (240-46)	36 (198-55)	59 (306-37)	44 (368-10)	51 (361-25)	47.00 (295-10)
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.	60	8 (40-00)	7 (35-00)	8 (40-00)	4 (20-00)	8 (40-00)	7 (35-00)
Assam L.A.	126	25 (122-33)	26 (107-42)	27 (115-51)	19 (88-44)	26 (104-13)	24.60 (107-48)
Bihar L.C.	96	35 (176-30)	28 (119-20)	34 (157-40)	31 (172-30)	27 (64-30)	31 (138-06)
Bihar L.A.	325	35 (200-00)	31 (156-00)	38 (206-00)	34 (194-00)	20 (99-00)	31.60 (171-00)
Goa L.A.	40	31 (142-01)	25 (78-28)	39 (192-58)	29 (144-45)	39 (175-19)	32.60 (146-42)
Gujarat L.A.	182	45 (190-57)	43 (183-06)	41 (159-57)	37 (147-09)	32 (119-52)	39.60 (160-12)
Haryana L.A.	90	17 (74-12)	15 (82-26)	18 (86-52)	17 (68-53)	16 (80-38)	16.60 (70-36)
Himachal Pradesh L.A.	68	03 (10-45)	36 (142-23)	28 (99-44)	35 (118-58)	32 (105-25)	26.80 (95-27)
J & K L.C.	36	No Session	No Session	No Session	No Session	33	33-00

J & K L.A.	78	Pr. Rule	Pr. Rule	Pr. Rule	5 (12-55)	44 (132-42)	24.50 (72-48)
Karnataka L.C.	75	54 (192-43)	42 (135-36)	46 (118-27)	46 (80-26)	52 (101-31)	48 (125-44)
Karnataka L.A.	225	53 (248-44)	42 (204-10)	47 (134-03)	46 (175-17)	52 (83-49)	48 (165-12)
Kerala L.A.	141	45 (287-29)	72 (488-30)	50 (310-37)	53 (374-09)	55 (325-35)	55 (357-16)
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	321	06 (30-28)	63 (350-35)	64 (343-11)	50 (288-55)	65 (378-22)	49.60 (278-18)
Maharashtra L.C.	96	55 (279-59)	51 (213-41)	51 (237-40)	32 (164-56)	42 (243-25)	46.20 (226-08)
Maharashtra L.A.	289	58 (337-43)	56 (337-26)	53 (282-10)	32 (192-53)	42 (285-00)	48.20 (287-02)
Manipur L.A.	60	18 (85)	Pr. Rule	21 (95)	22 (108)	24 (115)	21.25 (100-45)
Meghalaya L.A.	60	46 (172)	37 (136)	35 (130)	24 (88)	24 (88)	33.20 (122-48)
Mizoram L.A.	40	23 (97-24)	19 (93-48)	22 (103-52)	24 (108-07)	23 (136-48)	22.20 (108-00)
Nagaland L.A.	60	16 (42-00)	18 (56-00)	20 (59-00)	13 (38-00)	16 (46-00)	16.60 (48-12)
Orissa L.A.	147	55 (415-03)	50 (357-02)	48 (368-25)	47 (368-52)	55 (466-12)	51 (395-07)
Punjab L.A.	117	24 (99-39)	24 (92-50)	27 (111-13)	22 (92-04)	25 (83-45)	24.40 (95-54)
Rajasthan L.A.	200	03 (21-33)	36 (253-00)	33 (236-10)	26 (220-32)	19 (123-14)	23.40 (170-54)
Sikkim L.A.	32	08 (26.25)	11 (53-20)	08 (34-50)	09 (52-30)	06 (35-10)	08.40 (40-27)
Tamil Nadu L.A.	235	48 (203-54)	39 (202-42)	42 (199-27)	58 (244-17)	52 (215-55)	47.80 (213-15)
Tripura L.A.	60	19 (95-00)	16 (80-00)	16 (80-00)	14 (70-00)	20 (100-00)	17 (85-00)
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	108	6 (24-52)	27 (132-42)	23 (98-15)	Pr. Rule	17 (84-49)	18.25 (85-10)
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	426	6 (24-52)	37 (185-10)	27 (154-13)	Pr. Rule	24 (149-32)	23.50 (128-27)

West Bengal L.A.	240	49 (236)	64 (322)	47 (233)	47 (244)	57 (238)	52.80 (254.36)
Delhi L.A.	70	10 (34-00)	32 (104-00)	28 (97-00)	19 (69-00)	21 (74-00)	22 (75-36)
Pondicherry L.A.	30	27 (108-41)	28 (108-11)	24 (105-10)	24 (80-18)	27 (87-56)	26 (98-03)

N.B. Based on information received from the respective Legislature Secretariats

*U.P. L.A. was dissolved on 27 October 1995

As, shown in Table VI given below, of the 32 Legislatures, two of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim met for the lowest (less than 10) number of days while three of Kerala, Orissa and West Bengal came in the highest (more than 50 days) bracket. The bracket of 21-30 days accounted for the maximum number of eight Legislatures while seven Legislatures came in the bracket of 41-50 days. The remaining two brackets of 11-20 days and 31-40 days each accounted for six Legislatures. Among States, the Kerala Legislative Assembly with a membership of just 141 sat for the maximum number of 55 days in a year and the Orissa Legislative Assembly with the strength of 147, came third accounting for an annual average of 51. On the other hand, the Legislative Assemblies of bigger States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar with the strength of 426 and 325 members respectively, sat for just on an average of 24 and 32 days, respectively, in a year.

TABLE VI
NUMBER OF SITTINGS OF LEGISLATURES OF STATES
AND UNION TERRITORIES

Number of Sitzings (Annual average in days)	Numbers of States/UTs
Less than 10	2
11-20	6
21-30	8
31-40	6
41-50	7
Over 50	3
Total	32

Time-wise Table VII shows that only two Legislative Assemblies-of Orissa and Kerala-came in the highest bracket of more than 300 hours having sat for the maximum duration of 395 and 357 hours, respectively, in a year and compare quite favourably with the annual average of 378 hours of the Rajya Sabha. The maximum number of 13 Legislatures came in the lowest bracket of less than 100 hours in a year of which the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly accounted for the minimum of 35 hours.

TABLE VII
DURATION OF SITTINGS OF LEGISLATURES OF STATES AND
UNION TERRITORIES

Duration of Sittings (Annual average in Hours)	Numbers of States/UTs
Less than 100	13
101-200	11
201-300	6
Above 300	2
Total	32

The Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha sat for an average of 71 and 76 days in a year accounting for 378 and 456 hours, respectively. There is a downfall in the number of sittings of these two Houses if we compare them with their annual average for the previous five year from 1988 to 1992 which comes to 80 and 91 days accounting for 515 and 595 hours, respectively. The reason for this shortfall is mainly because of the three to four week recess of the two Houses in the Budget Session each year since 1993, which is spent on the consideration of the Demands for Grants by the 17 Departmentally related standard committees.

It is precisely in this context that the successive All-India Conferences of Presiding Officers have been expressing concern at the shrinking days of Sessions in various Legislatures in India. The All-India Conference of Presiding Officers, held in New Delhi on 23 and 24 September 1992, Leaders of Parties and Whips on "Discipline and Decorum in the Parliament and State Legislatures" *inter alia* resolved that the Legislatures should hold sufficient number of sittings in a year with a view to affording adequate opportunities to the legislators to deliberate. Again,

in the last Conference of the Presiding Officers held in Shimla from 21 to 23 October, 1997, a Resolution was adopted calling upon the smaller States to hold their Assembly Sessions for a period of at least 60 days in a year and the larger States to have annually a minimum of 100 days of sittings.

Need for strengthening the Committee System

Such a scenario has brought into sharp focus the need for strengthening the Committee System by introduction of Departmentally related or Subject based Standing Committees.

Evolution and growth of the DRSC system

The setting up of 17 Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs) in Parliament was the result of years of study of similar experiments in foreign Parliaments of the United States of America, United Kingdom, Australia, etc. and extensive deliberations at various parliamentary fora.

U.S.A.

In the USA, there are Committees corresponding to all Government Departments and they wield enormous powers.

U.K.

The system of **Departmental Select Committees** in the House of Commons, U.K. dates back to 1979. Beginning with the 14 Departmental Select Committees, there are at present 17 Committees covering all the principal Government Departments. Their functions are to examine the expenditure, administration and policy of the principal Government Departments and associated public bodies. Legislation, however, does not come within their purview since all Public Bills, except those concerned with supply or taxation, continue to be examined by one or the other of the ten Standing Committees which is constituted afresh for every new Bill sent to it.

Australia

Established on 24 September, 1987, the General Purpose Standing Committees in the Australian House of Representatives are investigatory or scrutiny Committees, constituted at the commencement of each Parliament to inquire into and report upon any matters referred to them by the House, including any pre-legislation proposal, Bill, motion, petition, vote or expenditure, other financial matter, report or paper. Between

them, the 9 **General Purpose Standing Committees** of the House cover most Government activity, with each Committee covering a particular spread of subjects and thus a number of related Government Departments and authorities. Annual reports of Government Departments and authorities are automatically referred to the appropriate Committee for any inquiry the Commerce may wish to make.

India

The need for ensuring effective parliamentary scrutiny over the administration, especially on matters dealing with the Budget, was felt in India right from the fifties when the Parliament was constituted. The scrutiny of the Demands for Grants by the House was found to be insufficient. The Demands for Grants of several important Ministries were guillotined in view of the lack of time with the House. At various parliamentary fora, including the Presiding Officers Conference held at Bhubaneswar in January 1978 and the Third Regional Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Seminar held in New Delhi in January 1984, the necessity for a more detailed pre-voting scrutiny of the Demands for Grants was highlighted.

Subject Committees

A beginning was made in the Eighth Lok Sabha on 18 August 1989 with the setting up of the three Subject Committees on Agriculture; Science & Technology; and Environmental & Forests, which were re-constituted in the Ninth Lok Sabha.

DRSCs

The successful functioning of the three Subject Committees during the period of over three years led to the constitution on 8 April 1993 of 17 Departmentally related Standing Committees covering under their jurisdiction all the Ministries and Departments of the Union Government.

States

Meanwhile, among the 25 States, the Kerala Legislative Assembly became the first to adopt the Subject Committee System in 1980 which was followed by the West Bengal Legislative Assembly in 1987. Later, the Karnataka Legislature and the Legislative Assemblies of Himachal Pradesh and Assam followed more or less the DRSC system of Parliament, while the Legislative Assemblies of Orissa and Mizoram by and large adopted the pattern of the Kerala Subject Committees. In the Goa Legislative Assembly, a Budget Committee was set up in 1993. The Subject Committees in the Karnataka Legislature have, however, been abolished with effect from 27 March 1998 *inter alia* on the ground that

their functions were found to be overlapping with those of the other Standing Committees of the Legislature.

Constitution

Table VIII gives information about the years of the constitution of the Department related or Subject based Committees along with their number, membership and tenure of each Committee in the Parliament and the eight State Legislatures.

TABLE VIII
DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES IN INDIA

Nomenclature	Year when first set up	Strength of House(s)	Present Number	Membership	Tenure
India					
D.R. Standing Committees	1993	LS 545 RS 245	17	45 (30LS+15RS)	Not exceeding one year
Kerala					
Subject Committees	1980	LA 141	10	10 to 15	Two years or until reconstitution
West Bengal					
Subject Committees	1987	LA 294	13	15 + Minister, as <i>ex officio</i> member	One year or until reconstituted
Orissa					
Subject Committees	1992	LA 147	04	7	One year or until reconstitution
Goa					
Budget Committee	1993	LA 40	1	7	One year
Karnataka					
D.R. Subject Committees*	1994	LA 225 LC 75	15	10 (7LA + 3LC)	Not exceeding one year
Himachal Pradesh					
D.R. Standing Committees	1994	LA 68	07	6	Not exceeding one year
Assam					
D.R. Standing Committees	1996	LA 126	04	15	Not exceeding one year
Mizoram					
Subject Committees	1997	LA 40	05	4 to 10	One year or until reconstitution

Abbreviation: D.R. = Departmentally Related.

* Since abolished with effect from 27 March 1998.

Position of Ministers

The rules relating to DRSCs in Parliament provide that "a Minister shall not be nominated as a member of the Committee, and if a member after his nomination to the Committee is appointed a Minister, he shall cease to be a Member of the Committee from the date of such appointment." The same position exists in this regard in the Karnataka Legislature and also in the Legislative Assemblies of Assam, Goa and Himachal Pradesh.

On the other hand, the Minister-in-charge of the subject is invariably the *ex officio* member of the concerned Subject Committees in the Legislative Assemblies of Kerala, West Bengal and Mizoram.

In Orissa, however, in addition to being a member of the Subject Committee, the Minister-in-charge of the subject is also its *ex officio* Chairman.

Functions

A brief account of the different functions performed by the Department related or Subject based Committees of Parliament and eight State Legislatures of Kerala, West Bengal, Goa, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Orissa and Mizoram is given below.

Demands for Grants

An important function of the DRSCs of Parliament is to consider the Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministers and make a report on the same to the Houses. There is a bar that the report shall not suggest anything of the nature of cut motions. The following procedure is prescribed for being followed by the DRSCs in their consideration of the Demands for Grants:

- (a) After the general discussion on the Budget in the Houses is over, the Houses shall be adjourned for a fixed period;
- (b) The Committees shall consider the Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministries during the aforesaid period;
- (c) The Committees shall make their report within the period and shall not ask for more time;
- (d) The Demands for Grants shall be considered by the House in the light of the reports of the Committees; and
- (e) There shall be a separate report on the Demands for Grants of each Ministry.

Almost similar procedure in this regard is followed by the Karnataka

Legislature and the Legislative Assemblies of Himachal Pradesh and Assam.

The Budget Committee in Goa examines the budget estimates *vis a vis* the performance of the Departments and suggests various schemes which are to be given priority.

No specific period is fixed in the rules for the adjournment of the Houses of Parliament for consideration by the DRSCs of the Demands for Grants. However, since 1993, the Houses of Parliament have adjourned every year in the Budget Session, for a period of nearly four weeks to enable the DRSCs to consider the Demands for Grants of all the Ministries of the Government of India and finalise their reports. The Karnataka Legislature, however, specifically stipulates the period of four weeks within which the reports of their Subject Committees shall be completed.

The procedure for the scrutiny of the Demands for Grants by the Subject Committees in the Legislative Assemblies of Kerala, Orissa and Mizoram is practically alike. It is also akin in content when compared with that of Parliament, though worded differently. It is provided in their rules that each Subject Committee shall, at the conclusion of the general discussion on Budget, scrutinise the Demands for Grants falling within its purview. Such scrutiny shall ordinarily be confined to variations in the demands from the previous year, more particularly increase, the need for economy and efficiency, new services and relationship of expenditure to needs. It is further provided that "the Subject Committees shall complete the scrutiny of all the demands within a period not exceeding four weeks." The procedure for examination of Demands for Grants in Orissa is comparatively more elaborate than that in Kerala and Mizoram. It is provided that a Subject Committee in Orissa may, in examining the Demands under its various sub-heads, recommend variations from one sub-head to another but such variations shall not have the effect of increasing the total allocation under the Demand. If an increase is sought to be made under one sub-head, a corresponding saving has to be shown under another sub-head within the same demand. A Subject Committee may, however, recommend an enhancement or a new service but such enhancement or new service is to be effected either by reappropriation where possible or through a supplementary demand. In making its recommendations, the Subject Committees of Orissa have to keep in view the resources constraint. While the rules of Kerala and Mizoram Legislative Assemblies require the reports of the Subject Committees to be completed within a period of four weeks, those of Orissa provide for only ten days for this purpose.

The rules of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly too provide for a similar scrutiny by their Subject Committees of the Demands for Grants and for suggesting changes in the allotment of sub-heads or minor heads keeping the total allotment under the Demand unchanged. As soon as the Demands are moved before the House, they stand automatically referred to the respective Subject Committees for pre-voting budget scrutiny. A period of eight weeks has been provided for the completion of such scrutiny after the conclusion of the general discussion on the Budget.

Legislation

The DRSCs of Parliament examine such Bills pertaining to the concerned Ministries as are referred to them. The procedure which is followed by the DRSCs for examination of the Bills is as under:—

- (a) The Committee shall consider the general principles and clauses of the Bills referred to them and make report thereon;
- (b) The Committee shall consider only such Bills introduced in either of the Houses as are referred to them by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha or the Speaker, Lok Sabha, as the case may be; and
- (c) The Committee shall make report on the Bills in the given time.

The rules of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly relating to examination of the Bills are exactly similar to those of the Lok Sabha.

The Subject Committees of the Legislative Assemblies of West Bengal, Goa, Assam and Orissa do not examine legislation. In West Bengal, the proposal to refer the Bills to the Subject Committees, on the lines of the practice prevailing in Parliament is, however, under the active consideration of their 'Committee on Reforms and Functioning of the Committee System.'

The rules of the Kerala Legislative Assembly are exactly similar to those of the Mizoram Legislative Assembly in so far as they relate to examination of legislation by their Subject Committees. In these two Assemblies, every Bill, unless referred to a Select Committee, stands referred, on a motion adopted in that behalf, to the concerned Subject Committee after its general principles are approved by the House. The Bills are examined by the Subject Committee in detail and amendments, if any, that are received are also considered. In other respects, the procedure applicable to the Select Committee on a Bill applies to the Subject Committees when they consider legislation. As in Parliament, Appropriation Bills are not referred to the Subject Committees.

The Standing Committees of the Goa and Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assemblies too examine Bills pertaining to the concerned Departments.

Delegated Legislation

While in Parliament, there are Committees on Subordinate Legislation in both the Houses, the work of scrutiny of delegated legislation is entrusted to the Subject Committees in Kerala, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh and Mizoram. Since legislation itself is beyond their purview, the Subject Committees of West Bengal, Assam and Orissa Legislative Assemblies do not undertake the task of scrutinising the subordinate legislation.

Government Working and its Policies

Under the rules of Parliament, the DRSCs consider Annual Reports of Ministries and the National Basic Long Term Policy Documents presented to the Houses, it referred to them. Similar provisions exist in the rules of the Karnataka Legislature and the Legislative Assemblies of Himachal Pradesh and Assam with regard to the consideration of reports of the State Departments and Basic Long Term Policy Documents presented to their Houses.

The rules of the Kerala and Mizoram Legislative Assemblies also empower their Subject Committees to: (a) study and report on a specified area of governmental activity in the wider public interest or a project, scheme or undertaking intended for the general welfare; and (b) advise Government on a question of policy.

The West Bengal Subject Committees too examine the working of the concerned Departments in its entirety while those of Orissa discuss generally and examine such of the activities of the concerned Department as may seem fit to the Committee or are specially referred to it by the House or the Speaker.

The Budget Committee of the Goa Legislative Assembly examines the performance of the Departments and assesses thrust programmes and target achievements of such programmes. It also examines the plan proposals prepared by the Goa Planning Board.

All the aforesaid Legislatures bar their Committees to consider matters of day-to-day administration of the concerned Departments, although the Himachal Pradesh Rules do not contain any such specific provision.

Other matters

The four functions of the DRSCs of Parliament pertaining to the consideration of Demands for Grants, Bills, Annual Reports and Basic Long Term Documents as they obtain in Parliament and seven State Legislatures have already been discussed. While the Subject Committees of Karnataka, Assam and Orissa do not perform any other functions, those of Kerala, Mizoram, West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh undertake additional tasks. The Subject Committees of Kerala and Mizoram discuss generally and formulate views on:—

- (a) State's Five-Year Plan Programmes and their implementations;
- (b) Centre-State relations in so far as they concern their State;
- (c) Reports of Public Service Commission; and
- (d) Reports of any statutory or other body, including any Commission of Inquiry, which are laid before the Assembly.

When the Standing Committees were introduced in the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, the then existing Estimates Committee, Committee on Government Assurances and Committee on Subordinate Legislation were abolished and their functions were allocated to the respective seven Departmentally Related Standing Committees. The Standing Committees of Himachal Pradesh thus additionally scrutinise the assurances, promises, undertakings, etc. given by the Ministers on the floor of the House, and the extent to which they are implemented. This task is normally undertaken by the Committee on Assurances in different Legislatures. They also ensure hundred per cent work in Hindi in the State Government Departments. The Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal rules also provide for examination by their Subject Committees of such matters as are specifically referred to them by the House or the Speaker.

Evaluation

Beginning from 8 April 1993 in the Tenth Lok Sabha till the dissolution of the Eleventh Lok Sabha on 4 December 1997, the 17 DRSCs had presented to Parliament 615 reports. Table IX and X, indicate that the 6 DRSCs of the Rajya Sabha account for 237 reports and 11 DRSCs of the Lok Sabha account for 383 reports. Of these, 456 were original reports on Demands for Grants, Bills, Policies, Annual Reports/Subjects and 159 were Action Taken Reports.

TABLE IX
REPORTS PRESENTED BY DRSCs OF RAJYA SABHA
(8.4.1993—4.12.97)

Committee	Reports					ATRs					G.Total
	DG	B	P	AR	Total	DG	B	P	AR	Total	
Commerce	13	04	-	14	31	-	-	-	-	-	31
Home Affairs	13	20	-	04	37	03	-	-	-	03	40
Human Resource Development	27	09	01	13	50	12	-	-	-	12	62
Industry	13	03	-	06	22	-	-	-	-	-	22
Science and Technology Environ- ment & Forests	29	02	-	17	48	04	-	-	-	04	52
Transport and Tourism	13	08	-	09	30	-	-	-	-	-	30
Total	108	46	01	63	218	19	-	-	-	19	237

Abbreviations: ATR stands for Action Taken Report; DG for Demands for Grants; B for Bills; P for Policies and AR for Annual Reports

TABLE X
REPORTS PRESENTED BY DRSCs OF LOK SABHA
(8.4.1993—4.12.97)

Committee	Reports					ATRs					G.Total
	DG	B	P	AR	Total	DG	B	P	AR	Total	
Agriculture	21	03	01	08	33	12	-	-	08	20	53
Communications	12	06	-	09	27	08	-	-	07	15	42
Defence	05	02	-	06	14	03	-	-	02	05	19
Energy	18	02	-	13	33	12	-	-	11	23	56
External Affairs	05	-	-	03	08	03	-	-	03	06	19
Finance	10	09	-	03	22	04	-	-	02	06	28
Food, Civil Supplies & Public Distribution	09	-	-	05	14	06	-	-	05	11	25
Labour & Welfare	09	12	-	03	24	06	-	-	02	08	32
Petroleum and Chemicals	13	01	01	07	22	09	-	-	09	18	40
Railways	04	-	-	16	20	04	-	-	11	15	35
Urban and Rural Development	15	03	01	07	26	04	-	01	08	13	39
Total	122	38	03	80	243	71	-	01	68	140	383

Abbreviations: ATR stands for Action Taken Report; DG for Demands for Grants; B for Bills; P for Policies and AR for Annual Reports

An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the reports of the 11 DRSCs of the Lok Sabha is given below:

Total No. of recommendations made	2,410
Total No. of recommendations accepted by Government	1,420 (58.92%)
No. of recommendations which the Committees did not pursue in view of the replies by Government	340 (14.11%)
No. of recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by Committees	433 (17.97%)
No. of recommendations on which final replies awaited	217 (9.00%)

Thus, while 58.92 per cent of the recommendations have been accepted by the Government, the Committees did not pursue the matter in respect of another 14.11 per cent of their recommendations in view of the satisfactory replies from the Ministries/Departments. These figures go to prove amply the effectiveness of the system in ensuring accountability and responsiveness of the Executive to the Parliament.

Additional Time for Executive Accountability

Apart from facilitating consideration of complex and technical issues in a non-partisan manner, which the House as a whole may find difficult to discuss, the Standing Committees provide to the members additional time for detailed deliberation on the legislative and financial business of the House.

The number and duration of the sittings of the 17 DRSCs of Parliament—6 of the Rajya Sabha and 11 of the Lok Sabha—for the years 1993-94 to 1997-98 are shown in Tables XI and XII, respectively. While the DRSC on Urban and Rural Development tops the list of the Lok Sabha Committees for having sat on an average for maximum number of 39 days in a year, that of the Science & Technology and Environment & Forests accounts for the maximum of 35 days topping the Rajya Sabha Committees. Time-wise, the Rajya Sabha DRSC on Human Resource Development deliberated for a maximum of 102 hours and the Lok Sabha DRSC on Urban and Rural Development for a maximum of 69 hours on an average in a year. While all the 11 DRSCs of the Lok Sabha sat for 529 hours in a year, the 6 Rajya Sabha DRSCs deliberated for 410 hours. These figures compare very favourably with those of the hours spent per year for the Sessions of the Lok Sabha (456 hours) and Rajya Sabha (378 hours). Thus, the executive accountability through the

TABLE XI

NUMBER AND DURATION OF SITTINGS OF DRSCs OF RAJYA SABHA

Committee	No. and duration (in brackets in Hrs./mts.) of Sitzings*				
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	Average
Commerce	55 (125)	29 (55)	29 (42)	13 (29)	31.50 (63)
Home Affairs	37 (64)	23 (50)	40 (62)	38 (95)	34.50 (68)
Human Resource Development	36 (81)	35 (136)	36 (141)	17 (52)	31.00 (102)
Industry	42 (118)	35 (66)	15 (19)	22 (52)	28.50 (64)
Science & Technology Environment & Forests	38 (61)	31 (82)	26 (45)	44 (78)	34.75 (66)
Transport & Tourism	31 (74)	17 (28)	20 (35)	21 (49)	22.25 (46)
Total	239 (523)	170 (417)	166 (344)	155 (355)	182.50 (410)

* Figures for 1997-98 are not available, as yet

TABLE XII

NUMBER AND DURATION OF SITTINGS OF DRSCs OF LOK SABHA

Committee	No. and duration (in brackets in Hrs./mts.) of Sitzings					
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	Average
Agriculture	38 (66)	30 (35)	12 (16)	33 (49)	07 (11)	24.00 (35)
Communications	23 (46)	31 (63)	25 (29)	46 (163)	08 (14)	26.60 (63)
Defence	18 (30)	10 (19)	12 (22)	20 (36)	03 (05)	12.60 (23)
Energy	55 (92)	48 (67)	23 (16)	39 (60)	10 (12)	35.00 (49)
External Affairs	30 (66)	21 (44)	32 (44)	15 (30)	06 (08)	20.80 (38)

Finance	24 (57)	19 (36)	24 (37)	28 (78)	16 (43)	22.20 (50)
Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution	27 (59)	13 (29)	20 (39)	12 (23)	02 (03)	14.80 (31)
Labour & Welfare	18 (36)	17 (33)	25 (52)	17 (35)	06 (08)	16.60 (33)
Petroleum & Chemicals	42 (112)	25 (43)	23 (34)	18 (20)	07 (11)	23.00 (44)
Railways	61 (75)	22 (28)	21 (34)	74 (125)	11 (19)	37.80 (56)
Urban and Rural Development	50 (84)	35 (64)	41 (70)	54 (102)	15 (23)	39.00 (69)
Total	386 (723)	271 (461)	258 (513)	358 (791)	91 (157)	272.40 (529)

*11th Lok Sabha was dissolved on 4.12.1997

Parliamentary Committees in terms of time spent is much more than through the Parliament itself.

On the eight State Legislatures which have constituted the Departmentally Related or Subject based Committees, it is too early to evaluate the system in the States of Assam and Mizoram where they have been set up only recently and have just started functioning. Since the Budget Committee in Goa performs limited functions, the evaluation may not be truly comparative.

The information relating to the number and duration of sitting of Subject Committees in Kerala, West Bengal, Orissa, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh and Mizoram (for one year only), as received from the respective Legislature Secretariats is shown in Tables XIII to XVIII. The Karnataka Legislature Subject Committees *See* Table XVI sat on an average for a maximum of 656 hours and 31 minutes spanning 274 days per year which was followed by the West Bengal (281 hours in 199 days) *See* Table XIV, Himachal Pradesh 187 hours and 51 minutes in 114.25 days *See* Table XVII, Kerala (115 hours and 12 minutes in 76.80 days) *See* Table XIII, Mizoram (94 hours and 30 minutes in 31 days) *See* Table XVIII and Orissa (13 hours and 30 minutes in 09 days) *See* Table XV. In comparison, the Legislatures of Karnataka, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Mizoram and Orissa sat annually on an average for 48, 53, 27, 55, 22 and 51 days respectively.

TABLE XIII
NUMBER AND DURATION OF SITTINGS OF SUBJECT COMMITTEES OF KERALA
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Committee	No. and duration* (in brackets in Hrs./mts.) of Sitzings					
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	Average
Agriculture and Integrated Rural Development	05 (7.30)	07 (10.30)	09 (13.30)	09 (13.30)	20 (30.00)	10.00 (15.00)
Land Revenue, Forests & Fisheries	08 (12.00)	05 (7.30)	03 (4.30)	05 (7.30)	05 (7.30)	05.20 (7.48)
Irrigation & Power	12 (18.00)	05 (7.30)	08 (12.00)	04 (6.00)	05 (7.30)	06.80 (10.12)
Industry & Minerals	06 (9.00)	03 (4.30)	05 (7.30)	05 (7.30)	13 (19.30)	06.40 (9.36)
Public Works, Transport & Communications	16 (24.00)	10 (15.00)	10 (15.00)	05 (7.30)	08 (12.00)	09.80 (14.42)
Social Services	06 (9.00)	08 (12.00)	07 (10.30)	09 (13.30)	08 (12.00)	07.60 (11.24)
Food, Housing and Labour	06 (9.00)	13 (19.30)	10 (15.00)	05 (7.30)	06 (9.00)	08.00 (12.00)
Economic Affairs	17 (25.30)	09 (13.30)	11 (16.30)	05 (7.30)	07 (10.30)	09.80 (14.42)
Local Administration and Co-operation	05 (7.30)	12 (18.00)	07 (10.30)	04 (6.00)	09 (13.30)	07.40 (11.06)
Home Affairs	04 (6.00)	05 (7.30)	07 (10.30)	05 (7.30)	08 (12.00)	05.80 (8.42)
Grand Total	85 (127.30)	77 (115.30)	77 (115.30)	56 (84.00)	89 (133.30)	76.80 (115.12)

* Calculated on the basis of an average sitting of one and half hour.

TABLE XIV
NUMBER AND DURATION OF SITTINGS OF SUBJECT COMMITTEES OF
WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Committee	No. and duration (in brackets in Hrs./mts.) of Sitzings					
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	Average
Education, Information & Cultural Affairs & Sports and Youth Services	14 (22.00)	21 (35.00)	22 (38.00)	18 (20.00)	13 (18.00)	17.80 (26.36)

Departmentally Related Committees

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Irrigation & Waterways & Water Investigation and Development	26 (39.00)	25 (38.00)	29 (44.00)	17 (26.00)	32 (48.00)	25.80 (39.00)
Panchayat, Rural Dev., Land Reforms & Animal Resources Development	16 (19.00)	19 (20.00)	20 (21.00)	27 (37.00)	17 (23.00)	19.80 (24.00)
Health & Family Welfare	21 (36.00)	30 (50.00)	25 (40.00)	13 (20.00)	20 (38.00)	21.80 (36.48)
Transport & Public Health Engineering	18 (24.00)	18 (20.00)	24 (30.00)	21 (26.00)	19 (25.00)	20.00 (25.00)
Social Welfare	-	-	-	10 (14.00)	26 (30.00)	18.00 (22.00)
Environment & Co-operation	17 (25.00)	14 (20.00)	19 (31.00)	31 (43.00)	27 (41.00)	21.60 (32.00)
Agriculture, Agriculture (Marketing), Food and Supplies, Food Processing, Horticulture & Fisheries	20 (30.00)	26 (39.00)	32 (48.00)	20 (30.00)	39 (59.00)	27.40 (41.12)
Urban Development, Municipal Affairs and Housing, Public Works and Tourism	-	-	-	-	25 (40.00)	25.00 (40.00)
Power, Commerce and Industries, Science and Technology & Non- Conventional Energy Sources	29 (35.00)	30 (34.00)	32 (36.00)	18 (25.00)	12 (11.00)	24.20 (28.12)
Relief, Refugee Relief & Rehabilitation and Forests	-	-	-	-	-	-
Labour	-	-	-	-	08 (06.00)	6.00 (6.00)
Industrial Reconstruction, Cottage & Small Scale Industries	-	-	-	-	20 (35.00)	20.00 (35.00)
Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes	-	-	-	-	15 (17.00)	15.00 (17.00)
Total	161 (230.00)	183 (256.00)	203 (288.00)	175 (241.00)	273 (391.00)	199 (281.00)

TABLE XV
NUMBER AND DURATION OF SITTINGS OF SUBJECT COMMITTEES OF
ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Committee	No. and duration* (In brackets in Hrs./ mts.) of Sitzings					Average
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	
Water Resources	02	01	01	02	02	1.60 (2.24)
Rural Development	04	04	01	01	02	2.40 (3.36)
Panchyati Raj	02	04	02	03	02	2.60 (3.54)
Agriculture	04	04	01	01	02	2.40 (3.36)
Total	12	13	05	07	08	09.00 (13.30)

*Calculated on the basis of an average sitting of one and half hour

TABLE XVI
NUMBER AND DURATION OF SITTINGS OF SUBJECT COMMITTEES OF
KARNATAKA LEGISLATURE*

Committee	No. and duration (In brackets in Hrs./mts.) of Sitzings				Average
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	
Agriculture, Horticulture	12	22	19	15	17
Animal Husbandry and Fisheries	(33.05)	(40.20)	(73.30)	(43.15)	(47.32)
Energy	11 (24.10)	26 (41.50)	10 (15.15)	13 (16.15)	15 (24.22)
Revenue, Forests, Ecology & Environment	22 (50.00)	27 (54.00)	26 (48.00)	13 (32.00)	22 (46.00)
Health & Family Welfare	31 (68.00)	25 (75.00)	36 (98.00)	15 (25.00)	26.75 (66.30)
Food & Civil Supplies	09 (21.00)	07 (22.00)	13 (26.00)	12 (22.00)	10.25 (22.45)
Rural Development & Panchayati Raj	17 (50.00)	27 (74.00)	37 (104.00)	13 (42.00)	23.50 (67.30)
Public Works/Irrigation	21 (31.00)	29 (51.00)	26 (69.00)	12 (21.00)	22 (43.00)

* Information received from Karnataka Legislature Secretariat.

Co-operation	07 (09.40)	19 (28.40)	13 (28.05)	10 (22.00)	12.25 (22.06)
Information, Tourism, Youth Services and Kannada & Culture	24 (70.30)	25 (72.40)	13 (33.55)	16 (51.30)	19.50 (57.09)
Labour, Social Welfare Women & Child Development	15 (39.00)	21 (62.00)	24 (99.00)	14 (30.00)	18.50 (56.25)
Education, Law and Parliamentary Affairs	11 (30.00)	21 (51.00)	08 (24.00)	17 (53.30)	14.25 (39.37)
Commerce & Industries	21 (50.00)	25 (60.00)	16 (26.00)	17 (45.00)	19.75 (45.15)
Housing & Urban Development	08 (15.30)	30 (73.30)	18 (43.00)	15 (34.00)	17.75 (41.30)
Finance, Institutional Finance, Statistics and Planning	07 (13.30)	34 (85.30)	15 (22.00)	17 (39.30)	18.25 (40.07)
Home & Transport and D.P.A.R.	20 (48.00)	25 (52.00)	10 (19.00)	12 (23.25)	16.75 (35.36)
Total	236 (553.25)	363 (843.30)	284 (728.45)	211 (500.25)	273.50 (656.31)

TABLE XVII

NUMBER AND DURATION OF SITTINGS OF SUBJECT COMMITTEES OF
HIMACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Committee	No. and duration (in brackets in Hrs./mts.) of Sitzings				
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	Average
General Administration	17 (24-15)	20 (22-25)	21 (23-10)	16 (17-20)	18.50 (21-47)
Revenue	17 (18-45)	21 (24-30)	22 (27-05)	21 (28-15)	20.25 (24-09)
Health & Family Welfare	23 (57-30)	20 (38-10)	22 (38-00)	18 (42-30)	20.75 (43-32)
Forests	14 (16-05)	13 (17-45)	18 (23-45)	20 (23-00)	16.25 (20-09)
Agriculture & Horticulture	21 (27-45)	20 (29-10)	21 (28-20)	19 (21-40)	20.25 (26-44)
Tourism	18 (52-25)	18 (56-05)	22 (62-30)	15 (35-00)	18.25 (51-30)
Total	110.00 (196.45)	112.00 (188.05)	126.00 (200.50)	109.00 (165.45)	114.25 (187.51)

TABLE XVIII
NUMBER AND DURATION OF SITTINGS OF SUBJECT COMMITTEES OF
MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Committee	No. and duration (in brackets in Hrs./mts.) of Sittings				
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	Average
Subject Committee-I	-	-	10 (41.30)	-	10 (41.30)
Subject Committee-II	-	-	12 (25.30)	-	12 (25.30)
Subject Committee-III	-	-	1 (2.30)	-	1 (2.30)
Subject Committee-IV	-	-	2 (6.00)	-	2 (6.00)
Subject Committee-V	-	-	6 (19.00)	-	6 (19.00)
Total			31.00 (94.30)		31.00 (94.30)

WOMEN MEMBERS IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

NARESH SINGH

The election of the members to the Constituent Assembly of India was done according to the Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946. The total strength of the Constitution making body was to be about 385, of which 292 representatives were to be drawn from the eleven Governors' Provinces of British India and 93 representatives from the Princely States of India. To these were to be added a representative each from the four Chief Commissioners' Provinces of Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara, Coorg and British Baluchistan. But this strength was never fulfilled due to certain reasons. In July 1946, the Muslim League decided through a resolution to keep their members away from the Constitution making body. Secondly, under the Indian Independence Act, 1947 India divided into two independent Dominions, and a separate Constituent Assembly was set up for the 'new Dominion'- Pakistan, resulting in a fall in the original strength of the Constitution making body which was convened for framing a Constitution for India as a whole and as a single political unit. Finally, the migration by certain elected members of the Indian Constituent Assembly to the newly-created Dominion of Pakistan also resulted in the Assembly not realising its full strength.

However, elections for the 296 seats assigned to the British-Indian Province were completed by July-August 1946. The party-wise break-up of the Constituent Assembly's membership is given below¹:

TABLE -1

Congress	208
Muslim League	73
Unionist	1
Unionist Muslim	1
Unionist Scheduled Castes	1
Krishak Praja	1
Scheduled Castes Federation	1
Sikh (Non-Congress)	1
Communist	1
Independent	8
Total	296

1. Subhash C. Kashyap: *History of the Parliament of India* Vol. I, p. 197

The figure shown includes 292 members elected from various Provinces of India through their respective Legislative Assemblies and 4 members of the Chief Commissioners' Provinces of Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara, Coorg and British-Baluchistan. To these, 93 representatives were to be added from the Princely States of India.

As far as representation of women members in the Constituent Assembly is concerned, there were, in all, 17 women members who were elected/nominated from various Provinces/States. Among these, 5 were elected from the United Provinces (UP), 3 from Madras, 3 from Bengal and one each from the Provinces of Bombay, Bihar, Central Provinces (C.P.) and Berar, Punjab and Orissa and one woman member was nominated from the princely State of Travancore-Cochin.

No woman member was elected from any of the Chief Commissioner's Provinces of Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara, Coorg and British Baluchistan.

The Governors' Provinces of Assam and the Province of North-West Frontier (N.W.F.P.) and Sind were also among those which were unrepresented by women members in the Constituent Assembly.

The following table gives the number of total representatives, number of women representatives and their percentage to total elected/nominated members from the various Provinces/States to the Constitution-making body of India.(*)

TABLE 2

Name of the Province/State	Total members elected/nominated to Constituent Assembly	Women members elected/nominated	Percentage of women members to the total members elected/nominated from each Province/State
1. United Provinces	55	5	9.09
2. Madras	49	3	6.22
3. Bihar	36	1	2.78
4. Bombay	21	1	4.76
5. C.P.** & Berar	17	1	5.00
6. Orissa	9	1	11.11
7. Bengal	60	3	5.00
8. Punjab	24	1	4.16
9. Assam	10	0	0.00
10. Delhi	1	0	0.00
11. Ajmer-Merwara	1	0	0.00
12. Coorg	1	0	0.00
13. N.W.F.P.***	3	0	0.00
14. Sind	3	0	0.00
15. Baluchistan	1	0	0.00
16. Travancore-Cochin State	6	1	16.06

*The position shown above is before 15 August 1947

**C.P.—Central Province

***N.W.F.P.—North-West Frontier Province

It may be seen from Table 2 that although the largest number of women representatives were elected from the United Provinces (U.P.), their percentage to the total elected members from the Province was only 9.09 per cent. The highest percentage of women representatives to the total elected members of a particular province was that of Orissa where out of 9 members elected to the Constituent Assembly, one was a woman representative forming 11.11 per cent of female representation in the Assembly.

In the beginning, the Province of Bengal was ranked fourth in the women representation in the Constituent Assembly as there were 3 women members out of 60 members returned to the Constituent Assembly constituting 5.0 per cent women representation of the Province in the Constituent Assembly. But soon after the division of India, this percentage was reduced to 3.33 per cent as one of the elected women members, Begum Shaista Suhrawardy Ikramullah migrated to Pakistan.

The Province of Bihar was at the fifth place in women's representation in the Constituent Assembly which had sent only one woman member out of 36 members elected to the Constituent Assembly forming 2.78 percent of the female representation of the State.

The migration of the lone elected woman member Begum Jahanara Shah Nawaz from Punjab to Pakistan at the time of partition left the State with no woman representation in the Constituent Assembly by 15 August 1947.

The following women representatives were elected from various Provinces/States to the Constituent Assembly:

TABLE 3

Sl. No.	Name of the women members	Name of the Province/State	Party affiliation
1.	Begum Aizaz Rasul	United Provinces	Muslim League
2.	Smt. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit	United Provinces	Congress
3.	Smt. Sucheta Kripalani	United Provinces	Congress
4.	Smt. Kamala Chaudhri	United Provinces	Congress
5.	Smt. Purnima Banerji	United Provinces	Congress
6.	Smt. G. Durga Bai Deshmukh	Madras	Congress
7.	Smt. Ammu Swaminadhan	Madras	Congress
8.	Smt. Dakshayani Velayudhan	Madras	Congress
9.	Smt. Renuka Ray	Bengal	Congress
10.	Smt. Lila Roy	Bengal	Congress
11.	Begum Shaista Suhrawardy Ikramullah	Bengal	Muslim League
12.	Smt. Sarojini Naidu	Bihar	Congress
13.	Smt. Malati Choudhury	Orissa	Congress
14.	Begum Jahanara Shah Nawaz	Punjab	Muslim League
15.	Smt. Hansa Mehta	Bombay	Congress
16.	Rajkumari Amrit Kaur	C.P. & Berar	Congress
17.	Ms. Annie Mascarene	Travancore-Cochin State	Independent

Table 3 reveals that out of total 17 women representatives elected/nominated from various Provinces/States to the Constituent Assembly of India, 13 were affiliated to the Indian National Congress, 3 were from the Muslim League and the one who was nominated from the State of Travancore-Cochin was an Independent member with no party affiliation.

The first meeting of the Constituent Assembly of India was held on 9 December 1946 at Eleven of the Clock in the morning in the Constitution Hall which is now known as the Central Hall of Parliament House. Among the women members, Smt. Sarojini Naidu had the privilege to be with the great leaders who adorned the first row: In the first day's sitting, the members were formally requested to present their credentials.

The following table gives the dates on which the women members presented their credentials to the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly (C.A.) and signed the Attendance Register:

TABLE 4

Sl. No.	Name of the Women members	Date of presenting the credentials and signed the Attendance Register
1.	Smt. Ammu Swaminadhan	9.12.1946
2.	Smt. Dakshayani Velayudhan	9.12.1946
3.	Smt. Purnima Banerji	9.12.1946
4.	Smt. Lila Roy	9.12.1946
5.	Smt. Sucheta Kripalani	9.12.1946
6.	Smt. Kamala Chaudhri	9.12.1946
7.	Smt. Sarojini Naidu	9.12.1946
8.	Smt. Malati Choudhury	9.12.1946
9.	Smt. G. Durga Bai Deshmukh	9.12.1946
10.	Smt. Hansa Mehta	9.12.1946
11.	Smt. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit	17.12.1946
12.	Rajkumari Amrit Kaur	21.12.1946
13.	Smt. Renuka Ray	14.07.1947
14.	Begum Aizaz Rasul	14.07.1947
15.	Ms. Annie Mascarene	29.12.1948
16.	Begum Shaista Suhrawardy Ikramullah	credentials not presented
17.	Begum Jahanara Shah Nawaz	credentials not presented

The Table shows that ten of the women representatives attended the very first sitting of the Constituent Assembly and presented their credentials to the Chairman and signed the Attendance Register. However, Smt. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit could come only on 17 December 1946 for the first time in the Assembly to present credentials. Besides, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur could sign the Attendance Register on 21 December 1946

for the first time. These two members were away attending an International Conference held in the United States of America.

Smt. Renuka Ray who was elected to the Constituent Assembly from Bengal signed the Assembly Attendance Register for the first time on 14 July 1947. Begum Aizaz Rasul who was elected from the United Provinces on Muslim League ticket submitted her credentials to the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly also on 14 July 1947 and signed the Attendance Register the same day for the first time. The delay in her case was mainly because in the beginning, members of the Muslim League had decided not to attend the Constituent Assembly of India. But, later on, some of the members of the Muslim League, who had finally decided to stay in India instead of leaving for the newly-created Dominion of Pakistan, presented the credentials and attended the Constituent Assembly.

Ms. Annie Mascarene, a woman representative nominated from the Travancore-Cochin State, was the last to join the Constitution-making body. She presented the credentials and signed the Attendance Register on 29 December 1948.

The women members of the Constituent Assembly took an active part in the proceedings of the Constitution making body. They made effective use of every available opportunity to present their view points on various matters. Table 5 gives the participation of the women members in the Constituent Assembly on discussion on various Articles of the Constitution and other related subjects:-

TABLE 5

Name of the Woman member	Article of the Constitution and participation of woman representative in the discussion thereon	Other related subjects raised in the Constituent Assembly and participation of woman member thereon
1. Begum Aizaz Rasul	23	(1) Election of Deputy Chairman, 14 July 1947
	24	(2) Tenure of Council of Ministers, 17 July 1947
	39	(3) Report of the Union
	44	Constitution Committee
	66	regarding Election
	91	System, 31 July 1947
146	(4) Formation of Scrutiny Committee regarding Draft Constitution, 29 August 1947	

		(5) Additional representation of East Punjab in Constituent Assembly, 27 January 1948
		(6) On the Resolution regarding Commonwealth, 16 May, 1949
		(7) On the Draft Constitution of India, 22 November 1949
2. Smt. Purnima Banerji	15	(1) Supplementary Report on Fundamental Rights,
	16	30 August 1947
	17	(2) Debate on Draft Constitution,
	20	10 September 1949
	21	(3) Draft Constitution Amend-
	22	ments, 15 November, 1949
	24	(4) Third Reading of
	33	Draft Constitution,
	95	24 November, 1949
	97	
	107	
	113	
	150	
	231	
	256	
	296	
	300	
	311	
	312	
	312(f)	
3. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur	—	(1) Election to the Advisory Committee, 24 January 1947
		(2) Budget estimate of the Constituent Assembly, 24 January 1947
4. Smt. G. Durga Bai Deshmukh	17	(1) Consideration of the report of the Committee on Rules and Procedures,
	19	11 December 1946
	25	(2) Abolition of Princely jurisdiction, 17 September 1949
	38(v)	(3) Amendments and addition of certain rules-Constitution amendments 15 October 1949
		(4) Amendment of Articles, 15 November 1949
		(5) Third reading of the Draft, 24 November 1949
		(6) Demand for additional

			members in the Steering Committee, 28 April 1947
			(7) Report of the Union Constitution Committee, 29 July 1947
5. Smt. Sucheta Kripalani			(1) On the occasion of presentation of the National Flag in the Constituent Assembly of India, sang the song ' <i>Saare Jahan Se Acchcha Hindustan Hamara</i> ' 14 August 1947
6. Smt. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit	—		(1) Supported the motion regarding Steering Committee, 20 January 1947
7. Smt. Renuka Ray	24 172 277		(1) Debate on Draft Constitution, 19 August 1949
8. Smt. Hansa Mehta	—		(1) Debate on the resolution regarding Aims and Objects of the Constituent Assembly, 19 December 1946 (2) Elected to the Advisory Committee of Constituent Assembly (3) Presentation of National Flag in the Constituent Assembly, 14 August 1947
9. Smt. Sarojini Naidu	—		(1) Debate on the motion regarding National Flag of India, 22 July 1947 (2) Congratulations to the President on the election, 11 December 1947
10. Smt. Dakshayani Velayudhan	11		(1) Aims and Objects of the Constituent Assembly, 19 December 1946 (2) Debate on Advisory Committee, 24 January 1947 (3) Participated in General debate, 8 November 1948 (4) Fundamental Rights of the minorities, 1 May 1947
11. Ms. Annie Mascarene	—		(1) Draft constitution first schedule New Part VI A, 15 October 1949

		(2) Draft Constitution Third Reading, 18 November 1949
12. Smt. Kamala Chaudhri	—	Not participated in the Constituent Assembly debates
13. Smt. Malati Choudhury	—	Not participated in the Constituent Assembly debates
14. Smt. Lila Roy	—	Not participated in the Constituent Assembly debates
15. Smt. Ammu Swaminadhan	—	Not participated in the Constituent Assembly debates
16. Begum Jahanara Shah Nawaz	—	Not attended any of the sittings of the Constituent Assembly of India
17. Begum Shaista Suhrawardy Ikramullah—		Not attended any of the sittings of the Constituent Assembly of India.

The above table prepared on the basis of the debates of the Constituent Assembly reveals that Begum Aizaz Rasul, Smt. Purnima Banerji and Smt. Durga Bai Deshmukh were among those who very actively participated in the proceedings of the Constitution-making body of India. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Smt. Renuka Ray and Smt. Dakshayani Velayudhan also actively took part in the debates. Smt. Sarojini Naidu participated in the debates on the National Flag of India, besides participating in debates on certain other issues. Smt. Hansa Mehta got the privilege to present the National Flag of India in the Constituent Assembly and on this auspicious occasion, Smt. Sucheta Kripalani sang the song '*Sare Jahan Se Acchcha, Hindustan Hamara*'.

Smt. Kamala Chaudhri, Smt. Malati Choudhury, Smt. Lila Roy and Smt. Ammu Swaminadhan attended most of the sittings of the Constituent Assembly but did not participate in the deliberations. Ms. Annie Mascarene who represented the Princely State of Travancore-Cochin in the Constituent Assembly spoke on two occasions in the House. Begum S. Suhrawardy Ikramullah and Begum Jahanara Shah Nawaz both elected on Muslim League ticket from Bengal and Punjab, respectively, neither presented their credentials to the Chairman of the Assembly, nor were present in any of the sittings of the House as both had migrated to Pakistan after partition.

The Constituent Assembly took two years, eleven months and seventeen days to complete its historic task of drafting the Constitution of Independent India. During this period, it held eleven Sessions covering a total of 165 days. Of these, 114 days were spent on the consideration

of the Draft Constitution. In all, 284 members actually signed the Constitution when it was eventually ready for signature. Out of 15 women member, 10 appended their signatures in the original copy of the Constitution. (*)

Out of the 10 women members who appended their signatures in the original copy of the Constitution, 9 signed in English, and one Smt. Kamala Chaudhri signed in Hindi. It will not be out of place to mention that Begum Aizaz Rasul of Sandila, Hardoi is the only Muslim lady of our country who had the privilege to be in the Constituent Assembly and to sign on the original copy of the Constitution of India.

Smt. Sarojini Naidu was appointed Governor of U.P. on 2 March 1949 before the completion of the Constitution and as such her signature is not there in the original Constitution. Smt. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit was out of the country on a diplomatic mission and she could not come to append her signature in the original copy.

On 9 December 1996, a function was organised in the Central Hall of Parliament to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the First Sitting of the Constituent Assembly. On that occasion, it was found that only 16 members of the Constituent Assembly were alive, of which three were women members - Begum Aizaz Rasul (Lucknow, UP), Smt. Malati Choudhary (Angul, Orissa) and Smt. Renuka Ray (Calcutta, West Bengal). Subsequently, Smt. Renuka Ray passed away on 11 April 1997 at Calcutta at the age of 94.

Among those eight members of the Constituent Assembly who attended the fiftieth anniversary function, Begum Aizaz Rasul was the lone lady member who could come to the Constitution Hall (Central Hall of the Parliament House). She was presented a citation and a shawl by the President of India.

Women members of the Constituent Assembly of India played a very significant role in the framing of the Constitution of India. The contributions of women members are in no way less significant than those of their male counterparts. The areas of their interest in the debates of the Constituent Assembly cover not only the issues concerning the uplift of women but also other issues of national and international importance.

It was also seen that the Constituent Assembly had among its women members some of the veterans like Smt. Sarojini Naidu who was, later

* Original copy of the Constitution of India is preserved in the Parliament Library

on, appointed as the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Smt. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit who later became the first woman President of the United Nations General Assembly, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur who became the first woman Minister in the Union Cabinet and Smt. Sucheta Kriplani who subsequently became the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. Indeed, the contribution of women members of the Constituent Assembly in framing the supreme document of our nation has been remarkable.

APPLICATIONS OF COMPUTERS IN INDIAN PARLIAMENT

LARRDIS

Information Technology continues to have not only an enormous influence on the global economy, but also on Governments and political parties. The recent General Elections in India witnessed almost all major political parties promising to make India a front-runner in the age of information revolution. Immediately after the recent Elections, the National Agenda for Governance, announced by the ruling coalition stated: "A new revolution is sweeping the globe—that of Information Technology. We believe that Information Technology is an important vehicle for future development. We are committed to ensuring that India is a full and equal partner in its global progress; indeed that India can be a software superpower. We will, for that purpose, unveil a National Informatics Policy with short, medium and long-term perspectives."

Computers: Its usage

The increasing use of communication and computation, *i.e.* modern information technologies, is bound to further alter the basic patterns of human interaction, communication and thought. The increasing use of computers in various fields of human activity goes to prove the computer is an essential instrument for all round development. One area in which the fast pace of computer and communication technology has the greatest impact is the modes and methods of information handling. Now information can be stored, retrieved, communicated and broadcast electronically in enormous quantities and at phenomenal speed; it can also be rearranged, selected, marshalled and transformed. The dramatic reduction in size and cost of computer components and equally impressive gains in the speed, storage capacity and user friendliness of software have expanded their use so rapidly that their presence can no longer be ignored. Our Parliament is also not untouched by this revolution in information management.

Computers—The Need

To deliberate, discuss and take decisions, Parliament needs timely, non-partisan, factual, objective, authoritative and full information. Infor-

mation is not just an aggregate of knowledge but a level of awareness on a given set of issues that enables the Parliament, when a development occurs, to react to it swiftly and confidently. Information in this sense is crucial to Parliaments. Parliaments must have unrestrained access to information. For the effective functioning of democracy, it is necessary that adequate information resources be provided to the Opposition, Government back benchers and Parliamentary Committees.

To ensure informed debates, members of Parliament require a feedback of information on a variety of subjects. The sources of a parliamentarian's information are many but inasmuch as a modern government is the greatest single monopolist of information, most Legislatures and legislators—more particularly in the developing nations—have to rely very heavily on the Executive Departments for their information requirements. Information from other sources like the mass media, interest groups or lobbyists, etc. also need to be consulted to reach an unbiased understanding of issues. Hence, it is imperative for a Legislature to develop its own independent specialised system for collection, storage and retrieval of information.

Computer Applications in Indian Parliament

The Parliament of India, like Parliaments elsewhere in the world, has taken several steps in developing appropriate information technology to assist its parliamentarians in the effective discharge of their duties.

The idea of introducing automation of the information services in the Parliament Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) was conceived in 1982 when the Library Committee of Parliament gave its approval for the setting up of a Computer Centre. The details of the project were worked out in consultation with the National Informatics Centre (NIC). The Parliament Library made a modest beginning towards automation in December 1985 when a computer based information service named the Parliament Library Information System (PARLIS) was set up to cater to the instant information needs of members of Parliament as also of other users of the Parliament Library. The computerisation programme has taken a quantum jump in the succeeding years. Alongside PARLIS, the activities of most of the Branches of the Lok Sabha Secretariat (Reporters, Questions, Committee Branches, Members' Service, Pay and Accounts, Budget and Payment, General Administration, Recruitment, Reception Office and Security Service) have also been computerised.

Two Computer Centres, one each in Parliament House and Parlia-

ment House Annexe, have been set up to provide necessary hardware and software support to various Branches of the Secretariat. So far, eight pentium server machines, eight 486 based mini computers, 115 Pcs, 270 terminals and 224 printers, including laser and line printers, have been installed in a Local Area Network (LAN) in various Branches of the Secretariat.

Parliament Library Information System (PARLIS) Databases

To make available non-partisan, objective and reliable information and authoritative data on a continuous and regular basis to parliamentarians, a large number of index-based databases of information generated within the Parliament was initially developed by the PARLIS. The data currently available for on-line retrieval relate to:

(A) Business of the House

- (i) *Parliamentary Proceedings*: Index of select parliamentary proceedings (other than Questions) from 1985 to November 1993. The data can be retrieved by member's name and keyword. Year-wise filtering is also possible. The texts of the proceedings of the Tenth Lok Sabha and the Eleventh Lok Sabha have been kept on the Internet for on-line retrieval.
- (ii) *Select Parliamentary Questions*: Select Parliamentary Questions (*only indexes*) since 1985 are available on-line.
- (iii) *Constituent Assembly Debates*: A list of members of the Constituent Assembly of India and the full text of the proceedings of the Constituent Assembly Debates covering the period of 9 December 1946 to 24 January 1950 is available for on-line retrieval. The data is also available on Internet.
- (iv) *Bills*: Information on all Government and Private Members' Bills (index only) from 1985 onwards is available for on-line access which can be retrieved by the name of member, keywords, Bill number, amendment number, etc.

(B) Procedures of the House

- (v) *Directions, Decisions and Observations from the Chair*. The texts of the Directions from the Chair since 1952 and the indexes of Decisions and Observations made from the Chair from time to time are also available on-line. The matter can be retrieved by the serial number of the Direction and subject matter through different keywords.

(C) Ministers and Members

- (vi) *Council of Ministers*: The database contains the names and

portfolios of the members of the Union Council of Ministers since 1947.

- (vii) *Consolidated Index of Members*: The system contains information about the names and membership of members of the Constituent Assembly, Provisional Parliament, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.
- (viii) *Bio-data of Members*: This system provides on-line information on the profiles of members of the Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Lok Sabhas and members of the Rajya Sabha from 1986 onwards. The system also gives statistical data about sex, age, education, profession, party, previous political experience, etc. of the members. Besides, data is also available on the socio-economic background of members of the Lok Sabha from 1952 onwards.
- (ix) *Obituary References*: This database shows the obituary references made in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha since 1950.

(D) Elections

- (x) *Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections*: This database stores information since 1952 and gives the programme of election, names of proposers and seconders, details of votes received by winners and losers, the number of votes polled, etc.
- (xi) *By-elections to the Lok Sabha*: This database contains information since 1952 indicating the names of States/parliamentary constituencies/dates of by-election, names and party affiliation of leading candidates and the number and percentage of votes polled.

(E) President's Rule

- (xii) In this database, information about President's Rule in different States and Union territories of India since 1957 is available.

(F) Economic Indicators

- (xiii) This database contains statistical information relating to different sectors of the Indian economy such as agriculture, industry, labour, energy, railways, etc.

(G) LARRDIS-related Databases

- (xiv) *Library Catalogue*: On-line access of catalogue provides information about documents (books/reports) added in the Parliament Library since 1992. Searches can be made by author, title, keyword in context (KWIC) and their combination through the Boolean logic.

- (xv) *Serials Control*: This is a management module designed for journals and periodicals received in the Parliament Library since 1989.
- (xvi) *Parliamentary Documentation*: This Current Awareness Service (CAS) provides indexes to select books, reports and articles from journals and newspapers from December 1989 onwards.
- (xvii) *Members' References*: This database contains some select reference notes in response to members' queries.
- (xviii) *Electronic Books*: Apart from the Constitution of India, a few important Lok Sabha Secretariat publications such as the Constituent Assembly Debates, Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, Directions from the Speaker and Decisions from the Chair are now available on floppies/CD Rom.

Library management functions such as Acquisition, Technical Processing and Issue and Return of Books have also been computerised by using a software package named "LIBSYS". Members can access library catalogues through the terminals installed at the Library counters and also from their residences/offices. Indexes of important articles appearing in newspapers, journals and publications of national and international organisations (as a Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) service) are also available for on-line retrieval. Subject bibliographies and select list of publications on various subjects are provided to members on request.

Computer Facility to the Members of Parliament

As part of the on-going modernization efforts, members of the Lok Sabha have been provided with a Note-Book or a Desk-Top Computer having fax/modem card along with a printer and necessary software. A user friendly menu-driven software under the 'Windows' environment helps them to get instant and up-to-date information in the following areas:

1. Constituency functions management system
 - (a) census statistics
 - (b) election statistics
2. Personal information system
 - (a) correspondence and grievance module
 - (b) local area development system
 - (c) list of service beneficiaries
3. Office automation activities
 - (a) multilingual word processing facility

- (b) E-mail facility for sending mail to fellow member, Parliament Secretariats, Ministers and their offices, etc.
 - (c) fax facility
 - (d) voice mail
 - (e) telephone diary
 - (f) greetings preparation
 - (g) directory of who's who
 - (h) appointment planning
4. Parliamentary Library Information System
- (a) selected Parliamentary Questions
 - (b) Parliamentary Proceedings
 - (c) Government and Private Members' Bills
 - (d) Bio-data of members of Parliament

Members' Query Booth

A query booth has been set up in the Central Hall, Parliament House for imparting continuous training in making use of various software programme such as word processing in English, Hindi and other Indian languages, personal organiser, etc. and access to Internet and the PARLIS database.

Communication Linkage

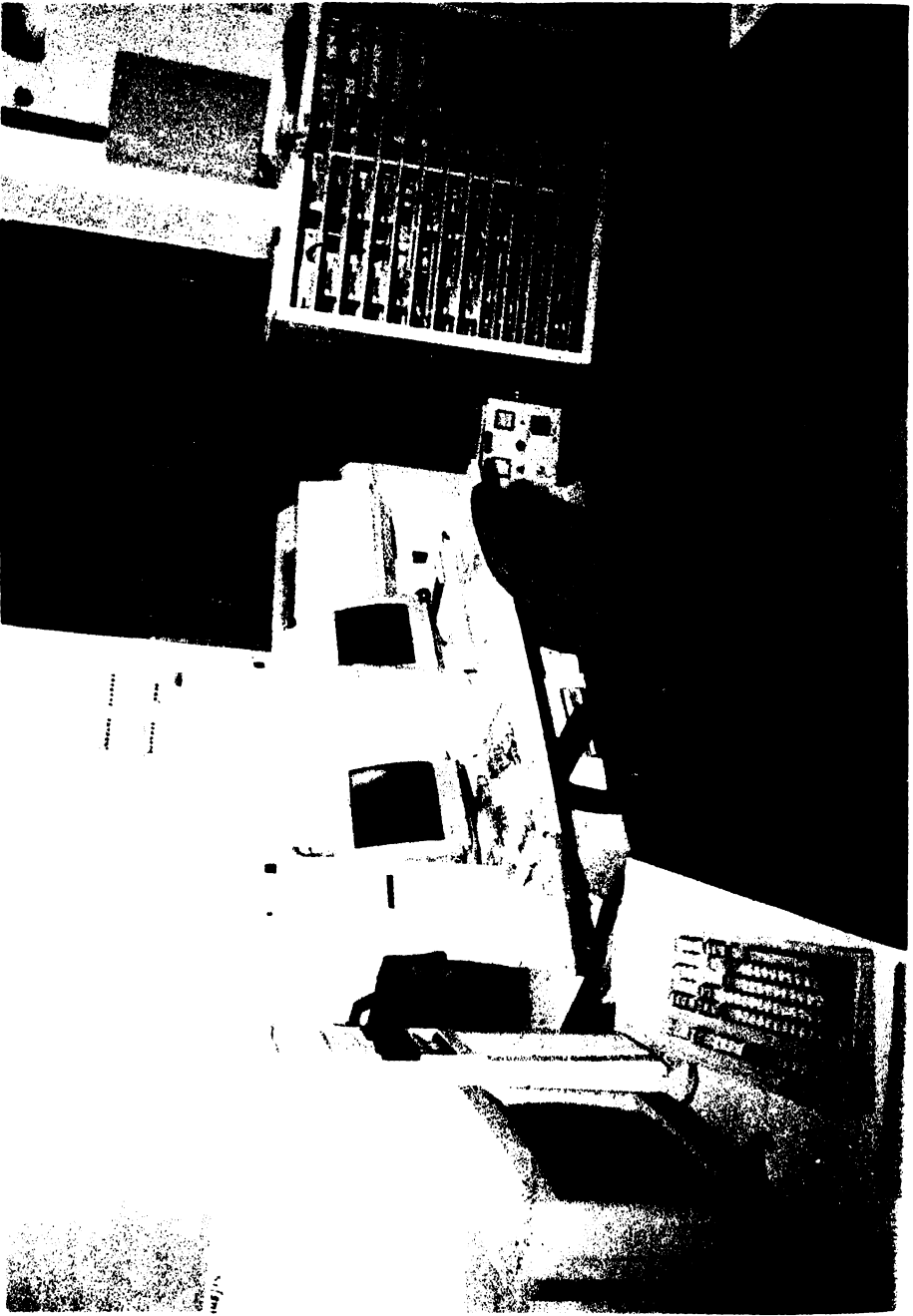
PARLIS is presently linked with the NIC's satellite-based network known as Nicnet. Since Nicnet is linked with capitals of all States of India and District Headquarters of the country, members are able to exchange messages and other information with State Legislatures and District Headquarters. Nicnet is also connected with major international networks like Internet, Sprintnet, Timenet, Telnet, Uunet and Datapak, making it possible to have exchange of information with foreign Legislatures and access to international databases, including those of foreign Legislatures and International Organisations

Parliament of India Web Page on Internet

The "Parliament of India Home Page" on the World Wide Web Site of Internet became operational on 15 March 1996. The information contained in the documents of the Indian Parliament, which till now existed in printed form, is being converted into an electronic one, so that people all over the world can have access to them. The Constitution of India; important Addresses of the President of India (1996-97); Constituent Assembly Debates; Union Budgets starting 1996-97; Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha; Directions by the Speaker; Decisions from the Chair, Bills and Policies (1991 onwards); biodata of members of the Tenth, the Eleventh and the Twelfth Lok Sabhas; biodata



Computer Centre, Parliament House



Computer At Work - 10/10/66

Sabhas; biodata of members of the current Rajya Sabha; Parliamentary Debates (Lok Sabha Debates beginning with the Tenth Lok Sabha in July 1991); and the synopsis of the debates of the Special Session to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of India's Independence (1997) constitute the major components of the parliamentary information currently available on the Internet.

A comprehensive introduction to the Constitution of India and functioning of the Parliament and facilities provided to the members and the visitors are also given. Members of Parliament and others interested can access the Parliament Web Site at the Internet address: **<http://alfa.nic.in>**

An initiative has also been undertaken to put the *Journal of Parliamentary Information* on the Internet.

Thus, in just over a decade, the Parliament of India has extended the frontiers of knowledge of members at an incredible speed through various applications of information technology. The optimum use of computers and the introduction of new areas and new concepts to parliamentarians are bound to have an impact on the overall functioning of Parliament in the years to come.

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

Second North-East Region Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference: The Second North-East Region Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference was organised by the Mizoram CPA Branch at Aizawl on 22 and 23 April 1998.

The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi* inaugurated the Conference on 22 April 1998 at Aizawl. The Welcome Address was delivered by the Speaker, Mizoram Legislative Assembly, Shri Vaivenga. The Chief Minister of Mizoram, Shri Lalthanhawla, and the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri S. Gopalan were also present on the occasion.

In all, 48 delegates from Assam, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura State CPA Branches attended the Conference.

The following subject was discussed at the Plenary Session of the Conference: "Fifty years of India's Independence—Its Impact upon the North-East Region."

At the Panel Session, the following subject was discussed: "Privilege and Immunities by the MPs and MLAs under article 105 and 194 respectively—Its Ramification in the smooth transaction of the Business of the House."

On the concluding day of the Conference, the Chief Minister of Mizoram, Shri Lalthanhawla, delivered the Valedictory Address. The Vote of Thanks was given by the Minister In-charge of Parliamentary Affairs and Public Health Department, Government of Mizoram, Shri Lalhuthanga.

A cultural programme was arranged by the hosts in the evening of 23 April 1998.

Meetings of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association: The mid-year meetings of the Executive Committee of the

* For text of the Address by the Speaker, See *The Journal of Parliamentary Information*, Vol. XLIV, No.2, June 1998, pp. 94-98.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) were held in Swaziland from 26 April to 2 May 1998.

The Regional Representative for the Asia Region, Shri P.A. Sangma, MP attended the meetings.

Tenth Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar: The Tenth Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar was held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada from 21 to 28 May 1998.

Shri Mukul Wasnik, MP attended the Seminar as a delegate from the Parliament of India. Apart from him, the delegates from the State CPA Branches, viz. the Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Y. Ramakrishnu; the Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly, Shri Ganesh Kutum; the Speaker, Orissa Legislative Assembly, Shri Chintamani Dyan Samantara; the Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Shri P.T.R. Palanivel Rajan; and the Deputy Speaker, Delhi Legislative Assembly, Chaudhary Fateh Singh, also attended the Seminar.

Workshop on "The Role of the Opposition" in London, UK: A Workshop on "The Role of the Opposition" organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat, London, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, was held in London from 8 to 10 June 1998.

Shri P.A. Sangma, MP and Shri G.C. Malhotra, Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat, attended the Workshop as delegates from the Parliament of India. Shri P.A. Sangma, MP introduced and chaired the sessions on "The Legislative Function", and "The Opposition in Decentralised Democracies", respectively.

Joint Colloquium on "Parliamentary Supremacy and Judicial Independence: Towards a Commonwealth Model": A Joint Colloquium on "Parliamentary Supremacy and Judicial Independence: Towards a Commonwealth Model" was organised by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in conjunction with the Commonwealth Lawyers Association, Commonwealth Legal Education Association and Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association with the support of some other organisations at Latimer House, Buckinghamshire, UK from 15 to 19 June 1998.

The aim and objective of the Colloquium was to bring together a key group of parliamentarians, judges and magistrates, legal practitioners and legal educationalists to devise a strategy for strengthening the democratic framework within the jurisdictions of the Commonwealth and to recommend to the Commonwealth guidelines setting out good practice in the relations between the Executive, Parliament and the Judiciary in order to promote good governance, rule of law and human rights.

Shri E. Ahamed, MP attended the Colloquium as a delegate from the Parliament of India.

The Colloquium discussed the following subjects on the Agenda:

- (i) Preserving Judicial and Parliamentary Independence;
- (ii) Parliament and the Judiciary;
- (iii) Role of Non-judicial and Non-parliamentary Institutions;
- (iv) Relations with the Executive; and
- (v) Judges, Parliamentarians and Civil Society.

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 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 April to 30 June 1998.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a function was held on 14 April 1998. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani; the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Madan Lal Khurana; the Minister of Labour, Shri Satyanarain Jatia; the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri Sharad Pawar; the leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Manmohan Singh; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Dr. Ambedkar.

Pandit Motilal Nehru: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Pt. Motilal Nehru, a function was held on 6 May 1998. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Shri R. Janardhanan; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Pandit Motilal Nehru.

Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, a function was held on 9 May 1998. The Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; the Home Minister, Shri L.K. Advani; the Labour Minister, Shri Satyanarain Jatia; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to the Gurudev.

EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS VISITING INDIA

Democratic People's Republic of Korea: On our invitation, a Parliamentary Delegation from the Democratic People's Republic (DPR) of Korea, led by the Speaker of the Supreme People's Assembly of DPR Korea, Mr. Yang Hyong Sop, visited India from 7 to 13 April 1998.

The Delegation called on the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Madan Lal Khurana on 11 April 1998.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Agra.

Venezuela: On our invitation, a 2-member Venezuelan Parliamentary Delegation led by the First Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies of Venezuela, Deputy Zulio Castillo, visited India from 5 to 12 July 1998.

The Delegation called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi and the Minister of Power, Shri P.R. Kumaramanglam on 9 July 1998. The Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted a dinner in their honour the same evening. On 10 July 1998, the Delegation called on the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant; the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Madan Lal Khurana; and the Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt. Vasundhara Raje.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Mumbai, Bangalore, Puttaparthi (Andhra Pradesh) and Agra.

INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS GOING ABROAD

Turkey: An Indian Parliamentary Delegation, led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi visited Turkey from 27 June to 2 July 1998. The other members of the Delegation were: Sarvashri P. Upendra; Syed Sibtey Razi; Balram Singh Yadav; Prabhu Dayal Katheria; K.P. Naidu; Tathagata Satpathi; and Prof. Ram Bakhsh Singh Verma, all members of Parliament and Shri S. Gopalan, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha. Shri V.K. Sharma, Deputy Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

BUREAU OF PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES AND TRAINING

During the period 1 April to 30 June 1998, the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) organised the following Courses/Programmes:

Orientation/Training Programme for Legislators: An Orientation Programme on the Departmentally-related Standing Committee (DRSC) System for

members of the Assam Legislative Assembly and the Senior Officers of the Government of Assam and the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat was organised under the joint auspices of the BPST and the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat at Dispur on 6 April 1998. The Programme was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Prafulla Kumar Mahanta and presided over by the Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly, Shri Ganesh Kutum. It was attended by several Ministers, Chairmen of various Committees of the Assam Legislative Assembly, members of the Assam Legislative Assembly, and officers of the Government of Assam and the State Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

Appreciation Courses: An Appreciation Course in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures was organised from 20 to 24 April 1998 for probationers of: (i) Indian Civil Accounts Service; (ii) Indian Defence Accounts Service; (iii) Indian P&T Finance and Accounts Service; and (iv) Indian Railways Accounts Service.

Training Courses: The following Training Courses/Programmes were organised for the officers and staff of the Lok Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats: (i) Training Programme on Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs) for officials of the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Secretariat from 19 to 20 May 1998; and (ii) training classes in Stenography for candidates appearing in the departmental tests of the Lok Sabha Secretariat from 20 April to 8 May and again from 26 May to 12 June 1998.

Nominations for various Training Programmes: Three officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat were nominated to attend a Workshop on 'Barrier Free Environment' organised by the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment at the Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, on 5 and 6 June 1998.

Three officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat were also nominated to attend the Orientation Training Programme in Translation organised by the Central Translation Bureau from 22 to 26 June 1998.

Study Visits: Eleven Study Visits were organised for participants from various leading training/educational institutions.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

LOK SABHA

Instance when a member took oath in the Speaker's Chamber during inter-session period: Smt. Vijaya Raje Scindia was declared elected to the Lok Sabha as a BJP candidate from the Guna Parliamentary constituency of Madhya Pradesh. Her name was included along with the names of the other members in the notification issued by the Election Commission. Since Smt. Scindia was ill and hospitalised, she could not make/subscribe oath or affirmation as a member of the Lok Sabha during the First Session, *i.e.* from 23 to 31 March 1998.

Smt. Vijaya Raje Scindia had requested the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi *vide* her letter dated 14 May 1998 that as she had not yet recovered from her illness, she might be allowed to take oath as a member of the Lok Sabha in the Speaker's Chamber so as to enable her to participate in the Committee meetings. Her request was acceded to and necessary arrangements were made in the Speaker's Chamber. Accordingly, on 15 May 1998 at 15.35 hrs., Smt. Vijaya Raje Scindia took oath in Hindi and signed the Roll of members in the Speaker's Chamber. The Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; the Home Minister, Shri L.K. Advani; and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Madan Lal Khurana and some guests of the member were also present in the Speaker's Chamber.

Practice of allowing twelve members instead of twenty-four under Rule 377: At the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) held on 29 May 1998, it was decided that the item relating to matters under Rule 377 would be taken up after the Question Hour and other formal items listed in the agenda paper as per the direction 2 of the Directions by the Speaker regarding relative precedence of different classes of business. It was also decided that twelve members, instead of twenty-four would be allowed to raise the matters under Rule 377 per day to be allocated on the basis of the strength of the Parties/Groups in the Lok Sabha. The members would also be permitted to read the text of the matter. The practice of allowing twelve members instead of twenty-four per day under Rule 377 was followed from 1 June 1998.

Members not to read from any paper during the Zero Hour: On 1 June 1998, after the Question Hour when members were raising matters of urgent public importance, a member, Shri Th. Chaoba Singh began to read out from a paper. Thereupon, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi observed:

You should not read, but you can make your points. During Zero Hour, you should not read from any paper.

Members to rise above party lines and maintain objectivity in their speeches: On 1 June 1998, before discussion under Rule 193 regarding the incidents of suicide committed by the farmers in the various parts of the country due to non-payment of remunerative prices for their agricultural produce was taken up, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi observed:

I would urge upon the members to rise above party lines and maintain objectivity in their speeches. Apportioning blame is not going to help; constructive suggestions have to be made to overcome the problems that beset the agriculture sector. I would also urge upon the Government to make some meaningful, positive response by announcing concrete and comprehensive steps which it intends to take in this regard to ensure that such tragic incidents do not recur and to ameliorate the plight of the farmers.

Instance when the Minister twice replied to the clarifications sought by the members: On 3 June 1998, during the Zero Hour, members raised the issue regarding Budgetary hike in the prices of petrol and urea. Though the Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha replied, many members objected to certain words of the Minister. Amidst interruptions, the Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha concluded his clarifications. Interruptions continued and the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi announced that the 'Zero Hour' was over. However, many members wanted to discuss the same issue. Amidst interruptions at 13.11 hrs., the Speaker adjourned the House till 14.00 hrs.

When the House re-assembled, a member, Shri P. Shiv Shankar raised the issue and demanded that the Finance Minister should reply to the questions raised by the members and also apologize to the House for the way he conducted himself in replying to the points raised by the members during the 'Zero Hour'. The Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha again replied to the points.

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

(1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 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

Elections to the Lok Sabha: Prof. Chaman Lal of the BJP was declared elected to the Lok Sabha from the Udhampur constituency in Jammu and Kashmir for which election was held on 18 March 1998.

Dr. C.P. Thakur of the BJP was declared elected to the Lok Sabha from the Patna constituency in Bihar for which election was held on 30 March 1998.

The following were declared elected to the Lok Sabha in the elections held on 3 June 1998: *Mandi:* Shri Maheshwar Singh (BJP); *Ladakh:* Shri Agha Syed Hussain (National Conference); and *Tarn Taran:* Shri Tarlochan Singh Tur (SAD).

Elections to the Rajya Sabha: On 1 April 1998, Shri Kushok Thiksey of National Conference was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Jammu and Kashmir.

On 10 June 1998, the following were elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha:

Bihar: Shri Ram Deo Bhandary (RJD).

Madhya Pradesh: Sarvashri Dilip Singh Judev and O. Rajagopal (both BJP); Balkavi Bairagi, Jhumuk Lal Bhendia and Kumari Mabel Rebello (all Congress-I).

Punjab: Sarvashri Raj Mohinder Singh and Sukhdev Singh Libra (both SAD).

Tamil Nadu: Sarvashri Viduthalai Virumbi, S. Agniraj, S. Sivasubramanian, M.A. Kader and Prof. M. Sankaralingam (all DMK); and G.K. Moopanar (TMC).

On 11 June 1998, the following were declared elected to the Rajya Sabha:

Haryana: Sarvashri Devi Lal (Haryana Lok Dal) and Swaraj Kaushal (Haryana Vikas Party).

On 18 June 1998, the following were elected to the Rajya Sabha:

Bihar: Shri Anil Kumar, Dr. Ramendra Kumar Yadav Ravi and Smt. Saroj Dubey (all Rashtriya Janata Dal); Shri Parmeshwar Kumar Agarwalla (BJP); Shri Kapil Sibal (Congress-I); Shri Gaya Singh (CPI); and Shri Shibu Soren (JMM).

Maharashtra: Sarvashri Satish Chandra Sitaram Pradhan and Prithish Nandy (both Shiv Sena); Suresh Kalmadi and Vijay J. Darda (both Independents); and Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla (Congress-I).

Orissa: Sarvashri Ranganath Mishra, Ramachandra Khuntia and Dr. Manmath Nath Das (all Congress-I).

Rajasthan: Sarvashri Jaswant Singh and Dr. L.M. Singhvi (both BJP); and Aimaduddin Ahmad Khan and Santosh Bagrodia (both Congress-I).

Uttar Pradesh: Shri Arun Shourie, Shri T.N. Chaturvedi, Shri D.N. Mishra, Shri S.P. Gautam and Shri B.P. Singhal (all BJP) ; Shri Rama Shanker Kaushik, Shri Munnawar Hussain and Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav (all SP); Shri Khan Gufran Zahidi (Congress-I); Dr. Syed A.H. Rizvi (Lok Tantrik Congress Party); Shri Kanshi Ram (BSP); and Shri D.P. Yadav (Jantantrik BSP).

Budget Session of Parliament: The Budget Session of Parliament commenced on 27 May 1998. Both the Houses were adjourned on 12 June 1998 to facilitate the Departmentally-related Standing Committees of Parliament to examine the Demands for Grants of the Union Ministries/Departments assigned to them and submit their reports to the House. Both the Houses were reconvened on 3 July 1998. The Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha adjourned *sine die* on 4 and 6 August 1998, respectively. Both the Houses were prorogued by the President on 10 August 1998.

Resignation of Ministers: On 8 April 1998, the Union Surface Transport Minister, Shri R. Muthiah resigned from the Council of Ministers on being chargesheeted in a graft case.

On 20 April 1998, the Union Communications Minister, Shri Buta Singh was dropped from the Union Council of Ministers on being chargesheeted in the JMM MP's bribery case.

Smt. Sushma Swaraj, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting was given the additional charge of the portfolio held by Shri Buta Singh.

On 22 May 1998, the Minister of State for Finance, Shri R.K. Kumar resigned from the Council of Ministers on health grounds.

Death of Members: On 22 April 1998, Shri Gyan Ranjan, of the Congress (I) belonging to the Rajya Sabha, passed away.

Shri Chandubhai Deshmukh of the BJP, representing the Broach constituency of Gujarat in the Lok Sabha, passed away on 28 June 1998.

AROUND THE STATES

ANDHRA PRADESH

By-election results: In the by-elections to the State Legislative Assembly held on 3 June 1998, the *Telugu Desam Party* won 3 seats and the *Congress(I)* one seat.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Election of Speaker/Deputy Speaker: Shri Chowna Mein of the Arunachal Congress was unanimously elected the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly on 25 May 1998. Shri Setong Sena, also of the Arunachal Congress, was unanimously elected as the Deputy Speaker.

ASSAM

Resignation of Minister: On 18 May 1998, the P.W.D. Minister, Shri Atul Bora resigned from the State Cabinet.

By-election results: The Congress(I) and the Asom Gana Parishad won one seat each in the by-elections to the State Legislative Assembly held on 3 June 1998.

BIHAR

New Governor: Shri Sunder Singh Bhandari was sworn in as the Governor of Bihar on 27 April 1998.

By-election results: The following is the result of by-elections to the State Legislative Assembly held on 3 June 1998: *Rashtriya Janata Dal:* 3; *Samata Party:* 2; *Janata Dal:* 1; and *Congress (I):* 1.

DELHI

Induction of Minister: On 2 April 1998, Smt. Poornima Sethi was inducted as the first woman Minister in the Cabinet.

New Lt. Governor: On 20 April 1998, Shri Vijay Kumar Kapoor was sworn in as the new Lt. Governor of Delhi.

GOA

New Governor: Lt. Gen. (Retd.) J.F.R. Jacob was sworn in as the Governor of Goa on 19 April 1998.

HARYANA

By-election result: The Congress (I) won the lone seat in the State Legislative Assembly for which by-election was held on 3 June 1998.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Resignation of Minister: On 7 May 1998, the PWD and Power Minister, Pt. Sukh Ram resigned from the State Cabinet following the sanction granted by the President to the CBI to prosecute him in the 'Telecom scam'.

By-election results: In the by-elections to the State Legislative Assembly held on 3 June 1998, the BJP won 3 seats and the *Haryana Vikas Congress* 1 seat.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Resignation of Minister: On 22 April 1998, the Chief Minister, Shri Farooq Abdullah dropped the Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation Minister, Shri Abdul Ahad Vakil from the State Cabinet.

New Governor: On 2 May 1998, Shri Girish Chandra Saxena was sworn in as the new Governor of Jammu and Kashmir.

By-election result: The BJP won the lone seat in the State Legislative Assembly for which by-election was held on 3 June 1998.

KARNATAKA

By-election results: The following is the result of by-elections to the State Legislative Assembly held on 3 June 1998: *Janata Dal*: 3; *Congress(I)*: 2; and BJP 2.

KERALA

By-election result: An Independent supported by the Left Demo-

cratic Front won the lone seat in the State Legislative Assembly for which by-election was held on 3 June 1998.

MADHYA PRADESH

New Governor: Dr. Bhai Mahavir was sworn in as the Governor of Madhya Pradesh on 22 April 1998.

Expansion of Cabinet: On 18 May 1998, the Chief Minister, Shri Digvijay Singh expanded the State Cabinet. The Ministers and their portfolios are:

Cabinet Ministers: Shri Subhash Kumar Sujotia: *Public Health and Family Welfare*; Shri Motilal Dave: *Culture*; Shri Bhagwan Singh Yadav: *Commercial Taxes*; Shri Surendra Bahadur Singh: *Tourism*; Shri Jhitoram Baghel: *Commercial Taxes and Registration*; Shri Satyanarayan Sharma: *Public Relations*; Shri Ravindra Choube: *School Education*; Shri Ram Niwas Rawat: *Labour*; Shri Chaneshram Rathia: *Fisheries*; Shri Derhu Prasad Dhritlahre: *Civil Aviation and Public Grievances*; Shri Jalam Singh Patel: *Village Development*; and Dr. Ashok Sawle: *Medical Education*.

Ministers of State: Shri Deepak Saxena: *Public Health*, Shri K.P. Singh: *Animal Husbandry*, Shri Hukum Singh: *Energy*, Shri Chandrabhan Singh: *Public Works*; Shri Ram Kumar Patel: *Public Health and Family Welfare*; Shri Raj Kumar Patel: *School Education, Sports and Youth Welfare*; Shri Prabhusingh Thakur: *Panchayat and Village Development*; Shri Nobel Kumar Verma: *Revenue*; Shri Basori Singh: *General Administration, Village Development, Legislative Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs*; Shri Keshri Choudhary: *Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes Welfare*; and Shri Tejilal Saryam: *Forests*.

MAHARASHTRA

New Governor: On 21 April 1998, Dr. P.C. Alexander, who was reappointed as the Governor of Maharashtra was sworn in.

Expansion of Cabinet: On 9 May 1998, the Chief Minister, Shri Manohar Joshi expanded the State Cabinet. The Ministers and their portfolios are:

Cabinet Ministers: Shri Devakar Raote: *Employment, Self Employment and Transport*; and Shri A.T. Pawar: *Tribal Development*.

Ministers of State: Shri Pratap Rao Jadhao: *Sports and Youth Welfare*, Shri Dilip Sopal: *Law and Judiciary*; Shri D.B. Pawar Patil: *Revenue*; Shri Vinayak Korde: *Animal Husbandry*; Shri Vijay V. Girker: *Social*

Welfare, Tribal Development, Women and Child Welfare and Ex-Servicemen's Welfare; and Shri Pratap Sinh Mohite-Patil: Cooperation.

By-election results: The following is the result of by-elections to the State Legislative Assembly held on 3 June 1998: *Congress(I): 7; BJP: 2; and Shiv Sena: 1.*

MANIPUR

Minister dropped: On 5 May 1998, the Chief Minister, Shri W. Nipamacha dropped the Minister of General Administration, Shri L. Jatra from the State Cabinet.

MIZORAM

Resignation of Ministers: On 2 April 1998, the following three Cabinet Ministers resigned from the State Cabinet: Shri Liansuama: *Home;* Shri Saikapthianga: *Rural Development and Forests;* and Shri P.C. Bawihluanga: *Food and Civil Supplies.*

Expansion of Cabinet: On 3 April 1998, the Chief Minister, Shri Lalthanhawala expanded the State Cabinet. The Minister and their portfolios are:

Cabinet Ministers: Shri Lal Huthanga: *Public Health Department and Parliamentary Affairs;* and Shri Zakhu Hylchho: *Horticulture, Cooperation, Labour and Employment.*

Ministers of State: Shri John Rotianga: *Sports and Youth Services;* Shri R.L. Vala: *Public Works Department;* and Shri Biak Zuala: *Environment and Forests, Fuel and Water Conservation.*

ORISSA

New Governor: On 27 April 1998, Dr. C. Rangarajan was sworn in as the Governor of Orissa in addition to his duties as the Governor of Andhra Pradesh.

By-election results: The following is the result of by-elections to the State Legislative Assembly held on 3 June 1998: *Congress(I): 2; BJP: 1; Biju Janata Dal (BJD): 1; and Bhandari Pokhri Congress: 1.*

PONDICHERRY

New Lt. Governor: Dr. Rajani Rai was sworn in as the new Lt. Governor of Pondicherry on 17 April 1998.

PUNJAB

By-election result: The Shiromani Akali Dal won the lone seat in the State Legislative Assembly for which by-election was held on 3 June 1998.

RAJASTHAN

New Governor: Shri Darbara Singh was sworn in as the Governor of Rajasthan on 1 May 1998.

Death of Governor: On 24 May 1998, the Governor of Rajasthan, Shri Darbara Singh passed away.

TRIPURA

Death of Minister: On 31 March 1998, the Health and Urban Development Minister, Shri Bimal Singha was shot dead by a suspected militant belonging to the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) near Avanga on the Ambassa-Kamalpur road in Northern Tripura.

By-election result: The CPI(M) won the lone seat in the State Legislative Assembly for which by-election was held on 3 June 1998.

UTTAR PRADESH

New Governor: On 20 April 1998, Shri Suraj Bhan was sworn in as the Governor of Uttar Pradesh.

By-election result: The following is the result of by-elections to the State Legislative Assembly held on 3 June 1998: *BJP: 3; BSP: 3; and Samata Party: 1.*

WEST BENGAL

New Governor: On 27 April 1998, Shri A.R. Kidwai was sworn in as the new Governor of West Bengal.

DEVELOPMENTS ABROAD

ARMENIA

New Prime Minister: On 9 April 1998, Mr. Robert Kocharian was appointed as the Prime Minister of Armenia.

AUSTRIA

President re-elected: On 19 April 1998, Mr. Thomas Klestil was re-elected as the President of Austria.

INDONESIA

Resignation of President: On 21 May 1998, Mr. Suharto resigned from the Office following a widespread internal unrest and financial crisis. He handed over the charge to the Vice-President, Mr. Bacharuddin Jusuf Habibie. Mr. Habibie was sworn in as the President the same day.

IRAN

Speaker re-elected: On 31 May 1998, Mr. Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri was re-elected as the Speaker of the *Majlis*.

NEPAL

Political developments: On 10 April 1998, Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa resigned from Office as part of the power sharing agreement with the main coalition partner, the Nepali Congress.

On 15 April 1998, Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala was sworn in as the new Prime Minister and Ms. Shaileja Acharya was sworn in as the Deputy Prime Minister.

On 18 April 1998, the Prime Minister, Shri Girija Prasad Koirala won a Vote of Confidence in the 205-member *Pratinidhi Sabha*.

PARAGUAY

New President: On 11 May 1998, Mr. Raul Cubas Grau was elected as the President of Paraguay.

PERU

Resignation of Prime Minister: On 5 June 1998, the Prime Minister, Mr. Alberto Pandolfi Arbulu resigned from Office.

PHILIPPINES

New President: On 30 June 1998, Mr. Joseph Estrada was sworn in as the new President of Philippines.

ROMANIA

New Prime Minister: On 1 April 1998, the Prime Minister, Mr. Victor Ciorbea resigned from Office.

On 18 April 1998, Mr. Radu Vasile was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Romania.

YUGOSLAVIA

New Prime Minister: On 20 May 1998, Mr. Momir Bulatovic was elected as the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia.

DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

Clause (6) of art. 324 of the Constitution provides that on the request of the Election Commission, the President or the Governor of a State shall make available to the Election Commission such staff as may be necessary for the discharge of its functions. Further, Section 159 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 provides that every local authority in a State shall, when so requested by a Regional Commissioner or the Chief Electoral Officer of the State, make available to any returning officer such staff as may be necessary for the performance of any duties in connection with an election.

The Supreme Court of India, taking note of the aforesaid provisions of law, held in its judgement of 7 February 1995 in the *Election Commission of India vs. State Bank of India Staff Association, Patna and Others, 1993* and in the *Election Commission of India vs. Northern Zone Insurance Employees Association, Rajasthan 1995*, that the Election Commission cannot requisition the services of the employees of the State Bank of India and the Life Insurance Corporation of India for election duties as such employees were neither employees of the Central Government nor of a State Government nor of a local authority.

In view of the aforesaid judgements of the Supreme Court, the Election Commission experienced difficulties in deploying the requisite number of employees for election duties. The Election Commission, accordingly, requested that Section 159 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 may be amended to provide that, in addition to local authorities, all public sector undertakings of the Central Government and State Governments, all statutory and non-statutory bodies aided by the Government, all universities and all other educational institutions aided by the Government should also make their staff available for election duties.

In the wake of the General Elections to the Twelfth Lok Sabha, the President, on 23 December 1997, promulgated the Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 which provided for requisitioning of services, for election work, of employees of, apart from local authorities, every university and any other institution, concern or undertaking (not being an institution, concern or undertaking established under a Central, Provincial or State Act or a company within the meaning of Section 617 of the Companies Act, 1956) controlled or financed wholly or substantially by funds provided, directly or indirectly, by the Central Government or a State Government. Thereafter, on 24 April 1998, the President promulgated the Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998 to give continued effect to the provisions of the 1997 Ordinance and to avoid any difficulty to the Election Commission in holding elections in the interregnum.

It was since decided that apart from the categories of employees brought under the ambit of Section 159 of the Act by these Ordinances, the employees of public sector enterprises, etc. should also be brought under the ambit of that Section.

The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, which sought to give effect to the above objects, was passed by the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha on 2 and 10 June 1998, respectively. It received the assent by the President on 22 June 1998.

We reproduce here the text of the above Act.

—Editor

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1998

An Act further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Be it enacted by Parliament in the Forty-ninth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title and commencement:* (1) This Act may be called the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1998.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 23rd day of December, 1997.

2. *Substitution of new section for section 159 of Act 43 of 1951:* For section 159 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“159. *Staff of certain authorities to be made available for election work.* (1) The authorities specified in sub-section (2) shall, when so requested by a Regional Commissioner appointed under clause (4) of article 324 or the Chief Electoral Officer of the State, make available to any returning officer such staff as may be necessary for the performance of any duties in connection with an election.

(2) The following shall be the authorities for the purposes of sub-section (1), namely:—

- (i) every local authority;
- (ii) every university established or incorporated by or under a Central, Provincial or State Act;
- (iii) a Government company as defined in section 617 of the Companies Act, 1956;

- (iv) any other institution, concern or undertaking which is established by or under a Central, Provincial or State Act or which is controlled, of financed wholly or substantially by funds provided, directly or indirectly, by the Central Government or a State Government”.

3. *Repeal and saving:* (1) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998, is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the principal Act, as amended by the said Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of the principal Act, as amended by this Act.

SESSIONAL REVIEW

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

SECOND SESSION

The Second Session of the Twelfth Lok Sabha, which commenced on 27 May 1998, was adjourned on 12 June 1998 till 3 July 1998 to enable the Departmentally-related Standing Committees of Parliament to examine the Demands for Grants of the Ministries/Departments assigned to them and report back to the House. The House was adjourned *sine die* on 6 August 1998 and was then prorogued by the President on 10 August 1998.

A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period 27 May 1998 to 12 June 1998* is given below.

A. DISCUSSIONS/STATEMENTS

Statement by the Prime Minister on the Recent Nuclear Tests at Pokhran: Making a Statement in the House on 27 May 1998, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, referred to the five underground nuclear tests successfully carried out at Pokhran on 11 and 13 May 1998.

The Prime Minister recalled that in 1947, when India emerged as a free country to take its rightful place in the comity of nations, the nuclear age had already begun. India had rejected the Cold War paradigm and chosen the more difficult path of non-alignment. Disarmament was a major plank in India's foreign policy. The development of nuclear-technology had transformed the nature of global security. A nuclear weapon-free world would enhance not only India's security but also the security of all nations. Our leaders had recognised that nuclear technology would offer tremendous potential for economic development, especially

* The Sessional Review covering the remaining period of the Second Session will be carried in the December 1998 issue of the Journal of Parliamentary Information (Vol.XLIV, No.4). Complete details regarding the 'Question Hour' and 'Obituary References' will also be included in that issue.

for the developing countries. During the fifties, India had taken the lead in calling for an end to all nuclear weapon testing. In 1965, along with a small group of non-aligned countries, India had put forward the idea of an international non-proliferation agreement under which the nuclear weapon states would agree to give up their arsenals, provided other countries refrained from developing or acquiring such weapons.

In keeping with the basic objective of maintaining freedom of thought and action, India decided not to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT). In 1974, India had demonstrated its nuclear capability. Thereafter, all necessary steps were taken to safeguard India's nuclear option which was also the primary reason underlying the 1996 decision not to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). India's perception then was that subscribing to the CTBT would severely limit India's nuclear potential.

The eighties and the nineties had witnessed a gradual deterioration of India's security environment as a result of nuclear and missile proliferation. In the neighbourhood, nuclear weapons proliferated and more sophisticated delivery systems were inducted. India had also been the victim of externally aided and abetted terrorism, militancy and clandestine war. At the global level, the NPT had been extended indefinitely and unconditionally, perpetuating the existence of nuclear weapons in the hands of the five nuclear weapons states. Some of these countries had doctrines which permitted them the first use of nuclear weapons and they were also engaged in programmes of modernisation of their nuclear arsenals. Under such circumstances, national security was the prime factor that guided India's decision to conduct nuclear tests.

India's policies towards its neighbours and other countries had not changed in the wake of the nuclear tests. India remained fully committed to the promotion of peace with stability and resolution of all outstanding issues through bilateral dialogue and negotiations. The tests were not directed against any country and were intended to reassure the people of India about their security.

Subsequent to the tests, the Government had announced that India would observe a voluntary moratorium and refrain from conducting underground nuclear explosions. India had also indicated its willingness to move towards a *de jure* formalisation of its declaration. Besides, India had indicated the readiness to participate in the negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty in Geneva. The basic objective of the Treaty was to prohibit future production of fissile materials for use in nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices.

Subsequently, under Rule 193, the House took up a discussion on 27, 28 and 29 May 1998 on the nuclear tests in Pokhran. Initiating the discussion on 27 May 1998, Shri Indrajit Gupta* said that the major share of credit for the scientific achievement must go to the scientists and the engineers. An independent sovereign country could go ahead with this type of testing but the Government should explain the reason for such testing, which was attributed to the deteriorating security environment of India. The economic cost of producing nuclear weapons or the impact of sanctions should have also been mentioned by the Government. There must be absolutely no relaxation of defence preparedness. The Government should give a clear-cut commitment not to go in for the first use of such weapons. India should invite all other countries to join such a commitment.

Participating in the discussion, Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav said that all political parties and people from all walks of life were unanimous on the issue of national security but a war-like situation had gripped the country. There could be no two opinion that our scientists had done the country proud but the nuclear tests had divulged India's defence secrets.

Shri Chandra Shekhar said that India had always maintained that it would undertake research in the nuclear field and use nuclear potential for the development of humanity and not for destruction. Our national security had not faced any threat and if at all there was any threat that had not diminished with the Pokhran tests. On the one side, a nuclear test was conducted and on the other, there was a talk of signing CTBT.

Participating in the discussion, Shri P. Chidambaram stated that for the first time, on the elements of foreign and nuclear policies, the country was divided. While complimenting the scientists and technologists who had demonstrated India's scientific skills, he opposed India entering into an arms race.

Intervening in the discussion, the Minister of Defence, Shri George Fernandes expressed his happiness about the unanimous opinion of the House on the achievements of the scientists, though some controversial points did crop up during the discussion.

Participating in the discussion on 28 May 1998, the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and the Minister of Food and Consumer Affairs,

* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri K. Natwar Singh, Jagmohan, P. Shiv Shanker, P.A. Sangma, Shanta Kumar, C. Gopalan, Arif Mohd. Khan, Prakash Ambedkar and Pramothas Mukherjee.

Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala said that nuclear weapon states could not be deterred from conducting such tests and they had kept on stockpiling nuclear arms. But we had been asked the reason for carrying out these tests. A proxy war against India, had been going on for the last ten to twelve years. India's approach had not been to frighten anyone.

Participating in the discussion, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav said that in the national agenda, the Government had said that it would constitute the National Security Council to review matters relating to nuclear policy. But the proposed National Security Council had not yet been constituted.

Intervening in the discussion, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani said that the Government should evolve a policy which would be pro-active. Pakistan's nuclear policy was India-specific and was directed towards India.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee stated that it was a matter of great concern that a nuclear arms race had started in the sub-continent. In view of the situation that had developed, the Government would have to be extremely cautious.

Participating in the discussion on 29 May 1998, Shri Vaiko said that the nuclear tests conducted by Pakistan at Chagai and the subsequent action of the Government of Pakistan had vindicated and justified the nuclear tests at Pokhran.

Shri I.K. Gujral said that India should unilaterally declare that it would never use a nuclear weapon against any power not having nuclear weapons and act according to the declared policy that India did not believe in proliferation. India had the reputation of a peace loving nation and we must preserve that.

Shri Murasoli Maran said that the most urgent need was to avoid a nuclear war or even the threat of nuclear weapons. India needed to propose comprehensive negotiations and a whole range of conventional confidence building measures with Pakistan on the nuclear and conventional arms fronts.

Shri H.D. Devegowda stated that the nuclear capability of India was a hidden one which India had tried to maintain in the interest of maintaining its relations with the neighbours, especially in the sub-continent.

Participating in the discussion, Shri K. Yerranaidu said that India must maintain good neighbourly relations and the Prime Minister should take the Opposition parties into confidence.

Shri Madhukar Sirpotdar congratulated the Prime Minister as well as the scientists, technicians and engineers who had participated in these tests.

Participating in the discussion, Shri G.M. Banatwalla said that a policy of consensus should be followed and it was only through such a policy that the country would be able to stand united and face any challenge.

Replying to the discussion, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that nuclear weapons were arms of mass destruction, which could be used for self-defence. India's opponents should note that India was a nuclear weapon state and nobody should dare to launch an aggression on us. India was ready to continue discussions with Pakistan. He wished that together with Pakistan, India could try to remove poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and diseases from the entire world. Pakistan should also join in the demand for the destruction of nuclear weapons.

India would not conduct any more tests and would undertake stringent export controls on nuclear and missile related technologies. India was ready to discuss a 'no-first use' agreement with Pakistan in regard to these weapons. But Pakistan wanted to discuss the matter of a 'No War Pact' with India only after resolving the Kashmir problem.

On 29 May 1998, the Minister of Defence, Shri George Fernandes made a statement in the House of Pakistan's nuclear tests. He said that the Indian Seismic Observation Centre had recorded on 28 May 1998 the event of an underground nuclear explosion in Pakistan's Chagai Hills Zone. The Government had anticipated such an event and regretted that Pakistan had chosen to declare the test India-specific.

On 8 June 1998, the Prime Minister made a statement on the Resolution adopted by the United Nation Security Council on the nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan. The Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee expressed regret at the Resolution which had urged India not to carry out any nuclear weapons tests. He said that India had already instituted a voluntary moratorium and in keeping with the commitment to non-proliferation, the Government had maintained the strictest controls over the exports of nuclear materials and technologies. The Resolution did not recognise that the non-proliferation issue was not a regional issue but had to be dealt with in a non-discriminatory global context. The Government was committed to initiatives that could open negotiations for a global convention for the elimination of all nuclear weapons. India's tests were necessary because of the failure of a

flawed non-proliferation regime and therefore India had rejected the notion that these had adversely affected either regional or global security. India had always desired a peaceful, friendly and mutually beneficial relationship with Pakistan based on confidence and respect for each other's concerns. India had remained committed to a path of direct bilateral dialogue with Pakistan. The UN Security Council had recognised that bilateral dialogue would have to be the basis of India-Pakistan relations and mutually acceptable solutions would have to be found for outstanding issues, including Kashmir.

Statement regarding the Maruti Udyog Limited: On 8 June 1998, the Minister of Industry, Shri Sikander Bakht made a statement concerning the dispute which had been going on between the Government of India and the Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC), Japan over the appointment of the Managing Director of the Joint Venture Co.—Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL). Keeping in view the need to settle the differences quickly and concentrate on the more vital questions of business development and technology upgradation, the Government and the SMC had signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Settlement whereby the SMC would withdraw arbitration proceedings against the Government before the International Court of Arbitration.

The Minister stated that the main terms of the settlement were that the term of the current Managing Director, Shri R.S.S.L.N. Bhaskarudu would be upto 31 December 1999 and from 1 January 2000, Shri Jaggish Khattar, the Executive Director of the MUL, would take over the charge. The nominee of the SMC would be appointed as the Chairman of the MUL. In future, the appointments of the Chairman and the Managing Director by either the Government of India or the SMC would only be in consultation and with the concurrence of the other party. The Minister expressed the hope that henceforth, the MUL would be able to undertake all necessary steps to sustain its leadership in the Indian automotive industry and become a truly global player with the full co-operation of both the Government of India and the SMC.

The Budget (Railways) 1998-99: On 29 May 1998 presenting the Railway Budget for 1998-99 in the House, the Minister of Railways, Shri Nitish Kumar said that besides being a symbol of national integration, the Indian Railways were both a barometer and a principal determinant of the economic and social health of the nation. When the country was poised for significantly higher economic growth, Indian Railways could not fail to match that growth.

The development of the Railway system had not kept pace with the

general progress of the country. The massive investments needed for that had not materialised because of the declining share of the capital from the General Exchequer which supported Railway development considerably in the initial years of planned development and because of inherent limitations of Railways to generate adequate resources internally.

With the persistent shortage of resources for investment, the Indian Railways' transport output was being squeezed out of an increasingly inadequate asset base. The reliability of assets was being affected and it was becoming increasingly difficult to sustain the growth and the quality of Railway services. Railways would continue to strive to effect improvements wherever needed, but the fundamental solution lied in the enhanced levels of investment.

A major part of the revenues of the Railways would go to meet the maintenance and operating expenses. It would be our endeavour to ensure that expenditure incurred was strictly need-based. There would be renewed emphasis on the efficient utilisation of assets whether they were rolling stock, signals, track, equipment, line capacity or manpower. The monitoring procedures would be put to the fullest use and improved wherever required. The areas of construction activity and purchase of materials would also receive greater attention. The prevention of wastage and leakage of resources through accidents, pilferage, ticketless travel and other malpractices was important.

A Railway Recruitment Control Board (RRCB) had been set up in the Railway Board for issuing policy instructions to the Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) on matters connected with recruitment and to oversee their implementation. All RRBs would function under the direct control of RRCB. Several other procedural steps had also been taken to ensure that the recruitment process was streamlined and transparency maintained.

In the financial year 1997-98, the Railways had moved about 429.30 million tonnes of originating revenue earning traffic against the target of 430 million tonnes which was 20 million tonnes higher than the previous year's loading. Cumulatively, the Railways had achieved a record of over 64 million tonnes of incremental loading during the past three years. Passenger traffic had registered a growth of about five per cent during the year. The Plan expenditure was expected to be more or less close to the Revised Estimates of Rs. 8,403 crore.

So far as the Budget Estimates for 1998-99 were concerned, on the basis of freight traffic projection of 450 million tonnes and passenger

growth of five per cent over 1997-98, the Gross Traffic Receipts at the current fares and freight rates were estimated at Rs. 31,022 crore in the interim Budget. The ordinary Working Expenses had been provided in the interim Budget at Rs. 23,370 crore, which were revised to Rs. 23,720 crore.

The Total Working Expenses would amount to Rs. 28,411 crore, leaving Net Traffic Receipts at Rs. 2,611 crore. A sum of Rs. 372 crore was estimated by way of Net Miscellaneous Receipts and thus the Net Revenue would amount to Rs. 2,983 crore. A higher provision of Rs.1,777 crore as against Rs. 1,756 crore in the interim Budget had been made towards the Railways dividend liability due to the upward revision of capital from the General Exchequer. As a result, the 'excess' of receipts over expenditure worked out to Rs. 1,206 crore.

On 4 June 1998, the Minister of Railways, Shri Nitish Kumar moved that the Status Paper on Railways and some issues be taken into consideration.

Initiating the discussion, Shri P. Upendra said that there was a mismatch between the economic growth and the rail infrastructure development. The share of the Railways in the traffic was declining. Modernisation and renewals were being neglected. The Railways were a public utility concern. They would have to bear Rs. 1,000 crore as social obligations towards passenger traffic, suburban traffic, uneconomic lines and carrying commodities at concessional rates. The entire burden could not be left to the Railways. The Government should try to solve the problems mentioned in the Status Paper on the basis of the analysis that had been made and the remedies suggested.

Participating in the discussion* on 5 June 1998, Shri Th. Chaoba

* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Basudeb Acharia, Shailendra Kumar, Hira Lal Roy, Chinmayanand Swami, M. Selvarasu, Shanti Lal Chaplot, A. Siddaraju, V. Dhananjaya Kumar, K.A. Sangtam, Anup Lal Yadav, Lal Bihari Tiwari, N.N. Krishnadas, Prabhunath Singh, K.H. Muniyappa, M. Master Mathan, Joachim Baxla, T.R. Baalu, Anant Gangaram Geete, Manoranjan Bhakta, Bharthari Mahtab, N. Dennis, Chaman Lal Gupta, Ramraghunath Chaudhary, Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi, Ramdas Athawale, Satya Pal Jain, Bir Singh Mahato, Sandipan Thorat, N.K. Premachandran, E. Ahamed, Chandramani Tripathi, Ram Chandra Mallick, Ramanand Singh, Tathagata Satpathy, G. Ganga Reddy, M.A. Kharabela Swain, Prakash Vishwanath Paranjpe, Anil Basu, Mullapally Ramachandran, Subhash Maharia, Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Naresh Puglia, Ramsheth Thakur, Bhubaneswar Kalita, S. Arumugham, Adityanath, S. Ajay Kumar, Nripen Goswami, V.K. Khandeiwal, Ganga Charan Rajput, Nepal Chandra Das, Raghuvendra Singh, Surendra Prasad Yadav, Dwarka Parshad Bairwa, Prabhu Dayal Katheria, Shankar Pannu, Shankar Prasad Jaiswal, Rampal Upadhyay, Ashok Pradhan, Ranjib Biswal, Ramesh Chandra Dwivedi, Suresh Kurup, Sunil Khan, Larang Sai, Kishan Lal Diler, Ram Pal Singh, Harikewal Prasad, P.M. Sayeed, Gauri Shanker Chaturbhuj Bisen, Anand Pathak,

Singh said that there was regional imbalance in the disbursement of the railway fund. The seven backward north-east states were to get a meagre amount out of the total budget. Such an attitude would encourage separatist tendencies and anti-Indian feelings in the region. Some concrete measures should be taken for the people living in this region. The entire nation must be connected by railway lines for the sake of national integration and security.

Participating in the discussion on 8 June 1998, Shri Sis Ram Ola said that the Railway Minister had not allocated a single rupee for the State of Rajasthan. The Railways had huge land property which was illegally encroached upon. If the Ministry of Railways would get the land vacated, it would help in the development of the Railways.

Participating in the discussion, Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan said that electric trains should be introduced within the periphery of 100 kilometers of Delhi and arrangements should be made for more coaches. Adjustments should also be made in the timings of trains so that the people of Haryana would not face any difficulty in commuting to Delhi. No new line had been laid in Haryana during the fifty years of independence.

Replying to the discussion on 9 June 1998, the Minister of Railways, Shri Nitish Kumar said that the on-going Railway projects, which included projects of new railway lines, gauge conversion and electrification, would require a huge amount of Rs. 34,000 crore for their completion. But the Railways did not have funds for the purpose. Cross subsidisation in the Railways had been increasing. As a result, there had been no increase in the passenger fare during the last three years. Freight rates had been increased which resulted in additional burden on the common man. We had reached a situation where it was not possible to increase the freight rates any more as there had been a rapid diversion from rail traffic to road traffic. The limit of cross subsidisation had reached Rs. 2,800 crore which should be reduced. Laying of new railway line was essential to facilitate development of backward areas.

Baswaraj Patil Sedam, Salkhan Murmu, Ramshakal, Bikram Deo Keshari, Indrajeet Mishra, Sudhir Giri, H.P. Singh, Mohan Rawale, Maj.Gen.(Retd.) Bhuvan Chandra Khanduri, Sqn.Ldr.Kamal Chaudhary, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey, Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria, Dr. Balram Jakhar, Dr. Asim Bala, Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, Dr. Ravi Mallu, Dr. C.P. Thakur, Dr. Bijay Sonkar Shastri, Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra, Prof. A.K. Premajam, Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta, Dr. Suguna Kumari Chellamella, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Smt. Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo, Smt. Jayanti Patnaik, Smt. Reena Choudhary, Smt. Jayaben Bharat Kumar Thakkar, Smt. Sandhya Bauri, Smt. Minati Sen, Smt. Sheela Gautam and Smt. Sukhda Mishra.

So far as safety of passengers was concerned, the Railways had increased the allocation of funds for the modernisation and upgradation of signalling and telecommunication system. The Government would like to introduce many new schemes in the Railways. A consensus should be evolved with regard to the Status Paper and the Railways should be operated on the basis of that. The Government had also tried to reduce the regional imbalances.

All the Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) 1995-96 were voted in full and the Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill was passed.

The Budget (General), 1998-99: On 1 June 1998, presenting the Budget for 1998, the Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha said that the Budget was rooted in 'Swadeshi' which meant making India strong and self-reliant so that it could compete with the world. The key objectives of the Budget were to: strengthen the foundations of the Indian economy to deal effectively with an inherently uncertain external environment; reverse the decline in agriculture and strengthen the rural economy; restore the momentum of industrial growth, especially of small scale enterprises and revive the capital market; accelerate the development of infrastructure and by these means, expand productive job opportunities; give special impetus to social sector development; calibrate the pace and character of integration with the world economy, while strengthening India's international economic position through revival of exports and reduced reliance on borrowed funds; ensure macro-economic stability and control over inflation; raise the rate of domestic savings to achieve higher national investment and thus lay the basis for faster medium term growth; supplement this effort through foreign investment; and free the productive energies of our people from unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles and undertake reforms to raise the productivity of our land, labour and capital.

The Government accorded high priority to boosting private investment, including foreign investment in industry. Bureaucratic and procedural hurdles must be minimised and an investor friendly environment be created. Industrial licensing was abolished in most of the industrial sectors as part of the economic reforms. The Government had initiated a dialogue with the State Government to explore the consolidation of regulatory legislation relating to industry and exchange of best practices across the States in carrying out the necessary inspections.

The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) had done a good job in promoting foreign investment and streamlining the procedures at the Central Government level. Foreign investment flows had increased substantially and were estimated to be \$ 3.1 billion in 1997-98. About

60 per cent of investment approvals were in the energy and infrastructure sectors. It would be the Government's objective to create conditions in which foreign investors would find India an attractive investment destination. The Government hoped to double the inflow of foreign direct investment within two years. The Government would implement a system whereby an officer of the Administrative Ministry would be designated as a monitoring officer to help processing and implementation of the project in conjunction with the Central and State authorities for every foreign investment proposal exceeding Rs. 100 crore.

The National Agenda of the Government identified housing as a priority area. The Government would tackle the housing problem through partnership between the Government, Housing Finance Institutions and the Private Sector.

The Plan outlay for the key infrastructure sectors of Energy, Transport and Communications in the revised estimates for 1997-98 was Rs.45,252 crore, which would be increased to Rs. 61,146 crore in the current year. This increase would trigger industrial activity and revive rapid economic growth. The total outlay for the Ministry of Power was being increased to Rs. 9,500 crore as against Rs. 6,738 crore in 1997-98. The Government would be providing Rs. 500 crore for the National Highways Authority of India to catalyse new road projects, including four-lining of the existing National Highways.

The Budget provided for a nearly 50 per cent increase in the total budgetary allocation to Education from Rs. 4,716 crore in 1997-98 to Rs. 7,047 crore in 1998-99. The Government would raise the total resource allocation for Education to 6 per cent of GDP in a phased manner. It would implement the Constitutional provision for making primary education free and compulsory up to fifth standard and for girls up to the college level.

For 1998-99, the total expenditure was estimated at Rs. 2,68,107 crore. Of that, Rs. 72,002 crore had been provided as budget support for the Central, the States' and the Union territory Plans and the balance of Rs. 1,96,105 crore was for non-Plan expenditure. The Budget support for the Plan had been increased by Rs. 11,372 crore from Rs.60,630 crore in the revised estimates of 1997-98.

The total Central Plan outlay at Rs. 1,05,187 crore would be higher by Rs. 24,154 crore from the last year's level. Gross budgetary support for the Central Plan was being enhanced from Rs. 33,629 crore in the revised estimates of 1997-98 to Rs. 42,464 crore. The balance would be met by the internal and extra-budgetary resources of the Central Public

Enterprises. Gross budgetary support for the Central plan included provision of Rs. 5,741 crore for externally aided projects. The Special Central Assistance for Tribal Sub-Plan was proposed to be enhanced from Rs. 330 crore to Rs. 380 crore. Assistance for the Basic Minimum Services and Slum Development Schemes was proposed to be enhanced from Rs. 2,873 crore to Rs. 3,760 crore. The provision for Defence expenditure had been increased substantially from Rs. 36,099 crore in 1997-98 to Rs. 41,200 crore.

Gross tax revenues at the existing rates of taxation were estimated at Rs. 1,48,506 crore. The Government provided Rs. 39,074 crore as the share of taxes to the States. The Centre's tax revenue would be Rs. 1,09,432 crore over Revised Estimate (RE) 1997-98 of Rs. 99,158 crore. Non-tax revenues were estimated to increase from Rs. 39,356 crore in RE 1997-98 to Rs. 45,137 crore in 1998-99. The net revenue receipts for the Centre, including non-tax receipts, were expected to increase from Rs. 1,38,514 crore in RE 1997-98 to Rs. 1,54,569 crore in 1998-99. In the area of the capital receipts, market borrowings were placed at Rs. 55,931 crore.

The level for tax exemption was being raised from the existing limit of Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 50,000. As a result of tax proposals and the postal tariff revision, the total expenditure of the Central Government for the year 1998-99 would be marginally reduced to Rs. 2,67,927 crore. The net revenue receipts and non-debt capital receipts would increase to Rs. 1,76,902 crore. The revenue deficit was placed at Rs. 48,068 crore, which was 3 per cent of GDP, and the fiscal deficit was placed at Rs. 91,025 crore which was 5.6 per cent of GDP.

Initiating the discussion* on the Budget on 10 June 1998, Shri Murli

* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Satya Pal Jain, Mohan Singh, Chetan Chauhan, Rupchand Pal, Ratilal Kalidas Varma, Uttamsingh R. Pawar, Nadendra Bhaskara Rao, Bhajan Lal, Bhagwan Shankar Rawat, Sushil Kumar Shinde, Ginge N. Ramchandran, N.K. Premachandran, Manoranjan Bhakta, Shailendra Kumar, Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Varkala Radhakrishnan, R.S. Gaval, Parasnath Yadav, Motilal Vora, Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswuthiary, Janardan Prasad Misra, K.D. Sultanpuri, Chandramani Tripathi, C.P. Radhakrishnan, P.C. Chacko, S. Mallikarjuniah, Bherulal Meena, B.M. Mensinkal, Tapan Sikdar, Bijoy Krishna Handique, Mitrasen Yadav, Ramdas Athawale, Chandra Shekhar Sahu, Surender Singh Barwala, K.H. Muniyappa, Bikram Deo Keshari, Prabhash Chandra Tiwari, Ram Raghunath Chaudhary, Faggan Singh Kuleste, Jual Oram, Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, Valdya Vishnu Dutt, Devendra Bahadur Roy, Ram Tahal Chaudhary, Annasaheb M.K. Patil, Vinod Khanna, Dr. S. Venugopalachary, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey, Dr. Madan Prasad Jaiswal, Dr. Ramesh Chand Tomar, Dr. Ram Vilas Vedanti, Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta, Prof. Salfuddin Soz, Prof. A.K. Premajam, Dr. (Smt.)Prabha Thakur, Prof. (Smt.) Rita Verma, Smt. Geeta Mukherjee, Smt. Bhavana Kardam Dave, Smt. Abha Mahto and Smt. Usha Meena.

Deora said that the Finance Minister should roll back the urea price to its original end and the issue of eight per cent excise on sweet makers should be settled. Imposition of so much of indirect taxes would lead inflation to reach the double digit mark very soon. Interest rates should be high enough to encourage savings but not so much high as to discourage investments. The Government should help to revive the stock and the capital markets to some extent. The Government had been spending ten billion US dollars on the import of oil and petroleum products. There was need to reactivise the New Exploration Licensing Policy.

Participating in the discussion on 11 June 1998, Shri Murasoli Maran said that in the Budget there were two policy announcements, one regarding insurance and the other regarding the privatization of public sector undertakings.

Participating in the discussion on 11 June 1998, Shri P. Chidambaram congratulated the Finance Minister for raising the allocation for Watershed Development Programme and also for raising the allocation for Education. Exports and industry were some of the weak areas. Spending would bring about inflation but it would not bring about growth. The alternative was to spur investment. No endeavour had been made to promote investment, both domestic and foreign. Signals must be sent to inspire confidence in the foreign direct investor and the foreign institutional investor.

Supporting the Budget, Kumari Mamata Banerjee said that she welcomed the decision for introducing free education to the girl child up to the college level. She requested the Government to lift the ban on recruitment so that the unemployed youth could get employment.

Replying to the discussion on 12 August 1998, the Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha said that he was grateful to the members of the Opposition for the positive aspects which they had identified and appreciated in the Budget. He said that he had tried to establish a balance in the Budget. The balance was between agriculture, rural development, rural employment, small scale industries, housing, especially on rural sector, and between infrastructure, between something for the NRIs on the one hand and tax reforms, financial sector reforms, capital market, PSU reforms, insurance and promotion of foreign direct investment on the other.

All the Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 1995-96 were voted in full. The Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1998 was passed.

Incidents of suicide committed by farmers due to non-payment of remunerative prices for their agricultural produce: On 1 June 1998, initiating a discussion under Rule 193, Shri Vilas Muttemwar said that one should rise above party line and discuss the grave issue. The seeds and chemical fertilizers purchased by the farmers were usually spurious, as a result of which farmers incurred loss and at several places they had committed suicide. Earlier, there was provision of seven years' imprisonment as punishment for indulging in adulteration which had been reduced to three years. In the cases where farmers were compelled to commit suicide, more punishment be given.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Madhukar Sirpotdar said that the reasons for the suicide by farmers should be looked into. An analysis of the situation was very necessary and steps should be taken to avoid such cases of suicide. Some policy should be adopted with regard to agriculture in the country.

Participating in the discussion on 2 June 1998, Shri K. Yerrannaidu said that as regards crop insurance, the steps taken by various State Governments were not sufficient to satisfy the farmers. The National Crop Insurance Scheme should be extended to every farmer. A comprehensive policy was required to tackle attack by pests.

Shri Vaiko said that it was a grave tragedy that the farmers of the country had to commit suicide for the reason that they could not clear the debts.

Participating in the discussion on 3 June 1998, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda said that during the last fifty years there were several natural calamities but for the first time the farmers had attempted to commit suicide. The issue should not be politicised and the House would have to take a collective decision to overcome the problems of the farmers.

Shri P.C. Thomas said that some steps would have to be taken to see that the farmers would get their loans from the nationalised and other banks in a less cumbersome way. The Ministry of Agriculture, in proper coordination with the Ministry of Finance, would have to see that

* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Amar Pal Singh, Varkala Radhakrishnan, Radhuvansh Prasad Singh, Rajveer Singh, Nadendla Bhaskara Rao, Digvijay Singh, S. Sudhakar Reddy, Jogendra Kawade, V. Dhananjaya Kumar, R.L. Jalappa, Beni Prasad Verma, Nakli Singh, N.K. Premachandran, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Chandrashekhar Sahu, Anup Lal Yadav, Rama Nand Singh, Gauri Shanker Chaturbuj Bisen, Prabhunath Singh, Virendra Singh, Sansuma Khunggur Bwiewmuthiary, K.D. Sutanpuri, B.M. Mensinkai, V. Sathiamoorthy, Shailendra Kumar, Naresh Puglia, Bikram Deo Keshari, K.H. Muniyappa, M. Selvarasu, S. Mallikarjuniah, Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy, Dr. Balram Jakhar, Dr. Ravi Mallu, Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra, Dr. (Smt.) Prabha Thakur, Smt. Kailasho Devi and Smt. Reena Choudhary.

banks give the targeted amount of credit to the farmers. If a farmer would find it difficult to pay back, then he must be given an opportunity to explain his position.

Participating in the discussion, Shri Anand Mohan said that the prices of various commodities produced by the farmers were either fixed by the traders or the Government. He suggested that there should be smaller difference between the commodities produced in the field and the items manufactured in the factories.

Replying to the discussion on 3 June 1998, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Shri Som Pal said that if there would be unanimity in the House on the question of giving compensation, the Government would consider that positively. In the National Calamity Relief Fund, the contribution of the Centre and the States was 75:25 per cent in proportion, respectively, and the financial assistance from the Fund was decided by a sub-committee of the National Development Council. The Central Government would have no discretionary quota in that regard. So far as the waiving of loans, moratorium on loan recovery and exemption of interest to a certain extent was concerned, the NABARD and the RBI had taken certain measures to reschedule the loans, their recovery, moratorium on loans and exemption of the interest. The drafting of a National policy on Agriculture was already underway in which efforts would be made to simplify the procedure for loans to the farmers. There would be a provision that the loan limits for a farmer should be fixed taking in to account the land he possessed. As regards the question of use of spurious pesticides was concerned, administrative steps should be taken in that regard. Though it was a responsibility of the State Governments, the Central Government would provide financial assistance as well as consultation. There should be no restriction on the movement of agro-products, whether foodgrains or cash crops. So far as subsidy was concerned, if we could ensure remunerative prices for the items produced by the farmers then there would be no need to demand subsidy. Storage facilities should be developed in rural areas. Regarding irrigation, the main stress would be on speeding up of the work on the irrigation projects which had reached the last stage. An amount of Rs. 1300 crore had been provided in the Budget for the purpose. The Planning Commission had formulated a 25-year plan costing Rs. 75,800 crore.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Statutory Resolution re: Disapproval of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Second) Ordinance and the

National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Bill, 1998*: Moving the Statutory Resolution on 4 June 1998, Shri Basudeb Acharia said that with the dissolution of the Eleventh Lok Sabha, the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Bill had lapsed. An Ordinance was promulgated on 21 January 1998, which lapsed after the expiry of six weeks after the Parliament re-assembled. The purpose of bringing the Bill was to give the institute of pharmaceutical education and research a national status. The Government owed an explanation to the House as to why after promulgation of the first Ordinance, the Second Ordinance was allowed to lapse when there was a scope to replace the Ordinance by a Bill.

Moving the motion to consider the Bill, the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and the Minister of Food and Consumer Affairs, Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala said that the approach and concept of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) had been to set up an institute of excellence to provide leadership in the field of pharmaceutical education and research and training. The main objective was toning up the level of pharmaceutical education and research by training the future teachers, research scientists and managers of the industry and the creation of national centres to cater to the needs of the pharmaceutical industries and other research and teaching institutions, collaboration with Indian industry to help it to meet global challenges, study of sociological aspects of drug use and abuse and rural pharmacy, etc.

Supporting the Bill, Shri Sis Ram Ola** said that the institute would produce trained personnel in the country from which the whole nation would benefit.

Reply to the discussion, Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala said that the Bill carried a provision for rural pharmacy which covered all types of medicines.

By way of reply to his Resolution, Shri Basudeb Acharia said that there should be a provision in the Bill as to how the public and private sector indigenous pharmaceutical industries would compete with the multi-national companies.

The Statutory Resolution was withdrawn by leave of the House. The motion for consideration of the Bill was adopted and the Bill was passed.

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

** Others who took part in the discussion were: sarvashri Tapan Sikdar, Mohan Singh, Girdhari Lal Bhargava, Chandrashekar Sahu, Jogendra Kawade, Shalendra Kumar, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy, Dr. Ram Chandra Dome and Dr. Shakeel Ahmad

Statutory Resolution re: Disapproval of the Electricity Regulatory Commission Ordinance and the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Bill, 1998*: On 9 June 1998, Shri Basudeb Acharia moved the Statutory Resolution.

Moving the motion to consider the Bill, the Minister of Power, Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam said the Bill would help improve the financial condition of the Indian power sector to enable it to invest in the much needed addition of generation, transmission and distribution facilities. The power sector had been beset with problems that impeded its capacity to respond to the growing demands for energy. As the problems of the power sector deepened, reforms would become difficult because of which there was a need to act decisively and without delay. It was essential that the Government would implement significant reforms by focusing on fundamental issues facing the power sector namely the lack of national retail tariffs, the high level of cross-subsidies, poor planning and operation, inadequate capacity, neglect of the consumer, the limited involvement of private sector skills and resources and the absence of an independent regulatory authority.

The Power Grid Corporation of India limited had taken up a number of transmission projects. The Government had been planning setting up inter-regional transmission lines-both with private and public investments in transmission. The policy initiatives that were needed to improve the health of the power sector would be augmenting the hydro-electric generating capacity and a policy on the use of liquid petroleum fuels for power generation. The Bill formed the basis of policy initiatives taken by the Government for setting up Regulatory Commissions. Any delay in tariff reforms would aggravate the already precarious financial health of the Central PSUs.

The Minister said that considering the paramount importance of restructuring the power sector, the Government of India discussed the whole gamut of issues in the power sector and the outcome was the adoption of the Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power (CMNPP). The CMNPP had recognised that the gap between the demand and supply of power had been widening and the financial position of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) had been deteriorating and the future development in the power sector could not be sustained without viable State Electricity Boards and the improvement of their operational performance. The CMNPP had identified the creation of a Regulatory Commission as

* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 3 June 1998.

a step in the direction and provided for the establishment of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) and the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs). To give effect to the aforesaid proposals, the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Bill, 1997 was introduced in the Lok Sabha in August 1997. However, it could not be passed due to the dissolution of the Eleventh Lok Sabha.

Previously, the Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Energy. The Committee advised the Government to circulate the Bill among all the State Governments to elicit their views. Their views were taken into account while reformulating the Bill but before the Standing Committee could meet again to accept the views of the Power Ministry, the House was dissolved, which had resulted in the delay in establishing the Regulatory Commission. Since it was necessary to ensure the speedy establishment of the Regulatory Commission and as the Parliament was not in Session, the Ordinance was promulgated. The main functions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission were to regulate the tariff of generating companies owned and controlled by the Central Government, to regulate inter-state transmission of energy, including tariff of the transmission utilities, to regulate inter-State bulk sale of power, to aid and advise the Central Government in the formulation of tariff policy, etc. The main functions of a State Electricity Regulatory Commission would be to determine the tariff within the State for electricity, to determine the tariff payable for use by the transmission facilities, to regulate power purchase and procurement process of the transmission utilities, etc. The consumers' interests would be protected by the Commission in such a way that there would be emphasis on efficiency in the operation of the State power utilities.

The Minister appealed to all the States to set up SERCs at the earliest. It would be left to the State Governments to determine tariff for any group of consumers. It would be mandatory for State Commissions to fix tariff in a manner that none of the consumers or class of consumers should be charged less than fifty per cent of the average cost of supply. It would enable the State Governments to exercise the option of providing subsidies to weaker sections on the condition that the State Governments, through a subsidy, would compensate the State Electricity Boards (SEBs). Therefore, it would enable the State Governments to fix any tariff for agriculture and other sectors provided it would give subsidy to the SEBs to meet the loss.

Participating in the discussion, Shri Vaiko said that right of the State Governments to give concessions to the farmers should be there.

Replying to the discussion*, the Minister of Power, Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam said that the Act did not say that agriculture should not be given subsidized tariff or that free power should not be given to the poor. The objective was that wherever subsidy would have to be given, that subsidy, after cross-subsidisation, must be made available by the State Governments. They would also be giving subsidised loan to the SEBs through the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC).

By way of reply to the Resolution, Shri Basudeb Acharia requested the Minister to refer the Bill to the Standing Committee.

The resolution was negatived and the Bill, as amended, was passed.

*Statutory Resolution re: Disapproval of Representation of People (Amendment) Ordinance and Representation of People (Amendment) Bill, 1998***: Moving the Statutory Resolution on 10 June 1998, Shri Basudeb Acharia said that the Ordinance was first promulgated in December 1997. It was re-promulgated in April 1998 although there was a scope to replace the Ordinance by a Bill.

Moving the motion to consider the Bill, the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs and the Minister of Surface Transport, Shri M. Thambi Durai said that Clause(6) of Art. 324 of the Constitution provided that on the request of the Election Commission, the President or the Governor of a State should make available to the Election Commission such staff as may be necessary for the discharge of the functions associated with an election. Further, Section 159 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 provided that the staff of every local authority in a State could be requisitioned for election duties. The Supreme Court of India, *vide* its Judgement dated 7 February 1995, had held that only services of the Government employees of local authorities could be requisitioned for election duties and the employees of the State Bank of India and the Life Insurance Corporation of India could not be requisitioned for such duties. In view of this, the Election Commission was facing difficulties in deploying the requisite number of employees for election duties. The Election Commission, accordingly, requested that Section 159 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 might be

* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri K.S. Rao, S. Mallikarjuniah, P. Shiv Shankar, T.R. Baalu, Varkala Radhakrishnan, R. Muthiah, Mohan Singh, V. Dhananjaya Kumar, Virendra Singh, Bikram Deo Keshari, Ramdas Athawale, N.K. Premachandran, Shailendra Kumar, Tathagata Satpathy, K.D. Sultanpuri, Sansuma Khunggur Bswismuthiary, Dr. Ulhas Vasudeo Patil, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy and Dr. S. Venugopalachary

** The Bill, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 4 June 1998.

amended to provide that, in addition to local authorities, all public sector undertakings of the Central Government and State Governments and all statutory and non-statutory bodies aided by the Government should also make their staff available for election duties.

In the wake of the General Elections to the Twelfth Lok Sabha, the President, on 23 December 1997, promulgated the Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 which provided for requisitioning of services for election work of employees of, apart from local authorities, every university and any other institution, concern or undertaking, controlled or financed wholly or substantially by funds provided, directly or indirectly, by the Central Government or a State Government. Thereafter, on 24 April 1998, the President promulgated the Representation of the people (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998 to give continued effect to the provisions of the 1997 Ordinance and to avoid any difficulty to the Election Commission in holding elections in the interregnum.

It was since decided that apart from the categories of employees brought under the ambit of Section 159 of the Act by these Ordinances, the employees of Public Sector Enterprises, etc. should also be brought under the ambit of that section.

The Resolution was withdrawn by leave of the House. The motion* for consideration of the Bill was adopted and the Bill as passed by Rajya Sabha was passed.

RAJYA SABHA

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOURTH SESSION**

The Rajya Sabha, which met for its one Hundred and Eighty-fourth Session on 27 May 1998, was adjourned on 12 June 1998 to be reconvened on 3 July 1998. The House adjourned *sine die* on 4 August 1998 and was then prorogued by the President on 10 August 1998.

A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period 27 May to 12 June 1998 is given below***:

* Those who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Sushil Kumar Shinde, Kharabela Swain, Nikhil Nanda Sar, Mohan Singh and Ramdas Athawale

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

*** Sessional Review covering the remaining period, from 3 July to 4 August 1998, will be included in the December 1998 issue of the *Journal of Parliamentary Information*. Complete details regarding the Question Hour and Obituary References for the entire Session will also be included in the same issue.

A. DISCUSSIONS/STATEMENTS

Statement by the Prime Minister on the Recent Nuclear Tests at Pokhran: On 28 May 1998, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee informed the House that India had successfully carried out five underground nuclear tests on 11 and 13 May 1998. He requested the House to join him in paying tribute to the scientists, engineers and defence personnel whose singular achievement had given the nation a renewed sense of national pride and self-confidence.

The Prime Minister recalled that in 1947, when India emerged as a free country to take its rightful place in the comity of nations, the nuclear age had already begun. India had rejected the Cold War paradigm and chose the more difficult path of non-alignment. Disarmament was a major plank in India's foreign policy.

The Prime Minister said that during the fifties, India had taken the lead in calling for an end to all nuclear weapons testing. Then, in 1965, along with some non-aligned countries, India had put forward the idea of an international non-proliferation agreement under which the nuclear weapons states would agree to give up their arsenals, provided other countries refrained from developing or acquiring such weapons. He stated that the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) could not guarantee security assurances. The eighties and the nineties had meanwhile witnessed the gradual deterioration of India's security environment as a result of nuclear and missile proliferation. In addition, India had also been the victim of externally aided and abetted terrorism, militancy and clandestine war. He said that at the global level, the NPT had been extended indefinitely and unconditionally, perpetuating the existence of nuclear weapons in the hands of the five nuclear weapons states. Under such circumstances, national security was the prime factor that guided the Government's decision for nuclear tests.

The Prime Minister stated that India did not intend to use these weapons for aggression or engage in an arms race. They were only to ensure that India was not subjected to nuclear threats or coercion. He regretted that India's past initiatives were not received positively by the other nuclear weapons states. He assured that India's commitment to multilateralism would continue to be reflected in its active participation in the United Nations. India's nuclear policy had been marked by restraint and openness and no international agreement had been violated either in 1974 when India first conducted a nuclear test or at present.

Subsequent to the tests, the Government had announced that India would observe a voluntary moratorium and refrain from conducting un-

derground nuclear explosions. It had also indicated willingness to move towards a *de jure* formalisation of its declaration, the Prime Minister added.

Following the Prime Minister's statement, there was a Short Duration Discussion on the subject. Initiating the discussion, Shri Pranab Mukherjee congratulated the scientists, engineers and the degree personnel who had proved beyond doubt India's technical and scientific competence.

Intervening in a debate the same day, the Minister of Defence, Shri George Fernandes said that the reason for conducting nuclear tests was that there was a lot of difference between the defence preparedness of India and that of other nations. The Government had decided to exercise the nuclear option only after July 1996 when it became clear that India would not sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) nor would it accept the monopoly of a few nuclear weapons states. In spite of the nuclear tests, India had to move in the direction of total elimination of nuclear weapons from the world. To make the nation strong, steps had also to be taken for economic development.

Replying to the debate* on 29 May 1998, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that the sense of unanimity and national purpose that pervaded the discussion in the House was a fitting tribute to the excellence shown by the nation's scientists and the armed forces. He assured the House that Pakistan's tests did not pose any new threat to India's national security. India's programme was not country-specific. We had offered to discuss a "no first use" agreement with Pakistan and other countries. We also did not seek confrontation with China and remained committed to the process of dialogue to resolve outstanding differences, he added.

Statement by the Minister on Pakistan's Nuclear Tests: Making a statement on 29 May 1998, the Minister of Defence, Shri George Fernandes said that Indian Seismic Observation Centres had recorded, at 15.46 hrs. on 28 May 1998, the event of an underground nuclear explosion in Pakistan's Chagai Hills Zone. He said that the Government had anticipated such an event and regretted that Pakistan had chosen to declare the test 'India specific'.

Following the statement by the Defence Minister, the Leader of the

* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri J. Chitharanjan, K.R. Malkani, S. Ramachandran Pillai, S.R. Bommai, Ram Gopal Yadav, O. Rajagopal, R. Margabandu, Jayant Kumar Malhoutra, Triloki Nath Chaturvedi, S. Peter Alphonse, Kuldip Nayyar, Yoginder K. Alagh, Nilotpal Basu, Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi, Dr. Raja Ramanna, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Dr. Gopalrao Vithalrao Patil, Dr. B.B. Dutta, Dr. Karan Singh and Shrimati Kamla Sinha.

Opposition, Dr. Manmohan Singh expressed regrets on Pakistan's nuclear tests and asserted that every effort had to be made to avoid a nuclear arms race. He assured the House that his party stood by the nation and was determined to safeguard the country's independence, security and sovereignty. He also urged the Government to deal with the emergent scenario with the greatest sense of responsibility, maturity and restraint.

Statement by the Prime Minister on the Resolution adopted by the United Nations Security Council on the Nuclear Tests conducted by India and Pakistan: In a special mention* on 8 June 1998, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee expressed regret at the UN Security Council's Resolution which had urged India not to carry out any nuclear weapons tests. He said that India had already instituted a voluntary moratorium and keeping with the commitment to non-proliferation, the Government had maintained the strictest controls over the exports of nuclear materials and technologies. The UN Resolution did not recognise that the non-proliferation issue was not a regional issue but had to be dealt with in a non-discriminatory global context. The Government was committed to initiatives that could open negotiations for a global convention for the elimination of all nuclear weapons. He said that the Indian tests were necessary because of the failure of a flawed non-proliferation regime. India had always desired a peaceful, friendly and mutually beneficial relationship with Pakistan based on confidence and respect for each other's concerns, the Prime Minister added.

Statement regarding the Maruti Udyog Limited: On 8 June 1998, the Minister of Industry, Shri Sikander Bakht made a statement concerning the dispute which had been going on between the Government of India and the Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC), Japan over the appointment of the Managing Director of the Joint Venture Co.—Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL). Keeping in view the need to settle the differences quickly and concentrate on the more vital questions of business development and technology upgradation, the Government and the SMC had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Settlement whereby the SMC would withdraw arbitration proceedings against the Government before the International Court of Arbitration (ICA).

The Minister said that the main terms of the Settlement were that the term of the Managing Director, Shri R.S.S.L.N. Bhaskarudu would be up to 31 December 1999 and from 1 January 2000, Shri Jagdish Khattar, the Executive Director of the MUL would take over the charge. Secondly, the nominee of the SMC would be appointed as the Chairman

* Others who spoke were: Sarvashri Pranab Mukherjee, S. Ramachandran Pillai and Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan.

of the MUL. Thirdly, in future, the appointments of the Chairman and the Managing Director by either the Government of India or the SMC would only be in consultation and with the concurrence of the other party. The Minister expressed the hope that henceforth, the Maruti Udyog Ltd. would be able to undertake all necessary steps to sustain its leadership in the Indian Automotive Industry and become a truly global player with the full co-operation of both the Government of India and the SMC.

Status Paper on Railways: Some Issues and Aspects and the Budget (Railways), 1998-99: The Discussion on the Status Paper on Railways and the Budget (Railways) 1998-99 took place on 3 and 4 June 1998. Initiating the discussion on 3 June 1998, Shri S.B. Chavan lauded the efforts made in the status paper on Railways. He observed that the Indian Railways was the second largest network in the world and that nearly 56 per cent of the Railway Budget was being spent on operational activities. He suggested that new recruitments could be avoided and manufacturing capacity of the Railway Coach factories fully utilised. The number of coaches in the trains could be increased and outdated wagons and coaches discarded.

Regarding financing of the Railways' Plan, the member said that the money required was being raised through internal resources, market borrowings and capital from the General Exchequer. The demands for separate States like Telengana and Vidarbha were rising because there had not been proper development of these areas. The Centre had to see that proper railway facilities were provided in these areas. He also referred to several other factors such as the sources of revenue, the extra loading capacity, railway accidents, the large scale pilferage on the railway freight and the law and order problems.

Replying to the discussion* on 4 June 1998, the Minister of Railways, Shri Nitish Kumar said that there was a demand from every quarter for more railways but there were limitations to meet the demand. The Budget provided a significant increase in the Plan-size which had been increased from Rs. 8,300 crore to Rs. 9,500 crore. The assistance

* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri C.O. Poullose, S.S. Surjewala, K.M. Saifullah, Anantray Devshanker Dave, Sanatan Bisi, W. Angou Singh, Govindram Miri, Onward L. Nongtdu, Thalavai Sundaram, Gopalsinh G. Solanki, Bhagaban Majhi, V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo, Janardan Yadav, K.M. Khan, S. Muthu Mani, Lajpat Rai, Gandhi Azad, Kamendu Bhattacharjee, Devi Prasad Singh, Khagen Das, Sukh Dev Singh Dhindsa, K. Rahman Khan, Mohd. Masud Khan, C.P. Thirunavukkarasu, Sharief-Ud-Din Shariq, Kanak Mai Katara, Radhakishan Malaviya, Dr. Y. Lakshmi Prasad, Dr. Alladi P. Rajkumar, Dr. Y. Radhakrishna Murty, Prof. Ram Kapse, Shrimati Chandra Kala Pandey, Shrimati Kamia Sinha and Kumari Nirmala Deshpande.

of Rs. 2,000 crore from the Central revenues in the previous year had been increased to Rs. 2,200 crore in the current year. The Railways had made higher allocations for several other items, namely track renewal, doubling of safety arrangements, including signalling and telecommunications, passenger amenities and the rolling stock.

Regarding the North-East, the Minister stated that according to the provisional figures available, an amount of Rs. 34.22 crore had been spent against an allocation of Rs. 71.02 crore on new projects in the entire area during 1997-98. Rs. 100 crore was provided for these projects in the current year.

Regarding Jammu and Kashmir, he said that the work on the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail line would be expedited depending upon the availability of land by the State Government. The Railways had provided Rs. 45 crore for the Jammu Tawi-Udhampur rail line and Rs. 75 crore for the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail line.

The Minister stated that the protection of railway property was the responsibility of the State Government. With regard to the recruitment in the Railways, it had set up a Railway Recruitment Control Board, and introduced carbonless duplicate answer sheets in the examinations. He assured that regional balance would be maintained in all decisions with regard to projects. While concluding, the Minister said that all demands would be considered within the limitations of the Railways.

The Budget (General), 1998-99: The discussion on the General Budget, 1998-99 took place on 8, 9, 10 and 11 June 1998.

Initiating the discussion on 8 June 1998, the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Manmohan Singh said that he appreciated the difficulties faced by the Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha while finalising the Budget. The first objective of a Budget was to strengthen the foundations of the economy so as to enable it to deal effectively with an inherently uncertain external environment. As such, the Government had to take care of the export scenario. The tax on imports would raise the cost of production of a large number of commodities. The Budget's resource mobilization scheme was highly inflationary and it did not pay enough attention to the balance of payment management. The second objective of the Budget was to reverse the decline in agriculture and strengthen the rural economy. While the increase in the Central Plan-outlay on agriculture was welcome, it was regrettable that it was a very small part of the total Central Plan. The substantial increase in the urea price had put a burden on the small and marginal farmers, and the levy of excise duties on agro-based and agro-processed sector would cripple

its growth. More attention needed to be paid to rural employment and special programmes for rural development. The third objective of the Budget was to restore the momentum of industrial growth and to revive the capital market. The Budget did not tackle effectively the constraints on demand and supply and the high inflation rate would not only affect consumer's confidence but also industrial growth. The fiscal deficit was still as high as 5.6 per cent. The scheme of special import duty had generated an all round cost-push effect. The combined effect of the levies on the customs and on the excise duty would weaken India's international payment position, he added.

Replying to the debate* on 11 June 1998, the Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha said that the philosophy of the Budget had been laid out quite clearly in the National Agenda of the Government which emphasised on issues like agriculture, rural development, small scale industries, housing and infrastructure.

The Minister said that in the current year, agricultural production was expected to rise by 3 to 4 per cent over the base of last year and industrial production by 8 to 10 per cent. The wholesale price index had gone up largely because of the bad weather conditions.

There was a general decline in the tax-GDP ratio. The provisions laid down in regard to Permanent Account Number (PAN) and General Index Register Number (GIR) would make it extremely difficult for anyone to evade tax any more. Corporate tax had generally been rising but steps were being taken even in that sector for better compliance. The process for personal income tax had been simplified so that more realisation could be made through income tax; also, gift tax had been abolished.

So far as disinvestment in the Public Sector Undertakings was concerned, the Cabinet had already taken a view in regard to 400 units where disinvestment was proposed.

As regards effective implementation of governmental policies, two schemes relating to self-employment and wage employment would be

* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Ashok Mitra, Janardhana Poojary, N.K.P. Salve, Vedprakash P. Goyal, Solipeta Ramachandra Reddy, V.N. Gadgil, Naresh Yadav, Jibon Roy, Sanatan Bisi, O.P. Kohli, Radhakishan Malaviya, Bangaru Laxman, Ish Dutt Yadav, Pranab Mukherjee, M. Venkaiah Naidu, J. Chitharanjan, M.P. Abdussamad Samadani, Narendra Mohan, Yerra Narayanaswamy, Gandhi Azad, S.R. Bommai, Rajnath Singh 'Surya', Yoginder K. Alagh, A. Vijaya Raghavan, Lachhman Singh, S.S. Surjewala, K. Rahman Khan, Dr. Mahesh Chandra Sharma, Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma, Dr. B.B. Dutta, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Prof. Ram Bakhsh Singh Varma, Shrimati Kamla Sinha, Shrimati Urimilaben Chimanbhai Patel, Shrimati Shabana Azmi, Shrimati Veena Verma and Miss Saroj Khaparde.

streamlined. One of the most significant advances made in the Budget was on the housing front which would include provisions for slum-dwellers. Importance had been given to information technology as it held the potential for growth and employment. The Government would continue to do whatever was needed to make sure that export growth took place according to the targets. It had been decided to assign the responsibility of project clearance to the monitoring officer of the administrative Ministry who would also liaise with the State Government.

As regards the decline in the value of the Rupee, the Minister assured that all possible steps were being taken to see that there was no speculative attack on the Indian currency. The sanctions imposed on the country in the wake of the nuclear tests would not affect economic development in the long run, he added.

Discussion on the Deterioration in the Situation of Power and Water Supply in the Country: Initiating a short duration discussion on 11 June 1998, Shri S.B. Chavan said that the whole power sector had suffered because of the fact that the Eighth Plan targets were not achieved at all. He regretted the lopsided planning of the Power Ministry which provided for generation of power but did not provide enough for transmission, distribution and system improvement. The Plant Load Factor in the Eastern and the North-Eastern regions was very low. The Government should consider seriously whether Naphtha fuel could be considered as a base for power. Shortage of power in the rural areas was a matter of concern because ultimately these were the areas which were going to support both agriculture and rural industry.

Regarding the availability of drinking water, the member said that as on 7 December 1995, the total number of villages where drinking water was not available was 1,40,975. On 1 April 1996, there were 3,31,723 partially covered villages. In 1997, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu had given water supply to all villages but these were the very areas which had sent the complaints of no water supply. The reason was that the underground water level had gone very low and had dried up because of the great heat generated by high intensity electricity pumps. The member called on the Government to put restrictions on drawing underground water.

Replying to the discussion*, the Minister of Power, Shri P.R.

* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Onkar Singh Lakhawat, N.K.P. Salve, Sanatan Bisi, Anantray Devshanker Dave, Ish Dutt Yadav, Sollpeta Ramachandra Reddy, John F. Fernandes, Jalaludin Ansari, Jayant Kumar Malhoutra, Raghavji, M.P. Abdussamad Samadani, Dipankar Mukherjee, Brahmakumar Bhatt, O.P. Kohli, S.S. Surjewala, Radhakishan Malaviya, Yoginder K. Alagh, Prof. (Shrimati) Bharati Ray, Shrimati Kamla Singh and Kumari Frida Topno.

Kumaramangalam said that in the Eighth Five Year Plan, the Government had planned for 30,500 megawatts of additional capacity but could add only 16,500 megawatts which was 46 per cent less of the target and 23 per cent less of what was added in the Seventh Five Year Plan. The transition from a situation where power generation was totally in the State sector to permitting the private sector in power generation had caused a situation where private generation took time to pick up but the investments in the State sector were slowed down.

Regarding the transfer of surplus power from the eastern region to the other regions, the Minister said that having a National Grid for transmitting power efficiently and smoothly would address many of the power related problems. There had been an agreement on the need to have regulations and guidelines to ensure discipline, transparency and clarity in the power sector.

Replying to the discussion with regard to the water problem, the Minister of Urban Affairs and Employment, Shri Ram Jethmalani said that in 1987, the nation had formulated the 'lower basins policy' which was not put into effect due to the lack of political will. The basic problem had been the lack of necessary fiscal resources. All political parties should sit together to devise methods of raising finance to be able to deal with this complex and vast problem.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

*The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill 1998**: Moving the motion for the consideration of the Bill on 2 June 1998, the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Shri M. Thambi Durai said that the Supreme Court, *vide* its judgement dated 7 February 1995, had held that, as per the statutory provisions, only services of the Government employees and the local authorities could be requisitioned for election duties. The Election Commission of India, therefore, requested that section 159 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 be amended to provide that, in addition to local authorities, all Public Sector Undertakings of the Central Government and the State Governments, all Statutory and Non-statutory bodies aided by the Government, all Universities and other educational institutions aided by the Government could also make their staff available for election duties. It was since decided to include in this category employees of public sector enterprises also. The Bill sought to replace the relevant Ordinance issued in this regard.

* The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 1 June 1998.

Replying to the points raised by the members, the Minister* said that the Government was serious about bringing a comprehensive legislation on electoral reforms at an early date.

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

*The Chemical Weapons Convention Bill, 1997*** Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill*** on 2 June 1998, the Minister of Chemical and Fertilizers, Shri Surjit Singh Barnala, said that India was an original signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention which was a universal, non-discriminatory, disarmament treaty that banned the development, production, acquisition, transfer, use and stockpiling of all chemical weapons. The Treaty puts all the States parties on an equal footing. Those countries who have stockpiles of chemical weapons have to declare them and destroy them in a specified time schedule and those who produce or use chemicals that can be changed into chemical weapons have to be open and transparent about the use that they put these chemicals to. A detailed and vigorous inspection procedure had been devised in the Convention to ensure that no clandestine activity was carried out which was not as per the provisions of the Convention. The Convention also provided for the enactment of penal legislation putting a ban on the activities prohibited to a State party by the Convention. The Penal provisions could only be set into motion through legislation.

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

STATE LEGISLATURES

ARUNACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY****

The Second Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Ninth Session on 5 February 1998, was adjourned *sine die* on 24 March 1998.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh addressed the House on 5 February 1998. The Doordarshan Kendra, Itanagar,

* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri J. Chitharanjan, H. Hanumanthappa, S. Ramachandran Pillai, Bangaru Laxman, N. Thalavai Sundaram, Saroj Khaparde and M. Venkiah Naidu.

** The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 6 August 1997.

*** Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri K.M. Khan, Narendra Mohan, Bratin Sengupta, John F. Fernandes, N. Thalavai Sundaram and Prof. Naunihal Singh.

****Material contributed by the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat

covered the Address by the Governor which was telecast the same day. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks took place on 20 March 1998. The Chief Minister replied to the debate the same day and the Motion was adopted unanimously.

Financial business: On 20 March 1998, the Finance Minister presented the Demands for Grants for the year 1997-98 and the Annual Financial Statement for the year 1998-99. The Demands for the year 1997-98 relating to various Departments were moved by the concerned Ministers, including the Chief Minister, and were accepted in full on 24 March 1998. Thereafter, the Demands for the year 1998-99 relating to various Departments were moved by the concerned Ministers, including the Chief Minister, which were accepted in full. Subsequently, the necessary Appropriation Bills were also introduced, considered and passed.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of former acting Prime Minister, Shri Gulzarilal Nanda, Noble laureate Mother Teresa and a former Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Techitakar.

The State Legislative Assembly held its Tenth Session on 25 May 1998 for a day; the House was adjourned *sine die* on the same day.

Election of Speaker/Deputy Speaker: On 25 May 1998, Shri Chowna Mein of the Arunachal Congress was declared elected unanimously as the Speaker. Shri Setong Sena, also belonging to the Arunachal Congress, was elected unanimously as the Deputy Speaker.

GOA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The First Session of the year 1998 of the Goa Legislative Assembly commenced on 16 March 1998. The House was prorogued on 31 March 1998. There were 12 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: Discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor of Goa for his Address took place on 19, 23 and 30 March 1998. Later, the Motion was put to vote and adopted.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Goa Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 1998; (ii) The Goa State Guarantees (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (iii) The Goa Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (iv) The Goa Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1998; (v) The Goa Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (vi) The Goa Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (vii) The Goa

* Material contributed by the Goa Legislative Assembly Secretariat

Motor Vehicles (Taxation on Passengers and Goods) (Amendment) Bill, 1998; and (viii) The Goa Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1998.

Financial business: On 17 March 1998, the Chief Minister presented 69 Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 1997-98. All the Supplementary Demands were discussed and put to vote and granted on 18 March 1998. The Annual Financial Statement for the year 1998-99 was presented on 24 March 1998. Thereafter, the Vote on Account was proposed, put to vote and carried on 25 March 1998.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary reference was made to the passing away of a former member of the Goa, Daman and Diu Legislative Assembly, Shri Ramachandra T. Prabhu.

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Tenth Karnataka Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Seventh Session on 15 April 1998, was adjourned *sine die* on 16 May 1998. There were 19 sittings in all.

Legislative business: During the Session, six new Bills were introduced in the House and nine pending Bills were taken up for consideration and passed.

Financial business: On 17 April 1998, the discussion on the Demands for Grants commenced and continued for 16 days. The concerned Ministers replied to the debate. The Chief Minister replied to the debate on 15 May 1998. Later, the Demands for Grants for the year 1998-99 were put to vote and passed. The Appropriation Bill was also passed the same day. On 15 May 1998, the First Instalment of Supplementary Estimates for the year 1998-99 were presented and were put to vote and passed on 16 May 1998.

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

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

The Karnataka Legislative Council commenced its Eighty-seventh Session on 20 April 1998 and was adjourned *sine die* on 16 May 1998. There were 16 sittings in all.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were considered and passed by the House: (i) The Mysore Palace (Acquisi-

* Material contributed by the Karnataka Legislative Assembly Secretariat

** Material contributed by the Karnataka Legislature Secretariat

tion) (Transferred) Bill, 1998; (ii) The Karnataka Municipalities & Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (iii) The Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (iv) The Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (v) The Karnataka Inland Fisheries (Conservation, Development and Regulation) Bill, 1996; (vi) The Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (vii) The Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (viii) The Karnataka Sales Tax and Certain Other Law (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (ix) The Karnataka Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 1998; (x) The Karnataka Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 1998; (xi) The Karnataka Co-operative Societies Second (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (xii) The Karnataka Souharda Sahakari Bill, 1998; (xiii) The Karnataka Excise (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (xiv) The Karnataka Highway (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (xv) The Karnataka Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (xvi) The Karnataka Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 1997; and (xvii) The Electricity Laws (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 1998.

Financial business: On 15 May 1998, the Supplementary Estimates (Final Instalment) were presented and discussed in detail.

MADHYA PRADESH VIDHAN SABHA*

The Tenth Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, which commenced its Fourteenth Session on 23 March 1998, was adjourned *sine die* on 1 May 1998. There were 22 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Madhya Pradesh addressed the House on 23 March 1998. The Motion of Thanks was moved by Dr. Ashok Sawle, MLA and seconded by Shri Ghanshyam Patidar, MLA.

Legislative business: During the Session, fourteen Bills were introduced in the House which were passed.

Financial business: On 24 March 1998, the Finance Minister, Shri Ajai Mushran introduced the Third Supplementary Demands for the year 1997-98 which were granted by the House on 25 March 1998. The Vote on Account for the year 1998-99 was presented on 25 March 1998 which was granted by the House on 26 March 1998. On 15 April 1998, the Finance Minister presented the Budget Estimates for the year 1998-99. There was a general discussion which took place for 3 days and the vote on the Demands was concluded in 6 days. The Appropriation Bill was passed on 30 April 1998.

* Material contributed by the Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Secretariat

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of the former acting Prime Minister, Shri Gulzarilal Nanda, veteran Communist leader and former Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri E.M.S. Namboodiripad and Sarvashri Maniprasad Shukla, Rasool Ahmed Siddiqui, Durgadas Suryavanshi, Kundanlal Baraiya, Nathoolal Kharia, Manmohan Singh, Maroti Narainrao Panse, Kalyan Singh Balaji Chauhan, Ganpatsingh Dhurve, Jharooram Rawate, Narendra Singh, Anadilal Chhajlani, Pusauram, Umrao Singh, Kanhaiyalal Khacherumal, Smt. Prabha Bhargava and Sushri Raj Kumar Gyanada Devi, all former members. Obituary references were also made to the passing away of those who lost their lives in a bus accident at Delawari near Bhopal.

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The First Session of the year 1998 of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly commenced on 16 March 1998. The House was prorogued on 24 April 1998. There were 24 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Maharashtra addressed members of both the Houses of the Legislature on 16 March 1998. The Address by the Governor was covered by the Doordarshan and Akashvani. The Address was telecast live. The Motion of Thanks on the Address by the Governor was moved and was later adopted without any amendments.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were passed by the House: (i) the Maharashtra Public Libraries (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (ii) the Bombay Rents, Hotel and Lodging House Rates Control, the Bombay Land Requisition and the Bombay Government Premises (Eviction) (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (iii) The Mumbai Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (iv) The City of Nagpur Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (v) The Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University Bill, 1998; (vi) The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 1998; (vii) The Bombay Rents, Hotel and Lodging House Rates Control (Extension of Duration and Amendment) Bill, 1998; (viii) The Maharashtra Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1998; (ix) The Maharashtra Housing and Area Development (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (x) The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 1998; (xi) The Mumbai Municipal Corporation (Second Amendment) Bill, 1998; and (xii) The Bombay Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1998.

Financial business: The Budget for the year 1998 was presented by the Finance Minister, Shri Mahadeorao Shivankar. The Budget Speech

of the Finance Minister was covered by the Doodarshan and Akashvani. The speech was telecast live. During the Session, the following Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Maharashtra Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1998; (ii) The Mumbai Municipal Corporation (Second Amendment) Bill, 1998; and (iii) The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 1998.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of the former acting Prime Minister, Shri Gulzarilal Nanda; Sarvashri Raibhan Rambhaji Jadhav and Babasaheb Sharnappa Tanavade, both sitting members; Tersingh Matisingh Bhabhor, Namdeorao Ramkrishna Mate, Shantaram Kondaji Wavre, Shridhar Sakharan Patil, Vasudeo Gulabram Raval, Madhavrao Narayanrao Memane, Vishavanath Annasaheb Darabe, Manohar Narayan Gogte, Ramchandra Balkrishna Munj, Deorao Jaituji Gedam, Shri Hari Baliram Jivtode, Pratapsingh Ramsingh Ade and Kallappa Laxman Malabade, all former members. The House also took note of the tragedy that had befallen the pilgrims from Maharashtra who had gone on Haj when the stampede mishap took place near Mecca on 9 April 1998.

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL*

The Maharashtra Legislative Council, which met for its First Session of the year 1998 on 16 March 1998, was prorogued on 24 April 1998. The House had 24 sittings in all.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were introduced in the House and later considered and passed: (i) The Maharashtra Raw Cotton Procurement, Processing and Marketing (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (ii) The Bombay Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (iii) The Maharashtra State Council of Examination Bill, 1998; (iv) The Public Libraries (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (v) The Bombay Rents, Hotel and Lodging House Rates Control, the Bombay Land Requisition and the Bombay Government Premises (Eviction) (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (vi) The Mumbai Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (vii) The City of Nagpur Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1998; (viii) The Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University Bill, 1998; (ix) The Bombay Rents, Hotel and Lodging House Rates Control (Extension of Duration and Amendment) Bill, 1998; (x) The Maharashtra Housing and Area Development (Amendment) Bill, 1998; and (xi) The Mumbai Municipal Corporation (Second Amendment) Bill, 1998.

* Material contributed by the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat

The following three Money Bills as passed by the Legislative Assembly were considered by the House: (i) The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 1998; (ii) The Maharashtra Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1998; and (iii) The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 1998.

The Mumbai Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1998, which sought to further amend the Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act providing for vesting of the power of governance of the administration of the Mumbai Municipal Corporation in the hands of the elected representative of the people by adopting the Mayor-in-Council system of working in the Mumbai Municipal Corporation, was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 17 March 1998. The Bill was transmitted to the Legislative Council for its consideration and was laid on the Table of the Council on 19 March 1998. Some members gave notices of motions for referring the Bill with the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly to a Joint Committee of both Houses and circulating the Bill for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon within a period of six months. These notices of motions, by way of amendments, were admitted and shown on the order of the day of 20 March 1998 along with the notice of member-in-charge's motion that the Bill be taken into consideration. On 20 March 1998, the Urban Development Minister, who was the member-in-charge of the Bill, moved that the Bill be taken into consideration. The Leader of the Opposition moved the motion for referring the Bill to the Joint committee. An Opposition member moved the motion that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion. As per usual practice, joint discussion on these three motions took place. After detailed discussion for about eight hours spread over two days, the motion that with the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly, the Bill be referred to a Joint Committee of both the Houses was put to vote and adopted by the House. A message asking for the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly to the said motion was sent to the Assembly on 31 March 1998. The Legislative Assembly did not concur in the motion and a message intimating its disagreement was sent to the Legislative Council. Subsequently, as provided for in Rule 125(2) of the Council Rules, the member-in-charge of the Bill again moved that the Bill be taken into consideration. After some discussion, the Bill was passed by the Legislative Council.

This incident had occurred for the first time in the history of the Maharashtra Legislative Council.

Financial business: On 17 March 1998, the Finance Minister presented the Supplementary Demands for the year 1997-98. The Budget

for the year 1997-98 was presented on 23 March 1998. The discussion on the Supplementary Demands were held on 24 and 25 March 1998. The general discussion on the Budget took place on 30 and 31 March 1998.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of the former acting Prime Minister, Shri Gulzarilal Nanda and a former member, Shri Lakhmichand Ramchandra Abad.

ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Eleventh Orissa Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Eleventh Session on 3 December 1997, was adjourned *sine die* on 16 December 1997. The House was prorogued on 24 December 1998. There were 8 sittings in all.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Orissa Fruit Nurseries (Regulation) Bill, 1997; (ii) The Orissa Advocates' Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (iii) The Orissa Grama Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (iv) The Orissa Panchayat Samitis (Amendment) Bill, 1997; and (v) The Orissa Zilla Parishad (Amendment) Bill, 1997.

WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Twelfth West Bengal Legislative Assembly commenced its Fourth Session on 12 March 1998 and was adjourned on 30 March 1998. There were 14 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of West Bengal, Shri K.V. Raghunatha Reddy addressed the House on 12 March 1998. The Motion of Thanks on the Address by the Governor was moved the same day. The motion was discussed for four days and was adopted by the House on 20 March 1998.

Financial business: On 23 March 1998, the Finance Minister, Dr. Asim Kumar Dasgupta presented the Budget for the year 1998-99. The general discussion on the Budget was initiated on 25 March 1998 which continued for three days. On 27 March 1998, the Finance Minister replied to the debate. (The discussion on the Demands for Grants were to be held in the succeeding Session as the major Demands were

* Material contributed by the Orissa Legislative Assembly Secretariat

** Material contributed by the West Bengal Legislative Assembly Secretariat

referred to the Subject-Committees for pre-voting Budget scrutiny). On 28 March 1998, the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 1997-98 were discussed and passed by the House. On 30 March 1998, the Appropriation Bill, 1998, the West Bengal Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1998 and the Finance Bill, 1998 were passed by the House.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of the former acting Prime Minister, Shri Gulzarilal Nanda; former Union Minister, Shri Triguna Sen; Shri Tridib Chowdhry, MP; veteran Marxist leader and former Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri E.M.S. Namboodiripad; freedom fighter, Shri Sudhi Pradhan; and cricketer, Shri Raman Lamba. Obituary references was also made to the passing away of some sitting and former members of the House and to those who lost their lives in a tornado which hit some areas of Midnapore District in West Bengal and some parts of Orissa.

SUMMARIES OF BOOKS

FADIA, Kuldeep, Reorganisation of India's Federal Polity (Udaipur: Himanshu Publications), 1996 (Pages 114), (Price: Rs. 225/-)

India is a federal polity having 25 States and seven Union territories. These States are truly the keystone of the national governmental system of India. Every citizen of India comes under the Government of a State or a Union territory. The day-to-day needs and requirements of a citizen are met by the State Government and thus, the Central Government becomes a remote reality for the common man. Since the States perform most of the traditional functions of governmental units and deal with subjects having direct, immediate and intimate impact on the fortunes of the citizens, the demand for separate statehood has an obvious and tangible objective relevance.

In the British period, the "States" were known as "Provinces" which were directly administered by the British. The Princely States existed under the overall sovereignty of the British Emperor. The Government of India, Act, 1935 envisaged a "federation of all India" consisting of the British Provinces and the Indian States willing to join it. But the Princely States did not join it and thus the Federal part of the 1935 Act could not be implemented. When the British left India in August 1947, India was divided between British and Indian India. The Princely States were completely independent and were free to join either of the two Dominions, India or Pakistan, as they chose. But the Congress Party rejected the claims made by some of the States to remain independent. The Interim Government set up a States Ministry to handle the problem of the integration of the Indian States after the decision to grant Independence on 15 August 1947 was announced.

The States Ministry headed by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel secured the accession of most of the Indian States to the Union of India and merged many of these States and laid the foundation of their full integration into the new Indian nation. Only three States, Junagadh, Kashmir and Hyderabad decided to remain independent, but finally they too became part of the Indian Union. After the Princely States had acceded to India, the process of integration began. Certain States were merged with the former

British Provinces, some areas were kept under the direct control of the Central Government, and certain States were federated together. The State of Jammu and Kashmir retained a special status as a separate State in the Indian Union. Thus when the Indian Constitution came into operation in 1950, the constituent units of the Indian Union found themselves classified into Part A, Part B, Part C, and Part D States.

Later, the demand for the reorganization of States emanated from different parts of the country. This demand is often equated with the demand for the formation of linguistic States. The phenomenal development of regional languages in the 19th century had led to an emotional integration of different language groups and the development among them of the consciousness of being distinct cultural units. The first major State formed on the basis of language, following widespread popular agitation, was Andhra Pradesh in 1953. With the creation of Andhra Pradesh and the events that led to it precipitated the task of redrawing the political map of India. The States Reorganization Commission (SRC) was appointed in 1953 and with this, the country prepared psychologically for the readjustment of State territories.

The SRC's proposals for redistribution of States in some cases were revised by the Government. The States Reorganization Bill was introduced in April 1956 and was passed in July 1956 and came into force in November 1956. The Act did away with the four categories of States as provided under the original Constitution and instead classified them into two categories—the States and the Union territories, numbering 14 and 6, respectively, at that time. Even after the SRC report, fresh demands for creation of new States cropped up. In 1960, the Bombay State was divided into Maharashtra and Gujarat following much violence and dispute. A separate State of Nagaland was created in 1962 to satisfy the Naga tribals. Similarly, Punjab was bifurcated in 1966 accepting the long standing demand of the Akali Dal. The Punjabi speaking districts formed the new State of Punjab. The non-Sikh part of the Punjab was converted into a new Hindi speaking State of Haryana. Himachal Pradesh attained full Statehood on 25 January 1971 as the 18th State of the Union.

Meghalaya was granted full Statehood on 21 January 1972 along with Manipur and Tripura. Sikkim became a part of the Indian Union as an Associate State on 7 September in 1974 and formally became the twenty-second State on 26 April 1975. (Sikkim had been a protectorate of India since 1861. Sikkim's accession to India followed India's acceptance of its application for Statehood within the Indian Union. Parliament passed an Act extending Sikkim the status of an Associate State).

Mizoram became the 23rd State on 20 February 1987 and Arunachal Pradesh the 24th; Goa, Daman and Diu had been a Union territory since 1962 and on 30 May 1987 Goa became the 25th State and Daman and Diu a separate Union territory. Though Delhi is still a Union territory, the Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment Act, 1991 provided Delhi a special status with a Legislative Assembly and a Council of Ministers. Thus, the Union territory of Delhi has been renamed as the National Capital Territory of Delhi with effect from 1 February 1992.

The demands for creation of separate States are still alive in many parts of India. Often such demands lead to much violence and disruption of normal life. The demand for Bodoland, Gorkhaland, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand are some of the most prominent. Out of these, Gorkhaland and Jharkhand areas have been granted some autonomy. The Bodo-inhabiting region in Assam has been in the grip of militancy but a solution to the issue is still eluding. The people in the Uttarakhand region comprising some hill districts in Uttar Pradesh have recently intensified their demand for a separate Uttarakhand State. They have a long list of grievances.

The Constitution of India has recognized the formation of States on linguistic basis to provide the maximum opportunity to the various lingua-cultural regions to develop their own ethos and economy within the national framework. However, this has not solved the problems forever. The linguistic States are not free from social and economic tensions. Distinct sub-cultures existing in the States feel choked under the pressure of the dominant culture of the region and therefore demand autonomous territorial existence to manage their own affairs.

India is a land of great diversities in the areas of language, religion, physiography, etc. and there is a strong argument in favour of the increasing demand for smaller and socio-economically more homogeneous States which needs careful and sympathetic consideration. The mosaic of federalism globally in the last two centuries has changed twice—first it changed from empire to centralized federations and then in recent times, it is changing towards a pattern of decentralized, cooperative and equipoised federations. In India, the Sarkaria Commission has made a plea for more autonomy by devolution of powers and financial resources to the States. If implemented, its recommendations will go a long way in ensuring smooth and harmonious working of the Union-States arrangements on the principles of cooperative federalism.

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APPENDIX III
STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD
1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 1998

Legislature	Duration	Sittings	Govt. Bills	Private Bills	Starred Questions	Unstarred Questions	Short Notice Questions
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
STATES							
Andra Pradesh L.A.	16.3.98 to 29.4.98	30	—	—	237(69)	(59)(a)	63(8)
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam L.A.	16.3.98 to 15.5.98	18	9(9)	—	603(324)(b)	121(355)	31(30)(c)
Bihar L.A.	26.6.98	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	1153(847)	—
Haryana L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Madhya Pradesh L.A.	23.3.98 to 1.5.98	15	9	2	1695(2590)	781(1983)	—
Maharashtra L.A.	16.3.98 to 24.4.98	24	13(12)	12	6,349(1,016)	88(284)(d)	117(5)
Maharashtra L.C.	16.3.98 to 24.4.98	24	3(12)	27	3,026(651)	1(153)(e)	36(3)
Manipur L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.	12.6.98 to 1.7.98	14	5	5	115(115)	53(63)	—
Mizoram L.A.	27.5.98 to 27.5.98	1	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Punjab L.A.	22.6.98 to 9.7.98	13	11(11)	—	360(280)	64(49)	6(4)(f)
Rajasthan L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.	18.3.98 to 30.5.98	44	43(43)	—	5,932(1012)	(1252)	33(20)
Tripura L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	27.1.98 to 29.1.98	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	24.3.98 to 26.3.98	6	3(15)	—	833(725)	135(108)	60(48)
West Bengal L.A.**	18.6.98 to 24.7.98	16	1(11)	—	610(556)	84(71)	331(276)
UNION TERRITORIES							
Pondicherry L.A.	2.2.98 to 2.2.98	—	—	—	—	—	—
	24.3.98 to 31.3.98	7	2(2)	—	—	—	—

* 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) 247 Questions were converted to unstarred
- c) 27 short notice questions were discussed and 3 were dropped
- d) Questions which were originally tabled as starred Questions but admitted as unstarred Questions but converted as unstarred Questions
- e) Questions which were originally tabled as starred Questions but converted as unstarred Questions
- f) 4 Short Questions were admitted as ordinary starred Questions

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Assam L.A.	1	4	6(1)	—	6(1)	—	—	1	4	—	1	1	5(1)	—	—	28(19)(b)
Bihar L.A.	1	43	30	—	—	18	34	30	56	—	32	33	10	—	—	151(1)(c)
Bihar L.C.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi L.A.	—	3	2	—	—	4	1	1	2	—	—	—	5	—	1	14(d)
Goa L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1(e)
Haryana L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	—	2(2)	5(1)	4(5)	3(3)	2	1(29)	1(2)	—	8(2)	—	2	3	1(2)	—	9(5)(f)
Maharashtra L.A.	—	8	1	—	2	16	5	15	16	—	1	—	16	—	—	54(g)
Maharashtra L.C.	—	10	3	—	6	16	5	15	16	—	1	—	16	—	—	54(h)
Manipur L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.	1	1	5(1)	—	—	3	—	4	2	—	3	4	6	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.	—	2	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	—
Nagaland L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	2(1)	—	—	—
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

Orissa L.A.	—	10	8	—	1	8	11	6	7	—	9	5	8	—	9	24(i)
Punjab L.A.	2(2)	10	6	—	1	17	5	11	12	1	3	3	6	—	—	10(j)
Rajasthan L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.*	—	5	2	—	—	3	3	—	4	—	1	—	3	—	—	—
Tripura L.A.	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	7	3	—	1	1	4	1	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES																
Pondicherry L.A.	1	2(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	—	—	—	23(1)	—	—	—

* 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 Backward Classes-7 sittings; Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-5 sittings; and Committee on Welfare of Minorities-3 sittings
- b) Act Implementation Committee-1 sitting; Committee on OBC & MOBC-1 sitting; Departmentally Related Standing Committees on Education-5 sittings and 3 reports; on Development Department(A)-6 sittings and 7 reports; on Development Department (B)-8 sittings and 7 reports; and on Empowerment of Women-1 sitting
- c) Land Scandal Special Committee-4 sittings and 1 report; Zila Panchayat/Zila Parishad Committee-61 sittings; Woman and Child Development Committee-39 sittings; Question and Calling Attention Committee-36 sittings; and Internal Resources Committee-11 sittings
- d) Question & Reference Committee-1 sitting; Committee on Environment-1 sitting; Committee on Chavan Rishi Apartments-7 sittings; Committee on Enrichment on Gaon Sabha/Government Land-3 sittings; and Committee on MLA Fund-1 sitting
- e) Committee on Panchayati Raj-1 sitting
- f) Women and Children Welfare Committee-2 sittings and 1 report; Question and Reference Committee-5 sittings and 3 reports; and Committee to Examine Papers Laid on the Table-2 sittings and 1 report
- g) Committee on Welfare of Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes-9 sittings; Employment Guarantee Scheme Committee-12 sittings; Panchayati

- Raj Committee-16 sittings; and Catering Committee-7 sittings
- h) Committee on Welfare of Virukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes-9 sittings; Employment Guarantee Scheme Committee-12 sittings; Panchayati Raj Committee-16 sittings; and Catering Committee-7 sittings
- i) House Committee on Environment-2 sittings; House Committee on Linguistic Minorities-2 sittings; House Committee on Administrative Reforms-3 sittings; House Committee on Women and Child Welfare-3 sittings; Ethics Committees-2 sittings; and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-6 sittings
- j) Committee on Papers Laid/To be Laid on the Table-10 sittings

APPENDIX IV

**LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF
PARLIAMENT AND ASSENTED TO BY THE
PRESIDENT DURING THE PERIOD
1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 1998**

Sl. No.	Title of the Bill	Date of assent by the President
1	2	3
1.	The Income-tax (Amendment) Bill, 1998	6.4.1998
2.	The Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 1998	22.6.1998
3.	The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 1998	22.6.1998
4.	The Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1998	22.6.1998
5.	The Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 1998	22.6.1998
6.	The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1998	22.6.1998
7.	The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Bill, 1998	26.6.1998

APPENDIX V

**LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE
LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND THE
UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD
1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 1998****MADHYA PRADESH VIDHAN SABHA**

1. The Madhya Pradesh Vinirdisht Bharasht Acharan Nivaran (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1998
2. The Madhya Pradesh Avyaparik Nigam (Nirsan) Vidheyak, 1998
3. The Registrakaran (Madhya Pradesh Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1998
4. The Madhya Pradesh Krishi Upaj Mandi (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1998
5. The Madhya Pradesh Maihar Sharda Devi Mela Vidheyak, 1998
6. The Madhya Pradesh Grih Nirman Mandal (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak 1998
7. The Rajiv Gandhi Prodhigiki Vishwavidyalaya Vidheyak, 1998
8. The Madhya Pradesh Viniyog (No.3) Vidheyak, 1998
9. The Madhya Pradesh Jankari Prapt Karne Ka Adhikar Vidheyak, 1998

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Meghalaya Board of School Education (Amendment) Bill, 1998
2. The Meghalaya Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1998
3. The Meghalaya Prohibition of Smoking and Non-Smokers Health Protection Bill, 1998
4. The Meghalaya Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1998
5. The Meghalaya Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1998

PUNJAB VIDHAN SABHA

1. The Punjab Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1998
- *2. The Punjab Agricultural Produce Market (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *3. The Punjab State Election Commission (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *4. The Punjab Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *5. The Punjab Roads and Bridges Development Board Bill, 1998
- *6. The Punjab Excise (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *7. The Punjab Education Development Bill, 1998
- *8. The Indian Stamp (Punjab Adendment) Bill, 1998
- *9. The East Punjab War Awards (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *10. The Baba Farid University of Health Sciences Bill, 1998

- *11. The Punjab Legislature Officers, Ministers and Members Salaries, Allowances and Facilities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1998

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Tamil Nadu Cinemas (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 1998
2. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 1998
3. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Second Amendment) Bill, 1998
4. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Sixth Amendment) Amendment Bill, 1998
5. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1998
6. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation Bill, 1998
- *7. The Indian Electricity (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 1998
8. The Tamil Nadu District Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *9. The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University (Amendment) Bill, 1998
10. The Tamil Nadu District Municipalities (Second Amendment) Bill, 1998
11. The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 1998
- *12. The Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling on Land) Amendment Bill, 1998
13. The Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies (Appointment of Special Officers) Amendment Bill, 1998
- *14. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Third Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *15. The Tamil Nadu Forest (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *16. The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *17. The Chennai City Police (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *18. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *19. The Tamil Nadu Prevention of Terrorist Activities Bill, 1998
- *20. The Tamil Nadu Tax on Entry of Motor Vehicles into Local Areas (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *21. The Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling on Land) Second Amendment Bill, 1998
- *22. The Indian Criminal Law Amendment (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *23. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *24. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *25. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *26. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Special Provisions and Validation) Bill, 1998
- *27. The Tamil Nadu Additional Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *28. The Tamil Nadu Entertainments Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *29. The Tamil Nadu Entertainment Tax (Special Provision) Bill, 1998

- *30. The Tamil Nadu Tax on Entry of Motor Vehicles into Local Areas (Second Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *31. The Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Bill, 1998
- *32. The Tamil Nadu Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *33. The Indian Stamp (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *34. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 1998
- *35. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 1998
- *36. The Tamil Nadu Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *37. The Tamil Nadu Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *38. The Tamil Nadu Public Libraries (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *39. The Tamil Nadu Recognised Private Schools (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 1998
- *40. The Tamil Nadu Private Colleges (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 1998
- *41. The Tamil Nadu Municipal Laws (Second Amendment) Amendment Bill, 1998
- *42. The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- *43. The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Second Amendment) Bill, 1998.

PONDI CHERRY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

- 1. The Appropriation Bill, 1998
- 2. The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1998

APPENDIX VI
ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD
1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 1998

Sl. No.	Subject	Date of Promulgation	Date on which laid before the House	Date of cessation	Remarks
UNION GOVERNMENT					
1.	The Finance (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998	21.4.1998	27.5.1998	8.7.1998	Replaced by legislation
2.	The Lotteries (Regulation) Ordinance, 1998	23.4.1998	27.5.1998	8.7.1998	-do-
3.	The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998	23.4.1998	27.5.1998	8.7.1998	-do-
4.	The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998	23.4.1998	27.5.1998	8.7.1998	-do-
5.	The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Second) Ordinance, 1998	23.4.1998	27.5.1998	8.7.1998	-do-
6.	The Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998	23.4.1998	27.5.1998	8.7.1998	-do-

7.	The High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Amendment Ordinance, 1998	24.4.1998	27.5.1998	8.7.1998	-do-
8.	The Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998	24.4.1998	27.5.1998	8.7.1998	-do-
9.	The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998	25.4.1998	27.5.1998	8.7.1998	-do-
10.	The Electricity Regulatory Commission Ordinance, 1998	25.4.1998	27.5.1998	8.7.1998	-do-
STATE GOVERNMENTS					
ANDHRA PRADESH					
1.	The National Academy of Legal Studies & Research (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998	12.6.1998	16.7.1998	—	Replaced by legislation
2.	The A.P. Municipalities (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998	12.6.1998	16.7.1998	—	-do-
BIHAR					
1.	The Bihar Registration/Bihar (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998	29.4.1998	.	—	.
2.	The Jharkhand Area Autonomous Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998	30.4.1998	.	—	.
GUJARAT					
1.	The Gujarat Panchayat (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998	27.4.1998	30.6.1998	—	—

Second

2.	The Tamil Nadu District Municipalities (Fifth Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	25.12.1997	18.3.1998	—	-do-
3.	The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Amendment Ordinance, 1998	29.1.1998	18.3.1998	—	-do-
UTTAR PRADESH					
1.	The Uttar Pradesh Panchayat Raj (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 1998	5.5.1998	19.6.1998	—	—
2.	The Uttar Pradesh Kschetra Panchayat Tatha Zila Panchayat (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 1998	5.5.1998	19.6.1998	—	—
3.	The Uttar Pradesh Madhyamik Sewa Aayog (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 1998	5.5.1998	19.6.1998	—	—
4.	The Uttar Pradesh Samiti (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 1998	25.4.1998	19.6.1998	—	—
5.	The Uttar Pradesh Madhyamik Sewa Chayan Board (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 1998	15.6.1998	19.6.1998	—	—
6.	The Uttar Pradesh Manav Ang Pratiropan Adhyadesh, 1998	12.6.1998	19.6.1998	—	—

APPENDIX VII

A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA
(AS ON 30 JUNE 1988)

Sl. No.	State	Seats	BJP	INC	JD	CPM	TMC	DMK	SP	TDP	SHIV SENA	BSP	CPI	SAD	SMP	ORS	IND	TOT- AL	VAC- ANCIES
1.	Andhra Pradesh	42	4	22	1	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	2	—	—	1(a)	—	42	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2(b)	—	2	—
3.	Assam	14	1	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2(c)	1	14	—
4.	Bihar	54	20	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	18(d)	—	54	—
5.	Goa	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
6.	Gujarat	26	18	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	1
7.	Haryana	10	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	5(e)	—	10	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3(1)	—	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	—
17.	Nagaland	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
18.	Orissa	21	7	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9(k)	—	21	—

19. Punjab	13	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	1	13	—	
20. Rajasthan	25	5	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(l)	1	25	—	
21. Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(m)	—	1	—	
22. Tamil Nadu	39	3	—	—	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	26(n)	1	39	—	
23. Tripura	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	
24. Uttar Pradesh	85	57	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	1(o)	1	85	—	
25. West Bengal	42	1	1	—	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13(p)	—	42	—	
UNION TERRITORIES																			
26. Andaman and Nicobar Island	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
27. Chandigarh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
28. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
29. Daman and Diu	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
30. Delhi	7	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—
31. Lakshadweep	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
32. Pondicherry	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
33. Nominated	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
TOTAL	545	181	141	6	32	3	6	5	5	6	12	12	13*	93	6	544	1	1	1

Dr. (Mrs.) Beatrix D'Souza, one of the nominated member, joined Samata Party w.e.f. 9.6.1998.

a) All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen-1

b) Arunachal Congress-2

c) Autonomous State Demand Committee-1; UNF-1

d) All India Rashtriya Janata Party-1; Rashtriya Janata Dal-17

- e) Haryana Vikas Party-1; Haryana Lok Dal (Rashtriya)-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 of India-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) AIADMK-18; Pattali Makkal Katchi-4; MDMK-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 9 JULY 1996)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	Seats	INC	BJP	JD	CPI (M)	Others	Unattached	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
STATES										
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18	3	—	—	1	13(a)	1	18	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
3.	Assam	7	3	—	—	—	4(b)	—	7	—
4.	Bihar	22	3	3	3	—	13(c)	—	22	—
5.	Goa	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
6.	Gujarat	11	5	5	—	—	—	1	11	—
7.	Haryana	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	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	4(f)	—	9	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	16	10	6	—	—	—	—	16	—
13.	Maharashtra	19	6	4	—	—	6(g)	3	19	—
14.	Manipur	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
15.	Meghalaya	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
16.	Mizoram	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
17.	Nagaland	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
18. Orissa			10	6	—	1	—	3(h)	—	10	—
19. Punjab			7	—	1	—	—	5(i)	1	7	—
20. Rajasthan			10	4	6	—	—	—	—	10	—
21. Sikkim			1	—	—	—	—	1(j)	—	1	—
22. Tamil Nadu			18	—	—	—	—	16(k)	2	18	—
23. Tripura			1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
24. Uttar Pradesh			34	3	15	—	—	12(l)	4	34	—
25. West Bengal			16	1	—	—	11	4(m)	—	16	—
UNION TERRITORIES											
Delhi			3	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	—
Pondicherry			1	—	—	—	—	1(n)	—	1	—
Nominated			12	3	—	—	—	1(o)	8	12	—
TOTAL			245	67	44	9	17	87	21	245	—

a) T.D.-11; T.D.-1-1; CPI-1

b) Asom Gana Parishad-2; Autonomous State Demand Committee-1; CPI-1

c) C.P.I.-3; Rashtriya Janita Dal-9; Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-1

d) Himachal Vikas Congress-1

e) National Conference-3

f) M.L.-2; C.P.I.-1; Kerala Congress 1

g) Shiv Sena-5; Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi-1 h) Biju Janat Dal-3

i) Shromani Akali Dal-5

j) Sikkim Sangram Parishad -1

k) AIADMK (I)-6; AIADMK (II)-1; DMK-6; Tamil Manila Congress (Moopanam)-3

l) Samajwadi Party-8; Bahujan Samaj Party-4

m) C.P.I.-1; F.B.-2; RSP-1

n) D.M.K.-1

o) S.P.-1

C. PARTY POSITION IN STATE LEGISLATURES

State/Union Territories	Seats	Cong. (I)	Janata Dal	BJP	CPI (M)	CPI	Others Parties	Ind.	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Andhra Pradesh L.A. (30.6.98)	295	27	—	2	15	18	222(a)	11	295	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam L.A. (4.7.98)	126	36	—	4	2	3	71(b)	10	126	—
Bihar L.A. (30.6.98)	325	29	30	43	5	26	176(e)	13	322(a)	2
Bihar L.C.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi L.A. (1.7.98)	70	18	1	47	—	—	—	3	70	1
Goa L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat L.A. (1.7.98)	182	53	4	117	—	—	5(d)	3	182	—
Haryana L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A. (30.6.98)	321	172	4	111	1	2	16(e)	8	320(a)	6

Maharashtra L.A. (1.7.98)	289	78	10	66	3	—	—	88(b)	44	289	—
Maharashtra L.C. (1.7.98)	78	31	1	14	—	—	—	17(g)	13	76	2
Manipur L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A. (1.7.98)	40	21	—	—	—	—	—	8(h)	10	39	—
Nagaland L.A. (1.4.98)	60	53	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	60	—
Orissa L.A. (30.6.98)	147	83	13	10	—	—	—	32(l)	9	147	—
Punjab L.A. (1.7.98)	117	14	—	18	—	2	—	77(l)	6	117	—
Rajasthan L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A. (1.6.98)	235	—	1	1	1	8	—	222(k)	1	234	—
Tripura L.A. (1.4.98)	60	13	—	—	38	1	—	6(l)	2	60	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	108	2	—	52	1	—	—	44(m)	8	107	1
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES											
Pondicherry L.A. (1.4.98)	33	9	1	—	—	2	—	18(o)	2	32	—

④ 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; AIMIM-2; NTR Telugu Desam Party (LP)-1; and Nominated-1
- b) Asom Gana Parishad-64; Autonomous State Demand Committee-5; and UMF-2
- c) Rashtriya Janta Dal-135; CPM (Male)-6; Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (Soren)-16; Jharkhand Mukti Morcha(Marandi)-2; Samata Party-8; Bahujan Samaj Party-2; Marxist Coordination Committee-2; Jharkhand Peoples Party-2; Jharkhand Party (Horo)-1; Champaran Vikas Party-1; and Nominated-1
- d) All India Rashtriya Janta Party-4; and Samajwadi Party-1
- e) Bahujan Samaj Party-11; Samata Party-1; Chattisgarh Mukti Morcha-1; Bharatiya Republican Party(Khovada)-1; Gondvana Republican Party-1; and Nominated-1
- f) Shiva Sena-75; Peasant and Workers Party-6; Samajwadi Party-4; Maharashtra Vikas Congress-1; Nagvidarbha Andolan Samiti-1; and Nominated-1
- g) Peasants and Workers Party-1; Shiv Sena-13; Republican Party of India-1; Akhil Bharatiya Maratha Mahasangh-1; and Samajwadi Party-1
- h) Mizo National Front-6; and Mizo National Front (Unity)-2
- i) J.M.M.-4; and J.P.P.-1
- j) Shiromani Akali Dal-75; Shiromani Akali Dal (Mann)-1
- k) DMK-166; Tamil Manila Congress (Moopanar)-39; Indian National League-5; PMK(I)-3; PMK(II)-3; AIADMK-3; All India Forward Bloc-2; M.G.R. Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-1; Puthiya Tamilagam-1; and Nominated-1
- l) RSP-2; and TUJS-4
- m) Samajwadi Party-23; Bahujan Samaj Party-9; Bharatiya Kisan Kamgar Party-1; Bharatiya Loktান্তrik Congress-1; and Shikshak Dal (Non-political)-10
- n) DMK-8; Tamil Manila Congress (Moopanar)-6; AIADMK-2; PMK-1; and AIADMK (Thirunavukarasu)-1

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