

promotions in the Bank in the officers cadre are effected by selection method and as such, in terms of the provisions contained in the brochure on reservations for SC/STs in services (7th Edition), reservations for SC/STs do not apply to these promotions. The bank has further reported that as a one time measure it has effected 67 promotions from JMG Scale-I to MMG Scale-II on seniority-cum-fitness method to benefit officers who have been in JMG Scale-I prior to 31.12.1976. Reservations for SCs and STs as per the rules have been provided in these 67 promotions.

Implementation of Self Employment Scheme

2821. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the commercial banks are generally not showing interest to provide adequate funds for various self employment generating schemes of the Government;

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

(c) whether any complaints have been received by the Government in this regard during the last two years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have issued directions to the above banks to extend full cooperation in the implementation of the self-employment generating schemes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (f). Banks have been implementing various Government sponsored self employment generating schemes, such as, Self Employment Scheme for Educated Unemployment Youth (SEEUY), Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME) and Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PRMY) for Educated Unemployed Youth. SEEUY has been subsumed in PRMY from 1st April, 1994. The progress of implementation of these schemes by public sector banks is reviewed periodically by Government and, wherever necessary, suitable instructions are issued to banks to fulfil the targets allotted to them under the Schemes. The complaints received by Government for non-sanctioning of loans or delay in sanctioning of loans are taken up with the concerned bank for remedial action.

Golf Tourism

2822. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope for promotion, Golf Tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the States identified therefor;

(c) whether steps have been taken to promote Golf Tourism in Bhubaneswar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

[English]

**Ultadanga and Bidhan Nagar
Stations**

2980. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to provide suitable junction arrangement and transshipment facilities at Ultadanga and Bidhan Nagar Stations to reduce the hardship of passengers of Dum Dum, Kakurgachi, salt lake; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

A.C. Sleeper Coach

2981. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long pending demand for attachment of one A.C. Sleeper coach to each of the Circar Express from Kakinada to Madras and Tirumaia Express from Visakhapatnam to Tirupathi;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the time by which this facility is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Railways have already decided to deploy A.C. 2nd sleepers on all long distance Mail/Express trains in a phased manner depending upon the availability of such coaches from Railways' Production Units.

[Translation]

Late Running of Trains

2982. SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the arrival and departure timings of the Up and Down trains enrouting Ujjain station under the Western Railway;

(b) the position regarding the actual arrival and departure timings of these trains on 1.7.94, 5.7.94, 10.7.94, 15.7.94, 20.7.94 and 25.7.94 giving reasons for the late arrival and departure; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to ensure their punctuality?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). A *Statement* is attached.

(c) Round the clock monitoring is done to ensure punctual running of these trains. All the avoidable factors within the control of Railways are eliminated by taking timely and suitable action.

[*Translation*]

Urdu University

3058. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted any committee to give suggestions to establish an International Urdu University;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said committee has given its recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which the recommendations are likely to be received by the Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (e). The Government of India in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Education had constituted a Committee on establishment of Urdu University under the chairmanship of Shri Aziz Qureshi on 25th September, 1992. The Committee submitted its report to the Government on 12th June, 1993. Its major recommendations are the setting up of a new Central Urdu University, completely secular in character and open to all, on the pattern of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) with suitable changes and adaptations, enabling provisions for affiliation of institutions and opening of teaching institutions on a selective basis notwithstanding its predominantly distance

education character, and greater emphasis to the teaching of Science & Technology and job oriented courses through the medium of Urdu.

Training Coaches

3059. SHRI TEJSINGH RAO BHONSLE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme regarding appointment of a 'N.I.S.' trained coach at district level to promote sports and sports related competitions in Maharashtra and other States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the National Coaching Scheme every State Government is expected to identify four Sports disciplines for each district. Coaches for two disciplines are appointed by the Sports Authority of India and the remaining two by the concerned State Government.

[*English*]

Railway High School, Vijayawada

3060. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway employees working at Vijayawada;

(b) the details of educational facilities being provided to the children of these Railway employees;

(c) whether the present section in several classes in these schools, particularly Railway mixed high schools are not adequate; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to increase the sections in these schools?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Soil and Water Testing Laboratories

3061. SHRI PROBEN DEKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of soil and water testing laboratories proposed to be set up during 1994-95 in Assam; and

(b) the total expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b). Soil Testing Laboratories, where water samples can also be analysed, are set up by the State Governments. There are seventeen (17) Soil Testing Laboratories in Assam (10 static and 7 mobile). Under Central Sector Scheme for assistance to small and marginal farmers, which was in operation during 1993-94, the State proposed to strengthen existing 10 static Soil Testing Laboratories with an expenditure of Rs. 36 lakhs. Under the scheme the State

Government has not indicated any proposal to set up a new Soil Testing Laboratories in the year 1994-95.

Damage Caused to Jama Masjid

3062. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether damage has been caused to the Jama Masjid in Delhi by the earthquake which rocked the capital and the other nearby places on 28 July, 1994;

(b) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has assessed the damage;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken to repair it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. As per the assessment made by the Archaeological Survey of India, the extent of the damage is that the turret on the southern side gateway of Jama Masjid fell down, while some cracks have developed in the two turrets on the eastern and northern side gateways.

(d) The conservation and repair work has been taken up.

Production of Mango

3063. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

[English]

(d) Question does not arise.

Agricultural Education

3130. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a dire need to streamline the agricultural education system in the country;

(b) if so, the appropriate policy and programmes drawn up in this regard;

(c) whether new agricultural universities are proposed to be opened; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) There is a need for reorientation and improvement in the existing Agril. Education System in order to meet the challenges and emerging needs of agriculture. However, Agricultural Education and Research is a State subject. Presently, agricultural education is imparted by the State Agricultural Universities, which are State Government Institutions and the ICAR provides partial development assistance and technical guidance only.

(b) Policies and programmes to reorient the system are being developed.

(c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has no proposal to start any new Agricultural University.

Seeds Producing Companies

3131. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the seed producing companies which are working in collaboration with foreign companies;

(b) the variety of seeds being sold by these companies at present alongwith quantity thereof; and

(c) the variety of seeds imported by these companies annually with details of quantity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) At present, there are nearly sixty seed producing companies working in collaboration with foreign companies.

(b) and (c). The collaborations of these companies have been approved mainly for production of hybrid sunflower seeds, vegetable seeds, propagating material of ornamental flowers etc. Details of company-wise seed sales are not available. The quantity of seeds imported into the country was 428.390, 148.082 and 1645.987 MTs in the year 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 respectively. The imported seeds pertain mainly to vegetable seeds like cabbage, tomato and cauliflower etc., sunflower, flower seeds, oilpalm seedlings and ornamental plant seeds.

(Rs. Crores)

Sector	Annual Phasing			Total
	1993-94 & 1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	
(i) Water Supply	36.30	36.30	48.40	121.00
(ii) Drainage & Sanitation	24.30	24.30	32.40	81.00
(iii) Solid Waste Management	3.30	3.30	4.40	11.00
(iv) Traffic & Transportation	32.40	32.40	43.20	108.00
(v) Bustee Improvement	3.30	3.30	4.40	11.00
(vi) Housing & New Area Development	51.00	51.00	68.00	170.00
(vii) Commercial Development	29.70	29.70	39.60	99.00
(viii) Environmental Improvement & Restoration	2.10	2.10	2.80	7.00
Total	182.40	182.40	243.20	608.00

**Fluoride affected villages in
Andhra Pradesh**

3218. SHRI SOBHANADREES-
WARA RAO VADDE: Will the PRIME
MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of
Andhra Pradesh has forwarded proposals
to provide safe drinking water to Fluoride
affected villages in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

(DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOP-
MENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI HARJIBHAI
PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Under the sub-Mission
of Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water
Mission on control of fluorosis, a project
to cover 97 villages in Rangareddy District
at an estimated cost of Rs. 377.60 lakh
has been sanctioned.

The following four projects have
also been received from Govt. of Andhra
Pradesh recently, and are under technical
scrutiny:—

1. Integrated Fluorosis control
project in Ananthapur Distt to

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cover 1470 villages at an estimated cost of Rs. 2821.473 lakhs.

2. Project for providing safe drinking water to villages affected with excess fluoride in Karimnagar Parliamentary Constituency in Karimnagar District to cover 82 villages at an estimated cost of Rs. 1006.70 lakhs.
3. Project for providing safe drinking water supply to villages affected with excess fluoride in Hanumakonda Assembly Constituency area of Warangal District to cover 24 villages at an estimated cost of Rs. 790.00 lakhs.
4. Project for providing safe drinking water to villages affected with excess fluoride in Vinukonda Assmbley Constituency area of Guntur District to cover 52 villages at an estimated cost of Rs. 480.00 lakhs.

Orders to Sick Public Sector Undertakings

3219. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Public Sector Undertakings are reluctant to place orders on these Undertakings which have been referred to BIFR;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether this phenomenon is compounding the problems of sick

undertakings which are under BIFR making their revival process more difficult;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to protect the interest of these sick undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Placing of orders by one public sector on another depends on the capacity of the public sector enterprise to supply products of required specifications, of specific standards and quality, adherence to the delivery schedules at competitive rates etc. Whether the supplying enterprise has been referred to BIFR or not does not play the key role in the decision to place the orders by one on another.

(b) to (e). Do not arise

Union Carbide Company

3220. SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Union Carbide Company in Bhopal is seeking to dismantle its machinery;

(b) whether this is being done with the prior permission of the Government;

(c) whether C.B.I. is still in charge of the Union Carbide Company factory

[Shri K.T. Vandayar]

stay overnight should be provided with night shelters on nominal fees.

I would also suggest to the Government to construct hostels for the aged people who are neglected and not cared for, in their homes. So many pensioners who want to be paying guests, in order to be away from their kith and kin, the Government should think of constructing suitable accommodation for them also as a model so that social welfare organisations can follow suit.

Now, I come to the existing housing financial institutions like, the National Housing Finance Corporation, LIC Home Loan Account and other such institutions. They should be strengthened and organised to meet the requirements of the people for the construction of houses. The credit or loan to be given and the materials should be on flexible terms suitable to local requirements. As mentioned in the policy document, rural housing should be linked with the programmes of IRDP and JRY for accentuating the pace of rural housing and other related programmes of asset creation and employment generation activities.

Also, secondary mortgage market should be created for getting additional finance from insurance or provident fund agencies. For the central Government employees, the house building advance which is being given is not adequate to meet the total housing cost. The government should consider enhancing this amount so that the employees are in a position to construct their own houses, according to their capacity and requirements. They should be encouraged to form Cooperative Housing Societies

and the Government should provide subsidised land for the construction of flats, because the Government quarters which is provided for the Government employees are not meeting even the fraction of their requirements.

The Government should pay special attention to the housing needs of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and other wanted groups. The Harijan colonies in the rural areas which are located away from the main village creates an inferiority complex and the Harijans are not able to mix with the community. Therefore, the Harijan Housing colonies should be developed within the village and those colonies should be provided with all the necessary facilities.

Having said this, the quality of house construction, observing the safety norms of building standard, is very important.

17.00 hrs.

When the Government allows the private sector to construct houses and flats for the general public, the Government should monitor the construction to see whether the standard materials are used in the construction so that safety is ensured and environmental standards are maintained. At present, getting approval of the building plan from the local municipal authorities takes a lot of time. There is a need for procedural simplification in the matter of approval of plan, giving no objection certificate, registration of plot and land for house-building purposes. Please do something to solve this housing problem on a war footing.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA
RAO VADDE (Vijaywada): Madam

Chairperson, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this important items, namely, the National Housing Policy. The very fact that more than two years have passed after the Government has come up with a redrafted National Housing Policy—in fact, it was presented in May, 1992—shows the lack of seriousness and the deep interest of the Government in regard to the implementation of the National Housing Policy.

You are aware, even as far back as 1991, the housing shortage was estimated to be 31 million units—both urban and rural. Again during the Eighth Plan period, in rural areas, it had been estimated that 12.2 million units in rural areas would be short, and in urban areas, 9.5 million units, thus making a total of 21.7 million units. During the Eighth Plan period, in fact, the sub-group on magnitude of housing had indicates that by the year 2001, a shortage of 64 million housing units will be there. Here lies the main problem. The same committee had estimated that to construct 21 million units, it required Rs. 97,000 crore at 1991-92 prices. If that is so, how is the Government proposing to solve this housing problem?

The hon. Minister for Urban Development is not here. One of our colleagues has mentioned that yesterday while moving this policy, she had said that housing was the engine of growth. True, we accept that. But what has the Government done? The Government has approved only 25 per cent of the outlay proposed by the Department of Urban Development. At this rate, when is this problem going to be solved? That is the main problem. One of the main constraints for rapid progress in the matter of housing construction activities is investment. You are aware, the

Government is not at all helping the people in the rural areas. They have small savings to invest. Now even the Government is accepting that. Out of the investment that is spent on housing, only 16 per cent is coming from the formal sector, that is, your budgetary support or LIC or HUDCO or whatever it is. And 84 per cent is through savings of the people. It is high time that the Government should give due attention to this.

I do not dispute the policy. The policy is not bad. But it is your sincere interest. That is more important. I only want to recollect what late Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had said after our constitution was drafted and approved. I remember that he used to say that our constitution is one of the best in the whole world. If the country does not make rapid progress and done justice to the people, it is the fault of the people who implement it and not in the constitution as such.

Similar is the case in this National Housing Policy. I do not have anything to dispute about it. But what is your real commitment to this? My suggestion to the Government is that you must enhance the investment. It has been stated that the share of investment for housing in the gross domestic product has fallen from five per cent in 1960 to three per cent in 1980. Also, the total planned outlay on housing has fallen from 34 per cent, in the First Plan to 9.6 per cent only during the Seventh Plan.

17.06 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir now the Government says that it has been enhanced to 12 per cent. It is in the planned document. Ultimately, how much

[Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao Vadde]

you are allocating, how much actually is spent; is a different matter.

Another major constraint is regarding the availability of land for house constructing activities.

Sir, the Urban Land Ceiling and Regulation Act was brought forward, close on the heels of the Agriculture Land Ceiling and Regulation Act, because agricultural ceiling were implemented. The Government wanted to appear as, though it has brought forward from urban land ceiling also. Here also, the ceiling has been imposed again on the holders of the land. There is no ceiling on, for example, if a person has 10 cinema theatres or 10 houses or even 100 houses. For them there is no limit. The limit, is fixed only on the vacant land. Out of several lakhs of hectares of land which was estimated as excess land, only 33, 970 hectares have been acquired. You will wonder, the Government has exempted 54230 hectares of land from the Urban Land Ceiling Act. You are well aware of it. A lot of responsibilities lies on the shoulders of the Government. I do not blame any particular party, which is in power. The State Governments have failed in implementing this Act. On the one side, they do not acquire the land. The person who is holding the excess land, writes to the competent authority, "I am having so much excess land, please permit me to sell." They do not give permission. Permission will be given only when monies are paid, only when huge amount of money is paid to the politicians, to the corrupt bureaucrats and the persons who are at the helm of affairs

Unfortunately, one of the important provisions of this Urban Land Ceiling and

Regulations Act, which was there, was misused. In fact, with your kind permission, I will quote a provision from the Urban Land Ceiling and Regulations Act. A scope has been given for construction of dwelling units for low income people, small people, weaker sections. It is there in the Section 21, subsection (1), which says:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in any of the foregoing provisions of this chapter where a person holds any vacant land in excess of the ceiling limit and such person declares within such time, in such form and in such manner, as may be prescribed before the competent authority that such land is to be utilised for the construction of dwelling units, and each such dwelling unit having a plinth area not exceeding 18 sq. mts for the accommodation of the weaker sections of the society, in accordance with any scheme approved by such authority, as the State Government may, by notification in the official gazette."

The provision goes on like that.

Sir, my point is that only in very small number of instances, permissions are given; even in such cases also it is given only after huge amount of money has changed hands.

Had the Government been really serious to see that the weaker sections were provided shelter, they would have taken suitable steps. I say this because all these provisions are there in the Act itself. To a great extent, the act itself clearly outlines the share of the

Governmental responsibility in this regard but the Government has not availed of the opportunity provided in the Act.

Subsequently, the National Commission on urbanisation went round the country and examined, in depth, various aspects relating to housing and urbanisation problems. It gave a very beautiful and elaborate report during the period of Eighth Lok Sabha. The Housing Policy was brought forward for the first time in the year 1988. But nothing is done even after a long time of its presentation in the House. Let me quote from page 9 of the National Housing Policy. It says:

“While accepting that there are several measures which have to be implemented, in the light of the suggestions received from various sources such as the State Governments and the affected parties, amendments to the Urban Land Ceiling and Regulation Act will be introduced.”

Now, where are the amendments? It is more than two years. But you have not come forward with any amendment.

Similar is our experience in regard to the Rent Control Act. You are aware Sir that the Rent Control Act was framed during the world war period. The provisions were mostly in favour of the Government which was in need of taking possession of the buildings. Over a period of time, it is now being realised that the provisions of the Rent Control Act which were framed long ago, are stumbling blocks as far as the aspect of construction of houses for rental purposes is concerned. If a person constructs a house and lets it for-rent, it will be very difficult for him to make the occupant of

the house to vacate the house. If he goes to the court, the case may drag on for any number of years. So, the National Commission on Urbanisation has suggested that the Rent Control Act should be changed in such a way that while the interest of the tenants are duly protected, rent escalation should also take place in proportion to the increase in the cost of living, etc.

In this policy document also it is mentioned at page 11:

“Investment in rental housing, especially for the lower and middle income groups will be stimulated by suitable amendments to the rent control laws of the State Governments on the basis of the model Rent Control Law.”

We entirely agree with this statement. But, with due respect, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to why the Government has not come forward with suitable amendments. This Government has brought amendments to so many existing laws when it comes to big industry, and especially to pave the way for the entry of the multinationals into our country. In such cases, when you have done away with so many laws, why cannot you come forward with the necessary amendments to the Rent Control Act to encourage construction of houses for rental purposes? If some big multinational wants to construct houses, then, of course, I suppose Government may come forward with suitable amendments!

I earnestly request the Government not to be so callous when it comes to the question of shelter for the rural poor. Your heart bleeds when you go to the rural areas and see the housing conditions

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of the poor. The dwelling units of the weaker sections are no better than a pigsty. Such is their miserable condition. And what is it that you are doing to improve their conditions? Of course, you are doing something and I don't deny that. But the pace is rather very slow. At this rate, even after one century, you will not be able to provide shelter to the houseless. So, my suggestion to the Government is this. Please think of the poor people in the rural areas. The bank employees who draw a monthly salary of Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 8,000 get loans from their banks for constructing a house at a normal rate of five or six per cent. But what are you giving to the rural poor? Even the LIC discriminates in this matter. While the policy holders in big cities get loans for house-construction, LIC denies the same facility to the policy holders living in rural areas.

Why is this discrimination? When you have dispensed with so many unnatural or unwarranted restrictions and regulations, why do you not think similarly in respect of this and help in the construction of houses in the rural areas?

Sir, SHAHASU, scheme of housing and shelter upgradation in Urban areas is a very good scheme and I congratulate the Government for this. But you should provide more funds for that. In some of the committees, we felt that the amount allotted has been reduced. Kindly do not do that. Please increase it.

Similarly, it is true that under the Indira Awas Yojana, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are being helped. You are giving a few lakh houses to these two sections of the population. At the same time, there are

also schemes, where a small amount of subsidy is given and the balance amount is loan. It is observed that some people are getting houses without paying a single pie and also there is no responsibility or burden on them to even repay one rupee. The person who has received the loan amount also feels that "let me not repay the money". My suggestion is that you should prescribe subsidy irrespective of his being in the urban area or rural area. You give more subsidy to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and lesser subsidy to the backward classes and you just help the other sections of the society by giving loans. They may not get subsidy. You give them loans. That is what is to be done. Unless you do it, the housing problem is not going to be solved.

I am happy that ODA has taken up a scheme in Vijaywada city. This is one very good programme. But for this Overseas Development Administration Programmes, especially the localities in which the people of weaker sections are residing, it would have been beyond our imagination to think what would have been their fate. With this scheme, beautiful concrete cement roads and houses have been constructed. Lot of development is taking place and the same may also be extended to other parts also. Some more funds may be augmented under this scheme.

My suggestion to the Government is that kindly bring forward suitable amendments. You yourself have promised that, but you are not doing it. Please bring forward amendments so that more land is made available for house building activities. You give relaxations. Of course, one should not be made to pay money to the politicians or the ruling parties. That should be brought forward in the Act itself.

Sir, the compensation which has been prescribed is very very nominal. This is not fair. Even for sick units, you are giving lot of compensation. Even when banks were nationalised, lot of compensation was paid. But when you are acquiring so many buildings, you are giving the same compensation. Why are you discriminating against the landlords? He may not be a big landlord. The land might have come through his father or grandfather or some other ancestral sources. There are very few who might have purchased land with speculative intentions.

Sir, I would also like to suggest one thing about the building materials. Now, this flying ash bricks have come. They are very useful. The Union Government have given instructions that flying ash should be made available to all the thermal power stations free of cost. But several State Governments and electricity boards have not complied with the instructions. Otherwise, by now, it should have made very good progress. Not only for house building purposes, but also for construction of pavements, this can be beautifully utilised. I request the Government to make this available to the brick manufacturers so that they could produce it in a big way and the precious earth would not have to be removed for making bricks. By producing bricks from flying ash such units can play a vital role in saving our trees and teak wood and other precious wood material in the forests. The Government should give all out assistance to these manufacturers.

Finally, Sir, I would like to say a word about the sick units. In big cities there are some sick units which were located long back. These units occupy a huge amount of land. Efforts are being made to purchase these sick units at

book value. Keeping in view the high value of the land, I would suggest that such lands should be auctioned publicly so that more money can be obtained and this money in turn can be utilised to meet the financial crisis which the unit may be facing. There are some recommendations to that effect also. I would only suggest the Ministry of Urban Development to give a serious thought to it and bring necessary legislation in this regard.

With these words I thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA (Chatra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many things come up before us when we discuss the National Housing Policy. For example, what is the number of persons who are in need of houses, how much land is available with us, what is our population and what are the resources available. We should not ape the path of other countries. When we ponder over all these points, we feel that we have less area of land. Our area is 32 lakh square kilometres whereas our population is around 90 crores. It is not like this in other countries.

Sir, the area of Russia is 224 lakh square kilometres and the population of Russia is only 29 crores. The area of USA is 94 lakh square kilometres whereas its population is only 25 crores. There the land is more than the population while in our country the situation is reverse the land is less and the population is more. The countries where land is enough, specially in Russia, it is not used in discreetely. If anyone wants to construct a house, he can not cover 10-15 acres of land for it but in our country, they are

ing together as one or separately as two ports, keeping in view the operational and technical aspects etc. Further action would depend on the outcome of the report of the Committee and its examination from all relevant aspects.

Oil Reserves in Rava Oil Fields and K.G. Basin

3821. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated quantities of Reserves of Oil and Gas that available from "Rava" Oil Field in K.G. Basin;

(b) the number of wells drilled, the amount spent so far, the number of platforms erected, and the number of process rigs in operation and their cost; and

(c) the number of platforms yet to be constructed and rigs required and the funds required for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) As on 1.4.94, the recoverable reserves in the Ravva field were 16.52 million tonnes of oil & condensate and 6817.2 MMm³ of gas.

(b) As of 1st August, 1994 ONGC have drilled 30 wells in the Ravva field. In the offshore field 2 well platforms connecting four wells have been erected. Presently there is no process platform/process rig. ONGC have spent an amount of Rs. 234.56 crores till 31st March, 1994 on drilling in

Ravva. The expenditure incurred on platforms and associated facilities upto 31st March, 1994 was Rs. 112.86 crores.

(c) It has been decided that further development of Ravva field will be done through a joint venture company.

[Translation]

Kerosene Supply to Madhya Pradesh

3822. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh have sent any request to increase the supply of Kerosene;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c). Requests are received from State Governments for additional allocation of Kerosene from time to time. However, on account of constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy involved, it is not possible to meet the full demand of the States.

The quantity of SKO allotted to Madhya Pradesh during 1993-94 was 411534 MTs which was 8.31% higher than 1992-93. Similarly for 1994-95 the allocation has been increased to 446055 MTs with an increase of 7.9% over 1993-94 which is much higher as compared to the national average growth of 3%.

Additional Capacities at Haldia Port Complex

3926. SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the installation of additional capacities in the ore-handling plant and coal handling plant at Haldia Port Complex;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Need for it has not been felt on account of the traffic projections.

Gas Reserves in K.G. Basin

3927. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated quantity of gas reserves in the K.G. Basin on-shore and off-shore separately;

(b) the quantity of recoverable gas from the on-shore drilling operations;

(c) whether the Government have plan to convert it into cooking gas and also to utilise it for transportation; and

if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) The in-place Geological reserves of gas estimated as on 1.4.94 in KG Basin onland and offshore are 56380.1 MMm³ and 18178.2 MMm³, respectively.

(b) As on 1.4.94, the recoverable reserves of gas from KG onland is 31316.6 MMm³.

(c) and (d). The gas projected to be available has been fully allocated to power, fertiliser and other projects.

[*Translation*]

P and T Services in North East Region

3928. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to improve the telephone, post and telegraph services in North Eastern region of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To improve the telephone and telegraph and postal services, following steps are being taken on continuing basis:

DEPARTMENT OF TELECOM

1. Replacement of worn out telephone instruments by new ones.
2. Replacement of worn out electro-mechanical exchanges by electronic ones.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d). With the objective of better beautification/maintenance and increasing revenue from commercial advertisements, Zonal Railways have entered into contract for maintenance/beautification at 10 stations. The increase in earnings from the commercial advertisements is approximately Rs. 26.23 lakhs per annum. Besides a saving of approximately Rs. 12.22 lakhs is expected in expenditure on maintenance. More stations are being identified for beautification/maintenance by the Zonal Railways. The station working continues to be with the railway administration and the contractor is given only the sole rights for displaying commercial advertisements as per the terms and conditions laid down by the Railway Administration. The Railways retain powers to terminate the contract if contractor violates the terms and conditions of the agreement.

[English]

Horticultural/Agricultural Products

*415. SHRI SOBHANADREES-
WARA RAO VADDE:
SHRI MANJAY LAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to promote export of agricultural/horticultural products;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide any special facility for the export of perishable agricultural/horticultural products such as fruits, flowers and vegetables etc;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether subsidy being provided for four hectares of land per farmer has been limited to one hectare of land per farmer;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether the Government will review the matter and revive the earlier limit?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) to (c). Government attaches special importance to the growth of exports of agricultural/horticultural products. Steps like introduction of the unified exchange rate, liberalisation made in EXIM Policy 1992-97, lowering of import duties on certain inputs and materials required by the agricultural, sector, extension of the benefits available to units under the scheme of Export Oriented Units (EOUs)/ Export Processing Zones (EPZs), allowing the exporters of agricultural commodities to sell upto 50% of their produce in the domestic tariff area, introduction of a subsidy on air-freight on agricultural products on experimental basis during 1993-94 etc. are intended to improve and enlarge exports of agricultural/horticultural products.

(d) and (e). Under the Scheme "Subsidy on drip irrigation", the upper area limit has been reduced from four hectares to one hectare per beneficiary with effect from the year 1993-94 with a view to maximise the number of beneficiaries.

(f) The matter is under review.

State	1992-93					Total	193-94
	Superior Long	Long	Superior Medium	Medium	Short		
Haryana	—	—	1276	—	130	1406	1300
Karnataka	796	29	150	—	—	975	975
Madhya Pradesh	40	9	180	7	125	361	412
Maharashtra	204	865	435	—	304	1808	2504
Punjab	—	—	2173	—	141	2314	1727
Rajasthan	—	—	661	28	327	1016	839
Tamil Nadu	284	—	188	—	—	472	421
Others	3	—	22	1	23	40	50
All India	3379	956	5827	81	1340	11583	11396

Panorama Project

4052. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have agreed to start a panorama project at Kurukshetra for giving visual facts of Krishna's life and the Geeta;

(b) if so, the salient features of the project; and

(c) the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF

CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project will highlight the state of science, technology, environment and ecology in ancient India as learnt from the Vedic and post Vedic Literature.

(c) A sum of Rs. 5 crores has been estimated for the first phase of the project with an additional provision of Rs. 5 crores for complete Air-Conditioning.

[Translation]

Prakash Tandon Committee

4053. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN:
SHRI LAL BABU RAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

objectives. During the years 1989, 1990 and 1991-92, the total number of such organisations having reported foreign assistance were 9132, 9316 and 9012 with the assistance to the tune of Rs. 76085.80 lakhs, Rs. 94547.80 lakhs and Rs. 141213.46 lakhs respectively. These assistance may have been utilised for one or all of the above objectives.

Funds for Passenger Amenities

4074. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amounts allocated for safety measures and Passenger Amenities during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95; and

(b) the actual amount spent during the last two years, separately.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The amounts allocated for safety measures during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 is Rs. 71 cr., Rs. 66 cr. and Rs. 107 cr. and for Passenger Amenities is Rs. 50 cr., Rs. 60 cr. and Rs. 60 cr. respectively.

(b) The actual amount spent on Passenger Amenities during 1992-93 and 1993-94 is Rs. 36.38 cr. and Rs. 67.39 cr. respectively. The actual expenditure on safety works during 1991-92 and 1992-93 was Rs. 58 cr. and Rs. 62.34 cr. respectively. Actual expenditure for safety works in 1993-94 is not readily available. This is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rail Museum

4075. DR K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accepted any proposal from the Canada based non-resident Indians to set up a rail museum and displaying the vintage locos and coaches of the toy trains running on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) A Canadian based Non-Resident Indian has shown interest in setting up a museum relating to Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.

(b) The details have not so far been furnished.

[*Translation*]

Appointment on Compassionate Ground

4076. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons appointed on compassionate grounds during the last three years and the number of such cases lying pending zone-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government for the appointment of such persons?

ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the incidents of killing of wild animals including deer in Madhya Pradesh brought to the notice of the Government during the last three years; and

(b) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Regularisation of encroached Forest Land

4108. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that nearly 1500 tribal families are living in the forest area in Mysore district for the last thirty years;

(b) if so, the extent of forest land sought by the Government of Karnataka for exemption and release in Mysore district for regularisation of the encroached forest land; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). The State Government of Karnataka has sent a proposal for diversion of 752 ha. of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for rehabilitation of tribal families in Nagarahole National Park in district Mysore.

(c) The proposal of the State Government is under consideration of this Ministry.

Aquaculture Institute in Andhra Pradesh

4109. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish an institute for Aquaculture in the Coastal Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government have sought any assistance from the World Bank/other foreign agency for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the institute is likely to come into being?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

(a) the latest estimated cost of Mahananda Basin Flood Control Scheme;

(b) the works completed so far;

(c) the works in progress; and

(d) the total expenditure on the scheme upto March, 31, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) The latest estimated cost of Mahananda Flood control Scheme is Rs. 2062.91 lakhs.

(b) So far 240.40 Kilometre of embankment has been constructed in Bihar under this scheme.

(c) During the year 1994-95, Government of Bihar has not kept any provision against this scheme.

(d) Rs. 2170 lakhs has been spent by Government of Bihar on this scheme upto March 1994.

World this Week

4416. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to discontinue telecasting of programme called 'World this Week';

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that this programme telecast for the last year, was very popular among intelligentsia and had a select viewership;

(d) if so, the Government propose to launch any new programme in its place; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Seizure of Explosives

4417. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:
SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:
SHRI JANARDAN MISRA:
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
SHRI RAM KAPSE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any information regarding seizure of explosives in Andhra Pradesh, especial in Karim Nagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, whether the inquiry has since been completed;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof;

(f) the number of persons found guilty and the action taken against them; and

(g) if not, the time by which the inquiry is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (g). As per information furnished by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, a search was conducted on 6.1.1994 by the Police in two poultry farms owned by Kondran Buchaiah and Pittala Narsaiah at village Bomapalli, near Huzurabad (Karimnagar). Police seized 524 boxes containing 11,84,250 electrical/old/Special detonators, 150 boxes (3750) of gelatine and 175 boxes containing 15,000 Nos coils of safety fuse wire, which were stocked illegally. Police arrested Kondra Buchaiah, Pittala Narsaiah, Cherala Prabhakar and Akinepalli Sathaiah in this connection and remanded them to judicial custody. Another accused A. Srinivas surrendered in the Sessions Court, Karimnagar subsequently. Investigations have revealed that the stocks seized at the farmsheds were to be supplied to M/s. Padma Sree Explosives, Huzurabad owned by A. Srinivas, S/o. Radio Sathaiah @ Akinapalli Sathaiah. After registration of the case (Cr. No. 2/94 of Huzurabad PS (Karimnagar), all the three licences possessed by Akinepalli Srinivas were cancelled by the Chief Controller of

Explosives, Nagpur. CBI has not conducted any inquiry in this case.

[Translation]

Protection to Maid Servants

4418. SHRI KHELAN RAM
JANGDE:
SHRI RAM TAHAL
CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether maid servants frequently fall victim to atrocities and physical assault by their employers;

(b) whether safeguards exist for the protection of the maid servants from such assaults;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to enact any law for the protection of maid servants; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Data on atrocities and physical assaults on maid servants by their employers are not separately compiled by the Central Government.

(b) to (e). There is no specific legislation relating to protection of maid servants. However, action of specific cases of atrocities/assault reported by the maid servants is taken in accordance with the provisions of Cr. P.C. and I.P.C.

[Shri P.G. Narayanan]

this historic Constitution (Amendment) Bill is brought here with the good intention of protecting the reservation policy which is being implemented in the State of Tamil Nadu for the past several years. First of all, in order to maintain the status quo and in order to avoid judicial challenge, this Bill is a must. Moreover, this is a matter of great social concern. In Tamil Nadu, 88 per cent of the population belongs to the backward classes and the Scheduled Castes. So, to ensure social justice and upliftment of the downtrodden people of our society, the continuance of 69 per cent of reservation is absolutely necessary.

We know fully well that even if this Reservation Act were included in the Ninth Schedule, it is still open to attack or challenge. But we can get some relief through this measure. Full safety in this regard can be obtained only when the Constitution Amendment Bill under Article 15 and 16 is effected to confer powers on the States to determine the quantum of reservation according to population and other related local factors. I may mention here that for that purpose, I am going to introduce a Private Members' Bill tomorrow to amend Articles 15 and 16.

Sir, this Bill has already been passed in the Rajya Sabha. It is agreed to among all the political parties that this Bill should be passed without any discussion. So, let us not enter into any controversy. I appeal to all the political parties to support this Bill unanimously.

MR SPEAKER: I wonder whether this amounts to passing the Bill 'without any discussion'!

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: I thank all the political parties. And I also thank the Government and the Prime Minister of India for bringing forward this Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us understand one thing very clearly. A bill has been passed by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. And this Government is trying to put it in the Ninth Schedule. This is the relevant issue. You cannot cover the entire issue of reservations. If you are to cover the issue of reservations in Government service, private service, in trade, in industry and so on, it becomes unlimited.

SHRI SITARAM KESRI: How long shall we continue with this?

MR. SPEAKER: I don't know. The Members should realise what I am saying.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Mr. Speaker Sir, on behalf of the Telugu Desam Party, I rise to lend my wholehearted support to this Constitution (Amendment) Bill which intends to protect the interests of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes in Tamil Nadu by giving effect to 69 per cent of reservation in the State of Tamil Nadu as passed by the Legislative Assembly. I do not wish to repeat what my friends have already said. I fully agree with the views expressed by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Shri Indrajit Gupta and other hon. Members who spoke prior to me. I only request the hon. Minister to come forward with a comprehensive Constitution (Amendment) Bill in the coming Session, giving scope to protect reservations which are in vogue in different States with varying percentages because of the variation of population with regard to their educational and social backwardness.

So, the Government of India should take these things into cognizance and come forward with a comprehensive legislation.

I would like to mention just one more point. There is a strong feeling presently among the people of this country that economically poor people belonging to the so called advanced sections of the society must also be given the benefit of reservation. To achieve that end, the Government should request the Supreme Court to reconsider the Full Bench judgment if necessary, so that justice is done to the weaker sections of the society.

I once again congratulate the Government of Tamil Nadu for initiating this step to protect the interests of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes of Tamil Nadu. I also congratulate this Government for giving assent to this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker Sir, I support the Constitution Amendment Bill. The Hon. Minister deserves congratulations for it. You are going to implement it in Tamil Nadu. Arrangements should be made in other States also. The Welfare Ministry should give direction in this regard and it should be included in the Ninth Schedule.

The lacunae in the reservation policy should be removed. The Railways have a separate policy in regard to reservation. There is no reservation in the Science and Technology Department. A comprehensive Bill regarding reservation should be brought after removing all the lacunae.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, on behalf of my party, Kerala Congress, I support this Bill. I would like to applaud the wisdom of the Constitution makers for making a provision in the Ninth Schedule for giving protection to such welfare measures. I am sure, even though, it is put in the Ninth Schedule, it is open to challenge. Articles 15 and 16 have been challenged because of the present move of the Government and the legislature. I am sure, the arms of Parliament are strong and long enough to frame further laws and can bring about further changes in Articles 15 and 16.

My intention is not to make a long speech, but I would like to make one point. There are other classes of people also in the society who are urgently in need of reservation, protection and other welfare measures. There are persons who have changed their faith. For example, when persons professing Christianity change their faith or religion from Hinduism are denied the rights of Scheduled Caste. This is just because he has a different faith. I think, this cannot be allowed in a secular State like India where every person has a right to profess any faith. By changing faith alone, their status as Harijans does not change. This is also an aspect, which I would like to put at this stage before this House for consideration.

I, once again, support this move. I congratulate the people of Tamil Nadu, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, all the Political parties of Tamil Nadu and also the Government, the Prime Minister and all concerned for bringing forward this historic Bill. Thank you.