

Friday, February 22, 1974
Phalguna 3, 1895 (Saka)

**Tenth Session
(Fifth Lok Sabha)**



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Friday, February 22, 1974/Phalguna 3,
1895 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

रोम में हुई अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष की बैठक
में किये गये निर्णय

*41. श्री मूलचन्द डाया : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जनवरी, 1974 में रोम में हुई अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष की बैठक में क्या निर्णय किये गये और उन निर्णयों का भारत की आर्थिक स्थिति पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ा अथवा पड़ेगा ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R.
GANESH) : A statement is laid on the
Table of the House.

Statement

The decisions taken by the Committee of 20 at its meeting in Rome on January 17-18, 1974 are reflected in the Press Communiqué issued at the end of the meeting. A copy of this communiqué is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8185/74]

The Committee has recognised that the steep increase in oil prices has created serious difficulties for many developing countries whose needs for financial resources will be greatly increased. The Committee has asked the IMF and IBRD to cooperate in finding an early solution

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to the many financial problems that have arisen in the wake of the oil crisis particularly in relation to the difficult problem facing non-oil producing developing countries. However, as of now it is difficult to predict the practical outcome of studies that are under way in these two organisations on this matter.

The Committee also discussed a proposal designed to impart a greater measure of certainty and stability to the transaction value of SDR. It was agreed that in the interim period, and without prejudice to the method of valuation of SDR to be adopted in the reformed monetary system, it would be desirable to base the value of SDR on a basket of currencies. However, there are still many unsettled issues such as those relating to the composition of the basket and the effective interest rate which will have to be resolved before the proposal can be voted upon by members of the IMF. The Committee of 20 invited the Executive Board of the IMF to work urgently on all these outstanding issues. India is in favour of fixing the value of SDR in terms of a basket of currencies provided the interest rate is kept low.

The Committee also agreed that in the reformed system it would be desirable to have a permanent council of 20 Governors with decision-making powers to manage and adapt the monetary system, to oversee the continuing operation of the adjustment process and to deal with sudden disturbances which might threaten the world monetary system. It was also agreed that as an interim step, pending the establishment of the Council, a Committee of the Board of Governors should be created, with an advisory role in the

same areas as the Council and with the same composition and procedures. This Committee will come into being when the present Committee of 20 has completed its work. These decisions of the Committee are in line with India's thinking about the further structure of the IMF.

श्री मूल चन्द डागा : अध्यक्ष जी, तेल की कीमतों में भारी वृद्धि हुई है उस के कारण विकासशील देशों के सामने गम्भीर समस्याएँ पैदा हो गई हैं। इन समस्याओं का सर्वेक्षण और समाधान करने के लिये उस बैठक में क्या कार्यवाही की गई और भारत सरकार ने अपनी ओर से क्या विचार रखे और उन विचारों का, किस रूप से अमली रूप दिया गया ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : In the recent meeting of the Committee of 20 which was held in Rome, the oil crisis naturally dominated and took most of the time. One of the suggestions made there was to have a new lending facility in the IMF to help those countries which will face a difficult balance of payment situation as a result of the hike in oil prices. It was also suggested that assistance from the facility would be available at rates of interest on commercial terms. No agreement could be reached on this, and it was decided to study this question more in depth. The position of India has been that India welcomes the proposal for a special lending facility but we are opposed to the rates of interest being on commercial terms, because it will involve various difficulties. Already we are facing debt Service difficulties, and therefore we wanted this on concessional terms.

श्री मूल चन्द डागा : क्या अध्यक्ष जी, वहाँ पर 20 गवर्नरों की परिषद् बनाने के अलावा कोई अन्तरिम परिषद् का निर्माण हुआ था और क्या उसने अपनी कार्यवाही शुरू कर दी है इस काम की जांच करने के लिये कि मुद्रास्फीति में इस प्रकार से संशोधन किया जाय ताकि जो तेल की कीमतें बढ़ी हैं उससे विकासशील देश प्रभावित न हों ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : The question of reform of restructuring of the International Monetary Fund was also discussed

there. One suggestion which had been agreed to is that there is to be an intermediate committee between the Board of Governors and the Executive Directors. This has been agreed to in principle; in the transitional period an advisory council will be formed which will look into the problems that would come up.

SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH : In the context of the agreement reached between the Shah of Iran and the International Monetary Fund, I should like to know how far our problem concerning the oil crisis will be helped ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : The position that emerged after the discussions that took place at Rome is that as far as our problems are concerned, we will have to enter into bilateral discussions and bilateral agreement with the oil producing countries.

SHRI B. V. NAIK : I hope that this is also relevant to the Ministry of Finance since we find in the course of our energy crisis they are dubbing the problem of fuel with the problem of naphtha whether with reference to SDR or any other measure. Would it not be possible to dissociate these two problems and give first priority for naphtha because if we suffer in fertilisers we will suffer in food production which will have a disastrous consequence ?

MR. SPEAKER : Where have you gone from the question ?

SHRI B. V. NAIK : It is a question of Finance and priority should be accorded to naphtha and no other Ministry will answer this question.

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Priority is for relevancy of the question.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : In view of the recent devaluation and the cross talk about a strong pound and strong dollar and floating of yen and franc in the market, did the IMF discuss

restructuring of the monetary system on a long term as well as a short term basis? How do they propose to meet the crisis which is thrown so often at the face of the world?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : This question as well as the SDR came up there. Because of two factors, fluctuation in the currencies and also because of the delinking of dollar from gold by the United States a suggestion was made that there should be a basket of currencies for the valuation of SDR. It was decided that the Fund Executive directors should study this proposal in depth because there are certain questions such as the composition of the currencies in this basket and what will be the rate of interest, etc. These problems have got to be discussed.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is true that in the recent meeting of twenty at Rome they could not agree even on a new definition of Special Drawing Right, let alone the wider issue concerning the international monetary system? Is it also true that there is no sign that poor developing countries like India will get long-term financial concession or low rate of interest from the International Monetary Fund through a mechanism like Special Drawing Right?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : As I have already indicated in the reply to the hon. Member's question, the issue of Special Drawing Rights was discussed. Since it has come up against various difficulties as a result of the floating of the currencies and also as a result of the delinking of the dollar from gold, it was decided that there should be a basket of currencies for the valuation of the Special Drawing Rights. This would be further looked into by the Fund Executive Director and then a decision taken, because there are many problems connected with it which have to be thrashed out.

As far as countries like India, the Committee of Twenty has recognised that they will face quite a lot of difficul-

ties as a result of the oil crisis and that efforts will have to be made to meet their requirements.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I asked a categorical question whether long-term finance would be available through the International Monetary Fund through the mechanism of Special Drawing Rights.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : The question of Special Drawing Rights is there. By July 1974 the Committee of 20 have to finalize their report. This will be discussed when these reports are finalized.

Visit by U. S. Textile Trade Mission in India

*42. **SHRI BIREN DUTTA :**

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether U.S. Trade Mission, specialised in the field of textiles, had come to India on the 28th January, 1974; and

(b) if so, the outcome of discussions with that Mission?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. An exploratory U.S. Textile Machinery Delegation led by Mr. Carroll F. Hopkins, Director, U.S. Department of Commerce and consisting of Senior Executives of the U.S. Textile Machinery Industry visited India between the 28th January and 10th February, 1974.

(b) The main purpose of the delegation was to assess the market possibility for sale of U. S. Textile Machinery to India in the context of our Fifth Plan requirements. It was indicated to the Mission that while a firm assessment was yet to be made about

the likely level of machinery imports into India for modernisation as well as expansion purposes, present estimates were that some imports would be needed. It was also indicated that such imports may have to be financed from special credits. The delegation was informed that Government was engaged in assessing the level of imports of textile machinery which might be necessary during the Fifth Plan Period, in consultation with the Textile Machinery Manufacturing Industry in India on one hand and the textile mills on the other. The question of imports if any from USA would be decided on the basis of demand for such machinery, availability of credits and competitiveness in terms of price, quality and delivery.

SHRI BIREN DUTTA : It is mentioned in the statement that there is some estimate of import of textile machinery. May I know whether this process of modernisation and the import of high speed machinery will not come in the way of giving encouragement to the cottage and small scale industries to meet the increasing demand and also for export?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : The question of import of textile machinery has to be viewed in the context of demand for increased textile production, both for home market and also for export. The increased demand is of such a magnitude that even if we increase the production of machinery indigenously there will be a gap. The gap has to be met from somewhere, preferably from indigenous production if possible, and from elsewhere if it is not possible, from indigenous production. So, the question of harming indigenous production capacity or of adversely affecting the decentralised sector does not arise at all.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY : Since there is a good demand for textiles in the international market and we want to earn foreign exchange, what provision has been made in the Fifth Plan to meet this demand bearing in mind that half of the textile machinery has become obsolete and we have to provide for new machinery, automatic looms, spindles etc.

MR. SPEAKER : May I point out that this question relates to the visit by a US Textile Trade Mission ? It is not a comprehensive question. I hope he will see the question now.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : As far as I know, we are in a position to export our textile machinery. How does the question of importing textile machinery now come in ? How does the Minister say that we have to import textile machinery from USA ?

MR. SPEAKER : You also seem to be lost somewhere.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : It is true that we are exporting some textile machinery abroad. But our requirements are enormous. Even if the entire quantity that we export is retained in the country, that will be very inadequate to meet our own demands. Secondly, our demand is for different types of machinery that we need for modernisation and replacement of our worn-out sections of our textile machinery. Our demand is for different sorts of textile machinery. It is different from the types of textile machinery we are exporting.

DR. RANEN SEN : It is well known that our textile machinery manufacturing units are producing very highly sophisticated machinery. Their capacity to produce textile machinery is much more than what it is today. In view of this, may I know how the Minister can reconcile these two positions? Our textile machinery manufacturers want to increase production but because of the lack of demand, they cannot increase their capacity whereas the Government is contemplating to import textile machinery from outside, namely, U. S. A. How does he reconcile these two positions? Simply saying that our demand is much more does not convince us. What is the actual position ? What is the actual demand ? What is the capacity ? How far can it be increased ? What is the answer of the Minister in this respect ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : As I have already said, our textile machinery is good but not good enough for meeting our sophisticated demands. This challenge has been magnificently taken by the textile industry taskforce consisting of technicians and the Government representatives who have gone deep into the matter. We have every sympathy for our own industry of textile machinery manufacture. But the question is that our projection for expansion in the Fifth Plan is enormous. We need 5.8 million spindles; we need 85,510 looms. All these huge requirements cannot be met entirely by our indigenous production. Even if our entire indigenous production is retained, as I have said, that is not enough. Secondly, the type of machinery that we need is also important. Some of the types are not produced at all. Thirdly, I would like to add that simply because the U. S. Mission has come, there is no commitment, there is no decision taken, that we are going to purchase from the U.S. Mission alone. It depends upon other factors also, the price competitiveness, the time of delivery, the quality, the credit terms, etc. etc.

Cotton Corporation in a Financial difficulty

*44. **SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Cotton Corporation of India is in financial difficulty; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): (a) and (b). So far as the working results of the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. are concerned, the Corporation has been consistently making profits since its inception. However, in relation to the market purchases of cotton, the Corporation requires substantial credit facilities from the financing institutions and there has been some difficulty for the Corporation on account of the recent credit

squeeze resorted to by the financing institutions on a directive issued by the Reserve Bank of India. The possibility of increasing financial accommodation by way of working capital advances for the Corporation is under active consideration of the Government.

श्री यमुना प्रसाद मंडल : यह प्रसन्नता की बात है कि काटन कार्पोरेशन अच्छा काम कर रहा है और प्रॉफिट भी दिखाता है। इकानॉमिक टाइम्स कहता है कि इस कार्पोरेशन की हालत भी अच्छी नहीं है। मगर हमें विश्वास है कि यह कार्पोरेशन अच्छा कर रहा है। उसमें श्री पंजहजारी जैसे सुयोग्य लोग हैं। (व्यवधान) गुजरात में भी काफी कपास पैदा होता है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वहाँ उसी तरह खरीद की जाती है, जैसे और राज्यों में की जाती है; अगर नहीं, तो उसकी क्या वजह है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य गुजरात की बात कहाँ से ले आये ?

SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL: That was by way of an example. Can the hon. Minister give the purchase figures in respect of some cotton-growing States—Haryana and Punjab also; because Punjab grows a very good variety of cotton.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : पंजाब का जिक्र करने से यह सवाल रिलेवंट नहीं हो जायेगा।

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: I am very grateful to the hon. Member for appreciating the role and function of the Cotton Corporation of India. About his query regarding the CCI's purchase plan during 1973-74, in respect of Gujarat, for example, the estimated production in Gujarat is likely to be 22 lakh bales, and the CCI proposes to purchase 12 lakh bales. About Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan taken together, the estimated production figure is 18 lakh bales and the CCI proposes to purchase eight lakh bales.

श्री यमुना प्रसाद मंडल : खासकर किसानों के लिए ही रिजर्व बैंक आफ इंडिया का यह रख रहता है कि वह ऐसे कार्पोरेशन को काफी पैसा नहीं देना चाहता है और उससे क्रेडिट

स्क्वीज की इन्स्ट्रक्शन दी है। मिनिस्टर साहब कहते हैं कि हम सब कुछ कर रहे हैं। क्या वह जल्दी ही रिजर्व बैंक को कहेंगे कि काटन कार्पोरेशन को और ज्यादा पैसा दिया जाये, ताकि किसान उससे लाभान्वित हो ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: I have mentioned that. But the Reserve Bank of India has its own larger point of view, has its own difficulties. So, in resorting to, and implementing, the credit squeeze policy, the Reserve Bank has its own priorities. We have taken up the matter with the RBI. They are sympathetic. But even otherwise we are trying to sort out the things and we hope that we will be able.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछबाब : कपास निगम को मार्केट में रूई खरीदने का पूरा अधिकार दिया गया था और व्यापारियों तथा अन्य संस्थाओं से यह अधिकार छीन लिया गया था, अर्थात् रूई व्यापार का पूर्ण राष्ट्रीयकरण कर दिया गया था। मंत्री महोदय ने यह स्वीकार किया है कि कपास निगम के सामने पैसे का सकट जरूर आया है। क्या इसी कारण से सरकार या रूई निगम की ओर से व्यापारियों को फिर से खरीदने की छूट दी गई है ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: We have not prevented the private trader to purchase. But, consistently, with our own policy, we are trying to see that the Cotton Corporation assumes a commanding height in the purchase of cotton so that a fair price is given to the cotton growers.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: The hon. Minister has taken the compliments paid by Mr. Mandal that the Cotton Corporation is earning some profits. But may I bring to his notice that large-scale mal-practices have been carried on in Andhra Pradesh and even in Gujarat by some officers of the Corporation and if the organisation has been streamlined, they would have got more profits. (1) I want to know whether any action has been taken in that regard. (2) About the credit squeeze, this is one commodity which is

paying handsome dividends to the farmers and it cannot be black-marketed as groundnut oil or any other things. If credit squeeze is imposed, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will take up with the Reserve Bank not to impose any credit squeeze on such commodities which will go to help the farmers and it will also facilitate monopoly purchase by the Cotton Corporation.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: As I have already said, we have taken up the matter with the Reserve Bank of India and their response is sympathetic.

About the other questions of alleged corruption, I can only submit that if there are any specific allegations brought to our notice, we will be very glad to look into and remedy them.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: They have been brought to your notice.

श्री पन्नालाल बारूपाल : क्या यह सही है कि राजस्थान के गंगानगर जिले में पहले व्यापारी अच्छी रूई 270 रुपये और 300 रुपये के हिसाब से खरीदते थे, परन्तु जब कपास निगम रूई खरीदने लगा, तो रूई का भाव 270 रुपये से 300 रु. और 300 रु. से 330 रु. हो गया, लेकिन जब अपनी आर्थिक स्थिति खराब होने के कारण कपास निगम ने रूई खरीदना बन्द कर दिया, तो भाव 330 रुपये से 300 रुपये और 300 रु. और 300 रु. 330 रु. हो गया, लेकिन हां, तो क्या कपास कार्पोरेशन की ओर से सीधे किसानों की रूई खरीदने की व्यवस्था की जा रही है, जिले के किसानों को नुकसान न हो ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: About the specific difficulty of the cotton-growers of Ganganagar District, I am not aware of details, but, since the hon. Member has mentioned it, I will certainly look into it.

श्री राम सिंह भाई : मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि अगर निगम की कोई बूट ध्यान में लाई जायेगी, तो उस पर दिवार किया जायेगा। क्या उन के ध्यान में यह बात आई है कि निगम ने

हायरेंट किसानों से कपास खरीदने के बजाये विचोलीयों से खरीदी है और आध सेंटीमीटर के तन्तु के भाव के बजाये पाँच सेंटीमीटर का भाव दिया है, जिससे निगम को नुकसान हुआ है ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: The CCI's policy is to purchase cotton as far as possible directly from the growers. There may be some cases where it may be possible that they may have purchased from the middlemen. But the policy is to purchase as far as possible from the growers directly.

SHRI S. R. DAMANI: The hon. Minister has mentioned about the quantity that the Corporation is going to purchase, or it has decided to purchase. May I know from the Minister whether along with the quantity, any price has also been fixed for the purchase of cotton from the various States? If so, what are the details in this regard?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: It is a very large question, Sir. It is a very important question, I don't contest that. But I am supposed to answer the question about the financial difficulties of cotton weavers. If he writes to me about this thing I will be glad to collect and supply him the information.

SHRI S. R. DAMANI: He has mentioned about the quantity. I would like to put a question with reference to that only. At what price they are going to purchase? That is what I asked. Has that policy decision been taken in the matter? My question is connected with the reply which the hon. Minister has already given in this regard on the floor of the House about the quantity.

MR. SPEAKER: The scope of the question was a little expanded by the first gentleman who put the question Shri Y.P. Mundal. He went to Gujarat and other places. In spite of the fact that I invited his attention to relevancy you replied to it and now you are the victim of your reply. You can better answer it now.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: The CCI decides its price policy from time to time depending upon its own commercial intelligence and commercial judgment. There is no uniform price for all the States. There are States like Maharashtra. Till a few days back there was monopoly purchase price. So, it all depends upon the commercial intelligence and commercial information available with the Cotton Corporation.

Financial ventures by Banks for Power Generation and Housing Programmes
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'47. **SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY :**

SHRI K. MALLANNA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Governor of Reserve Bank has told the States that the banks could not finance ventures like power generation programmes and housing because of great pressure on bank resources ;

(b) whether the State Government representatives have sought further acceleration of credit to priority sectors, faster branch expansion in rural areas and liberal financing of industries in backward areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Presumably the hon. Members are referring to the views expressed by the Governor of the Reserve Bank and the representatives of the State Governments at the Second Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee for nationalised banks for the Northern Area held at New Delhi on the 2nd January, 1974 under the Chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister.

At this meeting the Governor referred to the increasing commitments of the banks

in subscribing to the market borrowings of the Central and State Governments and their corporate bodies and in meeting the credit requirements of the priority sectors. Against this background, the Governor felt that it may not be possible for the banks to lend substantially for power generation schemes and housing programmes, many of which may not be strictly bankable, except indirectly through subscription to the market bonds that may be floated by these bodies.

At this meeting the representatives of the State Governments stressed the need for opening more bank offices particularly in the rural and unbanked areas and for stepping up flow of credit to priority sectors and for industries in backward areas. These are all accepted objectives and it has been and would continue to be the endeavour of the banking system to achieve them.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: The Minister said 'for power generation schemes and housing programmes, many of which may not be strictly bankable' etc. This is what he says in the statement. May I know about the details of the amounts which have been advanced to these two institutions? If so, what is the experience?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: Sir, immediately I do not have the facts. The question relates to certain discussion which took place in the zonal Committee of the Northern Consultative Committee in Delhi. The question related to certain representatives of States demanding credit from the commercial banks for housing, for generation of electricity and electricity distribution purposes.

He is asking a specific question whether any advance has been made at all. I do not have the figures with me at the moment. But, I can supply the same to him.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: You said that it is not strictly bankable. What do you mean by this?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: It means that the banks have got money to be made available to various sectors. Electricity as well as housing are the long gestation period projects. The banks would very much like to roll their money as early as possible. The general strategy of the banks has been to finance short-term projects and to give working capital. The Reserve Bank of India's Governor had said that for these long term gestation period projects like housing and electricity funds are available in other sectors, i.e. in planning and various other things under the State Governments. It may not be possible for the commercial banks to do so. A certain liquidity ratio has also been fixed for the commercial banks to finance the projects.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Sir, the Minister has said that the Minister's from the States have requested the Reserve Bank to open more branches in rural areas. But, while opening the banks in the rural areas, are they also taking any precautionary measures to avoid thefts and other things. In Andhra Pradesh, recently a sum of Rs. 6 lakhs had been looted from the rural bank. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister what is the policy in this regard? While opening the branches in the rural areas, whether any precaution will be taken to give protection to the employees in the rural branches.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: This question is not understandable because the demand is to open more and more banks for the improvement of the country's economy. According to that policy, more and more banks are opened in the rural areas. And commercial banks are also going into the rural areas. A majority of the banks have been opened in the rural areas after nationalisation. He is raising a specific question about thefts and security and vigil to be given to those branches. They would have to be dealt with in that framework.

श्री रामावतार सास्त्री : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आर्थिक संकट के नाम पर सरकार ने सरकारी

कर्मचारियों और दूसरे लोगों को मकान बनाने के लिए जो कर्ज पहले दिया जाता था उसे बन्द कर दिया है, इस बात को देखते हुए क्या यह उचित नहीं होगा कि बैंकों की तरफ से उन लोगों को मकान बनवाने के लिए कर्ज दिए जायें ताकि वे अपने मकान बनवा सकें ? शहरों में मकान की समस्या बहुत ज्यादा है। इसीलिए लोग मकान बनवाने के लिए दरखास्त देते हैं। लेकिन सरकार भी न दे और बैंक भी न दे तो फिर वह जाएंगे कहाँ ? इसके बारे में आपका क्या कहना है ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: Whatever resources are available with commercial banks those will have to be allocated according to certain priorities. There are priority sectors. Agriculture, small scale industry, road transport, self-employment etc. are some of the priority sectors. Some of the banks have given advances to their account-holders also for building houses so that they may be able to maintain the surplus available money to them. I cannot indicate any strict policy in regard to this as it would depend upon the available resources and the allocation to various sectors. In the interest of the economy, it is necessary that it goes immediately to the priority sectors.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the very purpose of nationalisation of banks has been defeated because of the recent restriction that has been imposed in accelerating the process of credit facilities in backward areas. For example, restrictions have been imposed for agro-based industries in rural parts of the country. That restriction has not been removed.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lakkappa, no introduction please. Please put your questions.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: My point is that such restrictions on agro-based industries will create more problems in the already undeveloped areas. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would give an assurance to the

effect that such restrictions would be removed. Otherwise it will result in dissatisfaction in the rural backward areas.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: There is no restriction as far as the priority sectors are concerned.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Restrictions are there and loans have not been given even for garo-based industries in the rural parts, and all the banks are refusing loans.

MR. SPEAKER: I am very much in sympathy with the hon. Member because for such a long question the hon. Minister has given a very summary answer. I think he cannot help it. That is all I can say.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I want answer for that question. May I know whether there are restrictions or not and whether the restrictions are going to be removed?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: I have said that there are no restrictions as far as the priority sectors are concerned.

SHRI M. SUDARSANAM: The credit squeeze has not achieved the expected results. In fact, the production is seriously affected because of the credit squeeze. May I know whether Government are prepared to reconsider the position?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: Credit regulations do not fall within the purview of the main question. If you desire, I shall try to reply to it.

MR. SPEAKER: As you please.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: The first thing is that it is not credit squeeze but it is a question of the credit regulation and planning, and it was very necessary in the context of the present situation, in the context of controlling the accentuation of the inflationary spiral. As far as the priority sectors are concerned, as far as export is concerned, as far as the bill market scheme is concerned, and for all genuine production requirements, it has been stipulated that credit will be available.

श्री हुसैन बन्त कलामाच : माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि ऋण देना बन्द नहीं किया है। यह बात सही है कि बन्द नहीं किया है लेकिन यह भी सही है कि लोगों को सरलता से नहीं मिल रहा है, इसकी गति बहुत धीमी हो गई है। क्या इस का कारण यह है कि अब तक जो ऋण दिया गया है, उस के वापस आने में काफी विलम्ब हुआ है और शायद सरकार यह विश्वास कर बैठी है कि जो पैसा गवा है वह वापस आनेवाला नहीं है, इस लिये गति धीमी हो गई है ?

MR. SPEAKER : The question should not be in this form, namely 'Because this is so, therefore, that is so', but a straight question should be asked.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : I do not understand the hon. Member's question if he is referring to the present credit regulation.

MR. SPEAKER : His question is whether because the previous loans were not repaid, this has been done.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : There is no restriction of credit because certain loans have not been repaid. These are all provided for in the balance-sheets, and various other bad debts are also provided for. There will continue to be some bad debts. There is no restriction of credit just because certain bad debts may be there.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : May I know whether the concepts of priority of the Government as well as of the Reserve Bank are one and the same or they differ? If they do not differ, how is that in the case of power which is so essential for increased agricultural production, housing which is the immediate need of the people according to the Government and the Planning Commission and for measures to achieve commanding heights of the economy, advances are not being made available? For instance, to achieve the commanding heights, the Cotton Corporation which as the hon. Minister has

said, purchases cotton from the farmers, has not been given credit facilities for increased purchases, though it is running at a profit. How is it that the Reserve Bank does not allow credit to all these three important sectors which according to Government are priority sectors? What is the concept of Government in this regard as also that of the banks? Is there any lack in policy after nationalisation?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : I tried to indicate earlier that the priority sector well known—for direct and indirect finance agriculture, small scale industry, road transport and unemployed persons. This is the concept which has now been accepted as the priority sector.

As far as the electricity generation and housing are concerned, because of the fact that for these provisions are also there in other sectors, for example, the Planning Commission makes allotments and it is under the Plan, and availability of finance with the commercial banks is affected, and recently certain liquidity ratio have also been fixed, it was opined by the Reserve Bank in that particular meeting that because all these are long-gestation projects, the commercial banks may not be able to go into this.

As for the second aspect concerning rural electrification, the question of energising pump sets etc., the Reserve Bank has indicated that it will continue to give assistance.

Free Trade Zones

*48. SHRI P. R. SHENOY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any "free zones" in the country where industries are allowed to sell on liberal terms goods meant for 100 per cent export and if so, which are those zones and what are the liberalised terms; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to establish some new "free zones" of this type?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (A. C.
GEORGE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI P. R. SHENOY: I must say that the answer is incorrect and evasive and I must protest against this type of answer, just because a coma is missing somewhere in the question, for which I think I am not responsible, the Minister cannot brush aside the whole question. The question is regarding free zones. The intention is very clear. I asked whether there are any free zones in India. I want a reply to that. There is a free zone in Santa Cruz where industries are allowed to function on liberal terms provided they sell only abroad. Then there is the Kandla port free zone. So I say it is an evasive reply.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: My answer, I humbly submit, is not incorrect. The member asked a specific question. He has not confined himself to free trade zones in the country; he has qualified it by saying 'where industries are allowed to sell on liberal terms'.

SHRI P. R. SHENOY: A coma is missing there.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: It is not a question of a coma. He has qualified it by saying 'where industries are allowed to sell on liberal terms'. That is not allowed in the Kandla free trade zone or in the Santa Cruz area.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: This is unfair. He should have said that there are free trade zones but they are not allowed to sell on liberal terms. To say 'No' and 'Does not arise' is not fair at all.

MR. SPEAKER: No. It is very unjust to make such observations. If there had been any misunderstanding about the free zone, the Minister would have easily corrected Shri Shenoy. But the member has qualified it by saying, where this happens.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: He should not have said 'No'. 'No' means there is no free zone. The answer will mislead the nation.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: I am prepared to answer all these in supplementaries (*Interruptions*).

SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Please see the second part of the question, 'whether there is any proposal to establish some new free zones'.

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: The heading 'Free Trade Zones' is very clear.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: You Must protect us. You cannot allow him to get away like this.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: May I be permitted to read the second part of the question also? It is 'whether there is any proposal to establish some new free zones of this type'.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Again it is evasive.

MR. SPEAKER: To my knowledge, the Minister is never given to evade or avoid questions. He is sometimes as zealous that he comes out with answers to questions which are not even asked. There is a tendency among certain departments to just get hold of a coma or full-stop and bring the answer to the Minister. I think the Minister was too busy to notice that. Otherwise he is not such a person. I have my views about it. Kindly sit down. You better re-examine this question and give the reply to the Member later on.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: Even now I am prepared to answer the supplementaries.

MR. SPEAKER: In the light of the observation, you supply him the information, and do not stick on to this.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : The House is entitled to have a reply. He is willing to reply, and so why don't you allow him to do that?

MR. SPEAKER : Where is Vayalar Ravi to protect him!

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Supplementaries.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing anything. Where the answer is "No, Sir" and "Does not arise," the Members are clever enough to raise questions even in spite of that.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : In the House also he wants a protection zone for himself, and he wants protection from you.

SHRI P. R. SHENOY : He has not answered my question. What is wrong with my question, Sir? I would like to see my question in the original form.

MR. SPEAKER : You are quite right. I have been defending you also.

SHRI P. R. SHENOY : But defending without getting any reply.

MR. SPEAKER : I have asked him to give a reply later on. Let me know what type of reply will suit you. I can ask him to send it to you. Now, next question.

Creation of More Employment Opportunities in the Handicrafts Sector

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***51. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO :**
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH GILL :

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether some measures to increase employment potential in the handicraft sector have been under the active consideration of his Ministry; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). Programme for the development of handicrafts sector during the 5th Five Year Plan has been formulated involving a financial outlay of Rs. 8 crores. It is expected that this programme, supplemented by the developmental programmes of the State Governments/Union authorities would provide employment to additional 3 to 4 lakh persons. For the year 1974-75, implementation of the developmental programme to the extent of Rs. 1.07 crores has been planned.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO : Indian handicrafts have a great export potential. Would the Minister be pleased to state what is the actual turnover from Indian handicrafts during the last year, how he proposes to increase it, whether any facilities are being provided in the handicraft sector to give training to artisans and also to give loans at cheap interest?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Our export of handicrafts is steadily increasing. In 1971-72, our export was of the order of Rs. 38.8 crores and in 1972-73 it has come up to Rs. 51.8 crores. Credit facilities are provided through the State Handicraft Boards and the co-operatives. From the Central sector, the All-India Handicraft Board is giving them necessary facilities to develop new products, new implements and methods of manufacturing.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Would the hon. Minister be pleased to state what is the number of persons employed in the handicraft sector today, and by what number have they increased during the last two years and what steps are being taken to see that this number increases? That is the main question.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : This is a highly decentralised and dispersed sector. In 1961-62, it was estimated that handicrafts employed nearly ten lakhs of craftsmen and in 1971-72 it had gone up to 14 lakhs. Our intention is to increase it by another

four lakhs by developments like provision of marketing facilities, more export promotion, designing more and more new products and improving their methods of production.

SHRI D. D. DESAI : In view of the difficulty of availability of capital for heavy industries, do the Ministry think of establishing institutions for training persons in handicrafts and thereby reduce unemployment in the country ? The *per capita* investment in the heavy sector is substantial.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Handicrafts are being handled both by the Central sector as well as the State Governmental agencies. In the Central sector we have got provision for 8 crores in the Fifth Plan and in the first year we might spend about Rs. 1.07 crores, apart from the fact that the State Government have a variety of activities and a number of agencies to take care of this sector. During the Fifth Plan our intention is to increase exports of handicrafts to Rs. 110 crores; for this we have chalked out an ambitious programme.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR : The Minister in his original reply referred to an increase of 3.4 lakhs; subsequently he said employment for four lakhs of people. This is a wide gap. Can he tell us how many more people really he has in view for this employment? Secondly, there are certain handicrafts wherein the employment potential is less because the art is practised by a few people and unless more assistance and funds are given to these specialised handicrafts, they will die out in the next couple of years. What is the Government going to do about that also?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : I pointed out earlier that this was a highly decentralised and dispersed activity. When we speak about employment potential, I hope the hon. Member will appreciate that it will be difficult to quantify precisely the increase in employment. That is why I said three to four lakhs. Our intention is

to raise it as much as possible. There are certain sectors where it is less labour intensive and great skill is needed and the traditional skill is handed down from father to son. We have identified them and we are taking particular care about that also.

Procurement of new jute by J.C.I.

54. DR. RANEN SEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the procurement target of raw jute by Jute Corporation of India was fixed quite low in 1973 even though there was a bumper jute crop;

(b) whether due to this the raw jute prices fell considerably even below the already low fixed price; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to augment the purchase of raw jute ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) :

(a) A target of 10—12 lakh bales, which was consistent with the capacity of the JCI and the cooperatives, was fixed for the season.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The purchase target of the Jute Corporation of India represents a substantial increase over the last year, and with a view to ensure adequate off-take, besides enlarging the volume of operations of the JCI, Government have also utilised the provisions under the Jute (Licensing and Control) orders to make the industry purchase substantial quantities of raw jute.

DR. RANEN SEN : The reply to part (b) of the question is totally misleading. It is known to everybody that the price of raw jute has fallen considerably, even below the target figure. Sir, if you will permit me, I am prepared to lay on the Table a statement containing the actual

prices prevailing in the Calcutta market. May I know whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government, as also many Members of this House, wanted the price for raw jute to be increased? If so, may I know the reason why the Government is keeping the price of raw jute down?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA

It is a fact that many hon. Members have raised this question. But the point is that the Agricultural Prices Commission has gone into the matter, the Agriculture Ministry of both the State Governments and the Central Government have looked into the cost of production of jute and they have, in fact, suggested something less, to which we did not agree; we had agreed to something more. So, the price of Rs. 157.58 per quintal is something substantially more than what the Agricultural Prices Commission suggested, namely, Rs. 125 per quintal. So, we have tried our best to help the jute growers. But it is a fact that because of the inadequacy of the network of the purchasing centres, we did not succeed in all cases. Our endeavour would be to do it in the next year, as far as possible.

DR. RANJEN SEN It is known to the Minister that both the West Bengal and Bihar Legislative Assembly worked out a figure, which is much above Rs. 157. It is not only the Central Minister and the Ministry which went into the cost of production. When the West Bengal legislative Assembly fixed Rs. 180 for quintal it also went into the cost of production. May I know whether these factors were taken into consideration by the Minister?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA In fact, when Rs. 157.58 per quintal price was decided by the Jute Corporation of India, the view of the Agricultural Minister of West Bengal was taken into consideration. In fact, he was present there and I too.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Trade Relations between Italy and India

*43 **SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:**

SHRI RAM PRAKASH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a large scope for developing trade and economic co-operation between Italy and India, and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is considerable scope for developing trade and economic cooperation between Italy and India.

(b) A promotional Commercial Development programme is proposed to be launched for developing trade and economic cooperation between India and Italy. Such a programme will include identification of products which have potentials in the markets, the sector which offer scope for collaboration, particularly on an export-oriented basis, facilities for creation/explanation of export-production base, product adaptation and modification, packaging and other marketing promotional measures.

Italy, as a member of the European Economic Community, has extended a number of tariff concessions to India's products. She has also extended GSP concessions to India. Efforts will be made to utilise such concessions effectively and expeditiously.

Rise in Prices of Essential Commodities

*45 **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :**

SHRI BHARAT SINGH CHOWHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether prices of all essential commodities have shown further increase during

the last four months, particularly in December, 1973 and January, 1974;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase in wholesale and retail price index and how does it compare with the corresponding period of preceding two years; and

(c) the reasons attributable there to and steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
(SHRI YFSHWANTRAO CHAVAN):

(a) A Table giving the monthly wholesale Price Indices of selected commodities from September, 1973 to January, 1974 is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. 1 T-8186/74]

(b) The Wholesale Price Index rose by 8.2 per cent between September, 1973 and January, 1974; in the corresponding period of 1972-73, the Index had risen by 2.6 per cent while between September, 1971 and January, 1972 it had declined by 0.6 per cent. The Consumer Price Index rose by 4.8 per cent between September and December, 1973 (the latest available). In the corresponding period of 1972, the Index had risen by 1.0 per cent, while between September and December, 1971 it had declined by 0.5 per cent.

(c) The price rise of the last four months is a continuation of the inflationary pressures which had been building up in the economy as a result of two poor agricultural seasons and stagnation in industrial production stemming from shortages of raw materials and acute power shortage. Although the current year has been a generally good one for agriculture, the effects of the two previous bad years could not be fully counteracted, with the result that, although seasonal declines were recorded, in the price of a number of food articles, these were short-lived and the general trend has been in an upward direction. In view of the psychology of shortage which continues to prevail, the influence of speculative activities can also not be ruled out, particularly in the case of such sensitive

commodities as groundnuts and groundnut oil. In the circumstances, the usual seasonal decline associated with the period October to December did not take place again this year.

However, the increase which had taken place in this period has been conditioned by two important factors, the raising of issue prices of foodgrains, and enhancement of the prices of petroleum products including kerosene. The prices of manufactured products were also getting adjusted to changes in the cost structure resulting from higher prices of the corresponding raw materials, as for example, in the case of cotton cloth.

While the supply position has continued to be tight, aggregate demand in the economy has maintained its upward trend, as money supply increased by 15.8 per cent in 1973. It has been Government's constant endeavour to ensure the supply of essential commodities at reasonable prices, as also to restrict aggregate demand through fiscal and monetary measures. Thus, imports of foodgrains during 1973 amounted to 3.6 million tonnes as against 0.45 million tonnes in 1972, while imports of oils and fats during April-December, 1973 have been of the order of 1.5 lakh tonnes. Market borrowings of the Central Government in 1973-74 have totalled Rs. 472 crores (net) as against the budgeted figure of Rs. 326 crores. Moreover, the Government decided in August last to cut expenditure by Rs. 400 crores, and, as a result of these measures, the net Reserve Bank credit to the Government has not increased between end-October, 1973 and end-January, 1974. On the monetary side, the Reserve Bank tightened up credit restrictions in May last by raising the Bank Rate; it also raised the reserve ratio from 3 per cent to 7 per cent by stages in order to mop up excess liquidity in the banking system. In the busy season credit policy, the Reserve Bank has further put physical limits on commercial banks borrowings from it, and has also indicated that lending by it would be at its discretion. These measures aimed at increasing supply of essential commodities, as also reducing aggregate demand

and the use of bank credit for speculative purposes, should result in stabilisation of prices.

Crash Plan for Export in view of Oil Price Hike

*46. SHRI V. MAYAVAN :

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a new Crash Plan for export to meet the increased import bill on account of the oil price hike;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) when the same is likely to be finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) :

(a) to (c). Government is formulating a crash programme for increasing our exports to meet the increased import bill on account of petroleum and oil products. The strategy would result in overall increase in export earning and not merely from the Gulf countries as foreign exchange earned from any source can be spent for meeting our import requirements.

The principal elements of the programme are :

- (i) Identification of products with maximum export potential in the immediate future.
- (ii) Identification of destinations to which exports of these products would yield maximum unit value realisation.
- (iii) Identification of measures which would augment the domestic production base and generate additional exportable surpluses for these products.

As a result of this exercise, it should be possible for us to increase our export earning from around Rs 2,072 crores in 1973-74 to about Rs. 2,500 crores in 1974-75 representing an increase in export earning by more than 20 per cent as against the projection in the Fifth Five Year Plan of 7.6 per cent annual growth of exports.

Lifting of Yarn Control on Distribution and Production of Yarn

*49 SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KOKODKAR :

SHRI C. JANARDHANAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that yarn control was helping in the creation of black money, and

(b) if so whether Government have decided to lift control on distribution and production of yarn ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) :

(a) No specific report about creation of black money as a result of control on yarn has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(b) The production of cotton yarn has been picking up progressively as a result of the restoration of power cuts and prospects of adequate cotton crop, and is now generally above normal levels. Control on distribution of cotton yarn upto 80s counts was, therefore, lifted in stages by the 21st October.

Setting up of a Dry Port in Delhi

*50 SHRI MUKHITAR SINGH MAHIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision to set up a Dry Port in Delhi; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The proposal is still under Government's consideration.

गत वर्ष के दौरान कपड़े का आयात/निर्यात

*52. श्री शंकर कृष्ण सिंह : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि गत एक वर्ष के दौरान भारत द्वारा कितना कपड़ा आयात तथा निर्यात किया गया और उसका विवरण क्या है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (प्रो. डी. पी. चट्टोपाध्याय) : 1973 के दौरान, थान के रूप में 121.61 करोड़ रु. मूल्य के 57243 लाख वर्ग मीटर सूती कपड़े का निर्यात किया गया था। इसके अलावा, सूती धागे, परिधान हॉजरी और अन्य मर्चों के भी निर्यात हुए थे जिनसे निर्यातों का कुल मूल्य 194.79 करोड़ रु. हो गया। वर्ष के दौरान कपड़े के आयात नगण्य थे।

Non-clearance of Imported Goods from Customs due to Non-Availability of Finance from Banks

53. SHRI H. M. PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of importers have not been able to clear the imported goods from the customs owing to non-availability of finance following freezing of the credit limits by the banks;

(b) the revised procedure recently introduced by the Reserve Bank regarding the credit limits by the banks;

(c) whether importers have formally taken up this issue with Government; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) to (d). In the context of the large expansion of money supply and pressure on prices, the accent of the credit policy in the current busy season has been on exercising the maximum possible restraint in granting bank credit for various purposes. In pursuance of this policy, Reserve Bank of India has taken a series of measures. These include *inter alla* fixation of an overall ceiling for credit expansion in sectors other than public food procurement, raising of minimum lending rate, fixation of ceilings in regard to commercial banks' borrowings from the Reserve Bank, raising of the statutory liquidity ratio and increase in margins for advances against inventories and book debts. While introducing these measures Reserve Bank has emphasised that adequate care should be taken to ensure that bank credit is not denied for meeting the genuine needs of production and movement of goods. The position is kept under constant review so that all legitimate requirements of credit, including those arising out of import of goods, are met adequately.

प्रथम श्रेणी के सरकारी अधिकारियों के संबंध में तीसरे वेतन आयोग की सिफारिशों पर लिखा गया निर्णय

*55. श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :
श्री मल्लिकार्जुन :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) तीसरे वेतन आयोग के प्रतिवेदन के संदर्भ में प्रथम श्रेणी के सरकारी अधिकारियों के संबंध में क्या निर्णय किये गये हैं ; और

(ख) उनका न्यूनतम वेतन कितना निर्धारित किया गया है और श्रेणी एक के अधिकारियों और श्रेणी चार के कर्मचारियों के न्यूनतम वेतन में कितना अंतर है ?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री बलवन्तराव चव्हाण) : (क) श्रेणी 1 की सेवाओं और पदों के संबंध में तीसरे वेतन आयोग की सिफारिशों पर सरकार विचार कर रही है।

(ख) आयोग ने श्रेणी 1 के अधिकारियों के लिए 700/- स्तर के न्यूनतम वेतन की सिफारिश की है। श्रेणी 4 के कर्मचारियों के लिए सरकार द्वारा निश्चित न्यूनतम वेतन 198/- रुपये है।

Youth Hostels in the country

*56 SHRI B. V. NAIK Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number and location of youth hostels in the country; and

(b) whether there is any programme of expanding these youth hostels in the Fifth Five Year Plan and if so, an outline there of ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) :

(a) 15 (Amritsar, Aurangabad, Bhopal, Dalhousie, Gandhinagar, Darjeeling, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Madras, Nainital, Panaji, Patna, Panch Kula, Puri and Trivendrum)

(b) There is no programme at present under contemplation for expansion of the aforesaid Youth Hostels in the Fifth Plan period. But the construction of additional Youth Hostels at Hampi and Pondicherry and possibly a few other places is proposed during the Fifth Plan period.

बद्रीनाथ, केदारनाथ, गंगात्री, यमुनात्री, अमरनाथ, वृन्दावन व अयोध्या का पर्यटन केंद्रों के रूप में विकास

*57. श्री कलचन्व वर्मा :

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी :

क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को पता है कि बद्रीनाथ, केदारनाथ, गंगात्री, यमुनात्री, अमरनाथ, वृन्दावन व अयोध्या के प्रति बहुत अधिक व्यक्तियों का आकर्षण है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इन स्थानों के पर्यटन केंद्रों के रूप में विकसित करने के लिए अब तक क्या कार्यवाही की गई है तथा आगे क्या कार्यवाही की जायेगी ; और

(ग) इनमें से प्रत्येक केंद्र पर सरकार ने किस प्रकार की सुविधा उपलब्ध की है ?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा. सरोजिनी माहिषी) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) और (ग) पिछली योजनाओं के दौरान बद्रीनाथ-केदारनाथ तीर्थ-यात्रा मार्गों पर आवास सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था करने के लिये भाग 2 की स्कीमों के अन्तर्गत केन्द्रीय अंश के रूप में 420 लाख रुपये की राशि व्यय की गई थी। भाग-2 अथवा केन्द्रीय सहायता प्राप्त स्कीमों की समाप्ति के बाद अब तीर्थ-यात्रा केंद्रों का विकास मुख्य रूप से राज्य सरकारों का उत्तरदायित्व है। सम्बन्धित राज्य सरकारें, अपनी-अपनी साधन-सीमाओं के भीतर, इन मार्गों पर बातायात सुविधाओं और आवास की व्यवस्था करती हैं।

तेल संकट का ध्यान में रखते हुए कच्चे तेल का निर्यात

*58. श्री श्रीकृष्ण अग्रवाल :

श्री ई. बी. बिर्ला पाटिल :

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या अशांतिधित तेल की कीमतों में वृद्धि तथा विदेशी मुद्रा को बचाकर रखने की आवश्यकता को ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार का विचार कच्चे तेल के निर्यात व्यापार को पुनर्गठित करने का है, और

(ख) यदि हां तो तत्सम्बन्धी मुख्य बातें क्या हैं ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उच्च मंत्री (श्री ए. सी. जोशी) : (क) और (ख) यह विनिश्चित किया जा चुका है कि जब तक घरेलू, सप्लाई की

स्थिति में सुधार नहीं हो जाता तब तक कच्चे लोहे के निर्यात के सम्बन्ध में कोई नया वायदा नहीं किया जाना चाहिए।

Achievement of Economy Measures Announced by Government

* 59. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the economy measures announced by Government have been successful in curtailing the plan as well as non-Plan expenditure of Government and the figures relating to the achievements so far in different sectors;

(b) whether Government propose to further cut down the Government expenditure in different sectors; and

(c) if so, the nature thereof and the steps taken for the strict implementation of decisions taken in that direction ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANRAO CHAVAN) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

1. In order to control inflationary pressures in the economy, a series of steps were introduced this year to effect economies in the budgets of different Ministries/Departments with a view to reducing the extent of deficit financing. In addition to economy measures already in force, further economies introduced in the non-Plan expenditure of Government were :

Economy in contingencies and travelling allowances; deferment of construction of non-functional buildings which have not proceeded beyond the plinth level; deferment of annual repairs and maintenance of Govt. buildings except a few prestigious building; ban on creation of new posts which have remained vacant for more than six months; deferment of rotational transfer of officers in various branches of Government to save on transfer allowances;

savings in petrol consumption by departmental vehicles and on telephone calls; economies in expenditure on entertainment and foreign travel; economy in expenses involved in holding of conferences, seminars and meetings; keeping to a minimum invitations for holding international gatherings; directing the public sector undertakings to minimise their cash losses by generating more internal resources through efficient functioning, etc.

2. In addition, it was found necessary to effect economies in Plan expenditure as well. This was done in such a manner that progress of key projects and programmes which are essential and are in an advanced stage of completion was not affected while projects and schemes which are not essential and will require a relatively long period to mature were slowed. A saving of Rs. 100 crores was also proposed in General assistance to State Plans.

3. It was expected that there would be an aggregate saving of about Rs. 400 crores of these measures.

4. These economy measures have been implemented, by and large, by the different Ministries/Departments.

5. Assessment of savings so far made in 1973-74 in the different Ministries/Departments is given in the Statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. I.T-8187/74]. These savings do not, nor were they intended to take into account the additional liabilities devolving on Government on account of revision of pay and allowances of Government servants, food subsidy, additional assistance to States on account of natural calamities, etc. and certain additional funds allowed to several Ministries/Departments on account of key projects and schemes.

6. Many of the economy measures mentioned in paragraph 1 above, are to be continued during the next financial year also. Instructions have already been issued for strict implementation of the measures relating to deferment of construction of non-functional buildings, annual repairs and

maintenance of Government buildings, ban on creation of new posts which have remained vacant for more than six months, and savings in petrol consumption by Department vehicles and on telephone calls.

Visit by Trade Delegation from Bangladesh

*60. SHRI M. SUDARSANAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Trade Delegation from Bangladesh visited our country in December, 1973; and

(b) if so, the nature of discussion held and agreements arrived at ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The delegation discussed matters relating to long term Co-operation between the two countries on production and export of jute and jute goods, as well as import of raw jute by India under the Balanced Trade and Payments Arrangement between the two countries. An agreement to import two lakh bales of raw jute was reached during the discussions.

Rise in Black Market Price of Woolen Rags

401. SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether shoddy spinners have represented that their consignments have been held up by the Customs on the ground that the rags are not properly mutilated at the sources of origin as per the terms of import licences and about 1500 to 1800 bales are lying uncleared with the Customs and arrivals are expected to swell this figure; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government and further steps proposed in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A.C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration in consultation with the concerned authorities.

Loan Advanced by Hauz Qazi Branch of State Bank of India, Delhi to Mercury Cables

402. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Bank of India, Hauz Qazi branch, Delhi advanced Rs. 10,000/- to Mercury Cables, Delhi-6 against bags for raw materials;

(b) whether these bags contained sand and other useless material;

(c) whether this firm was closed in early 1973;

(d) whether at the time of advancing the amount, this firm was not sound economically;

(e) if so, the broad features of the transaction; and

(f) the steps being taken to recover the amount ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) to (f). The State Bank of India has reported that the loan advanced by its Hauz Qazi Branch at Delhi to M/Mercury Cables has been fully recovered and that the firm was not closed in early 1973. As the details of the loan advanced and the security pledged by the company to the bank etc. relate to the accounts of an individual constituent of the State Bank of India, in accordance with the practice and usage customary amongst bankers and also in conformity with the provisions of the State Bank of India Act, 1955, the Bank is enjoined by statute not to divulge such information.

मध्य प्रदेश में कांचला रवाना कम्पनियों द्वारा कर अपवर्धन

403. श्री गंगा चरण वर्मा : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश में कुछ कांचला कम्पनियों के कर अपवर्धन करने के मामलों

में सरकार द्वारा जांच कार्य पूरा कर लिया समय अधिकतम आय कर बकाया है ;
गया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन कम्पनियों के नाम बकाया है ;

क्या है और प्रत्येक मामले में कितना कर अप-
वंचन किया गया है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कै. आर.
गणेश) : (क) और (ख). सूचना एकत्र की जा
रही है और यथा संभव शीघ्र सदन-घटल पर
रख दी जायगी ।

(ख) प्रत्येक मामले में कितना आय-कर

(ग) बकाया आय-कर वसूल करने के लिये
सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की गई है और
उसके क्या परिणाम निकले हैं ; और

(घ) इस सम्बन्ध में भविष्य में क्या कार्य-
वाही करने का विचार है ?

मध्य प्रदेश में विद्युत् चालित करघों के
मालिकों को राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों द्वारा दिया
गया कण

404. श्री गंगा चरण दीक्षित : क्या वित्त
मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि वर्ष 1971-72
में राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक द्वारा मध्य प्रदेश में
विद्युत् चालित करघों के मालिकों को कि-
तना कण दिया गया ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कै. आर.
गणेश) (क) से (घ) : अपेक्षित सूचना, जैसी
कि वह 31-12-1973 को थी, एकत्र की जा रही
है और यथासंभव शीघ्र सदन-घटल पर रख दी
जायगी ।

पर्यटन उद्योग के विकास के लिये समिति की
नियुक्ति

वित्त मंत्री (श्री यशवन्तराव चव्हाण) : मार्च
1971 के अन्त में मध्य प्रदेश राज्य में विद्युत्
चालित करघों के मालिकों को सरकारी क्षेत्र
के बैंकों द्वारा दिये गये अप्रिमों की बकाया
से सम्बन्धित उपलब्ध सूचना नीचे दी गई
है :—

406 श्री गंगा चरण दीक्षित : क्या पर्यटन
और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा
करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या देश में पर्यटन उद्योग के विकास
के उपाय सुझाने के लिये कोई समिति नियुक्त
की गई है . और

ऋण लेखों की बकाया रकम
सख्या

1	2	3
		(लाख रुपये में)
राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक	5	0 25
भारतीय स्टेट बैंक-समूह	276	12 46
जोड़	281	12 71

मध्य प्रदेश में चोटी की प्रथम तीस पार्टीजों
की और आय-कर की बकाया राशि

405. श्री गंगा चरण दीक्षित : क्या वित्त
मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य प्रदेश में चोटी की प्रथम तीस
पार्टियों के नाम क्या हैं जिनकी ओर इस

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसकी प्रगति क्या है ?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य
मंत्री (डा. सराजनी महिषी) : (क) और (ख)
जी. हा । एस्टिमाट्स कमेटी (पांचवीं लोक सभा)
द्वारा अपनी 42 वीं रिपोर्ट में की गयी इस सिफा-
रिश के अनुपालन स्वरूप कि सरकार द्वारा होटल
उद्योग को उपलब्ध वर्तमान रियायतों व सुविधाओं
की तथा स्वदेश में हुये अनूभवों के आधार पर
एवं अन्य देशों द्वारा अपनायी गई प्रक्रियाओं का
ध्यान में रखते हुये इन रियायतों व सुविधाओं
को जारी रखने व उनका विस्तार करने की
आवश्यकता की गहराई से जांच करने के लिये
एक प्रतिनिधि स्वरूप उच्चाधिकार प्राप्त निकाय
का गठन किया जाये, होटल उद्योग के लिये
वित्तीय व अन्य प्रोत्साहनों की समीक्षा करने
तथा इस सम्बन्ध में अपनी सिफारिशें देने के

लिये 1 फरवरी, 1974 से एक समिति का गठन किया गया है। आशा की जाती है कि समिति अपना कार्य तीन मास की अवधि के भीतर पूरा कर लेगी।

Rejection of Claims by L. I. C.

407. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that L. I. C. is rejecting thousands of claims and forfeiting the premia paid by policy holders for one reason or the other;

(b) if so, the number of claims rejected during the last two years after their maturity or death of policy holder with reasons for rejection in each and the value of the policy, and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of simplifying the proposals form and attach a copy thereof with the policy also ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) No, Sir. Government understand that in respect of those policies which become claims by death within a short period of 2 to 3 years from the death of the commencement of the risk, a thorough investigation is conducted and if it is proved to the Satisfaction of the Life Insurance Corporation of India that a particular policy was obtained by fraud or by suppression of information material to the risk, the claim is rejected.

(b) (i) No claim by maturity is rejected.

(ii) During the two years' period ending 31-3-1973, 1001 claims by death for sums assured amounting to about Rs. 83 lakhs were rejected because the policies were taken/revived by fraud or because information material to the risk was suppressed.

(c) Simplification of proposal forms is under examination by the L. I. C. The L. I. C. do not consider it necessary to attach a copy of the proposal form to the policy. It is however open to a policyholder

to obtain a copy of this form on payment of a nominal fee of Re 1/-.

Surplus Pilots in Indian Airlines

408. SHRI BISWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether an apprentice pilot has to sign a bond for Rs. 25,000 for five years, no such obligation has to be undergone by the senior pilots in the Indian Airlines;

(b) whether after rationalisation a large number of senior pilots will be rendered surplus to the needs of Indian Airlines and if so, whether these pilots would be free to join any foreign airlines; and

(c) whether this will lead to 'pilot drain' and if so in what way Government propose to deal with the situation so that the best talents do not suddenly go out of I. A. and they are also not to a heavy loss otherwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR SAROJINI MAHISHI) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c). All senior pilots in Indian Airlines are flying on jet aircraft. In the light of the plans under contemplation for expanding jet operations, it is not expected that any of the jet pilots in the employ of Indian Airlines would be rendered surplus.

Cost of Living Index

409. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cost of living index during the last two months has registered a steady increase despite a good crop in 1973;

(b) if so, the quantum of increase effected during this period; and

(c) the factors that are responsible for the price rise and what steps are being taken to arrest it ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). The All India Consumer Price Index (base 1960 — 100) has risen from 254 for October 1973 to 259 for November and to 260 for December 1973.

(c) The rise, which took place mainly in the month of November, was largely due to the increase in issue prices of foodgrains, consequent on higher procurement prices allowed to producers. The higher procurement prices are intended to build up the stock with the Government, and to make larger quantities of foodgrains available through the public distribution system. Kerosene prices also had to be raised during the month, following upon a sharp increase in the prices of imported crude. Moreover, it was felt that availability for domestic use would improve substantially if the incentive to adulterate diesel oil with kerosene was removed by bringing about parity between the prices of the two. Both these measures had to be taken under compelling circumstances, and were in the nature of once for all steps.

Interest subsidy in Financing of Powerlooms in the Cooperative Section

410. SHRI M. M. JOSEPH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Finance is examining the suggestion of allowing interest subsidy in the financing of powerlooms in the cooperative sector so as to enable the cooperative societies to get assistance at the concessional rate of interest of 4 per cent; and

(b) if so, when consultations, if any, with the Reserve Bank of India, Planning Commission and other appropriate authorities in this regard will be completed ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). Government of Kerala have proposed extension of the Reserve Bank Scheme of Handloom Finance to powerloom cooperatives. The proposal is still under consideration, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, and a decision is expected shortly.

वर्ष 1971-72 के दौरान पॉलैंड से आयात की गई वस्तुएं

411. श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वित्तीय वर्ष 1971-72 और 1972-73 के दौरान पॉलैंड से किन-किन वस्तुओं का आयात किया गया ;

(ख) आयातित वस्तुओं का मूल्य भारतीय मुद्रा में कितना है ; और

(ग) वित्तीय वर्ष 1974-75 के दौरान आयात की जाने वाली वस्तुओं का मूल्य भारतीय मुद्रा में कितना होगा ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री ए. सी. जार्ज) : (क) एक विवरण संलग्न है ।

(ख) 1971-72 — 50.45 करोड़ रु.

1972-73 — 34.4 करोड़ रु.

(ग) पूर्व यूरोपीय देशों के साथ कलेंडर वर्ष के आधार पर व्यापार बांझनाएं तैयार की जाती हैं 1974 व्यापार बांझना में पॉलैंड से क्रिये जाने वाले आयातों का मूल्य 100 करोड़ रु. है ।

विवरण

1971-72 तथा 1972-73 के दौरान पॉलैंड से आयात की गई वस्तुएं

1. कच्ची गंधक
2. रासायनिक तत्व तथा यौगिक
3. रंगाई करने, कमाने तथा कलर करने की सामग्री
4. औषधीय तथा भेषजीय उत्पाद
5. विनिर्मित उर्वरक

6. रासायनिक सामग्री तथा उत्पाद
7. कागज, गत्ता तथा उससे बना माल
8. लोहा तथा इस्पात
9. लोहा तथा इस्पात स्कैप
10. जस्ता
11. धातु से बना माल
12. बिजला के अलावा मशीनें
13. बिजली की मशीनें तथा संयंत्र
14. परिवहन उपकरण
15. व्यवसायिक, वैज्ञानिक तथा नियंत्रक यंत्र
16. वैज्ञानिक, चिकित्सा सम्बन्धी, प्रकाशीय मापी तथा नियंत्रक यंत्र
17. फोटोग्राफिक तथा सिनेमाटोग्राफिक
18. प्लास्टिक सामग्री, पुनः उत्प्रेषित सेल्यूलोस आदि ।

भारतीय वस्तुओं का आस्ट्रेलिया को निर्यात

412. श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाह : 'क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्ष 1970-71, 1971-72 और 1972-73 के दौरान आस्ट्रेलिया को किन-किन वस्तुओं का निर्यात किया गया ;

(ख) निर्यात की गई वस्तुओं का मूल्य भारतीय मुद्रा में कितना है ;

(ग) भारतीय वस्तुओं के निर्यात के सम्बंध में सरकार की भावी योजना क्या है, और

(घ) वित्तीय वर्ष 1974-75 के दौरान अनुमानतः कितने रुपये की वस्तुओं का निर्यात किया जायेगा ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री ए. सी. जार्ज) : (क) पटसन निर्मित माल, मशीनें, सूती वस्त्र, चाय, मछली तथा मछली से बना माल, काजू गिरी तथा अखरोट, कपड़े, मोती, मूल्यवान तथा अर्ध-मूल्यवान रत्न, काफी तथा ऊनी कालीन, फर्स बिछावन तथा नमदे ।

(ख) क्रमशः 24.26 करोड़ रुपये, 28.00 करोड़ रु. तथा 28.06 करोड़ रु. ।

(ग) आस्ट्रेलिया को हमारे निर्यात बढ़ाने तथा उन्हें विविध रूपी बनाने के लिये हम बराबर प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं ।

(घ) 1974-75 के दौरान भारत से आस्ट्रेलिया को निर्यात हेतु 35 करोड़ रु. का लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है ।

Visit by Indian and Foreign Trade Missions

413. SHRI AMBESH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the names of the countries to which the trade missions of his Ministry went during the last three years and the names of the countries which sent their trade missions to India during that period ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : During the last three years official delegations from the Ministry visited Republic of Korea, Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, West Germany, German Democratic Republic, U. K., Italy, France, Hungary, Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Denmark, Thailand, Japan, Belgium, Sweden, Yugoslavia, Canada, U. S. A., Rumania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, U. S. S. R., Poland, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Arab Republic of Egypt, Sudan, Iraq, Kuwait, Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, Afghanistan, Nepal and Bangladesh.

During the same period Trade Delegations from Tanzania, Mauritius, Zambia, Guinea, France, Yugoslavia, Spain, Turkey, Federal Republic of Germany, Sweden, Canada, Bulgaria, U. S. S. R., Poland, Rumania, Hungary, German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Jordan, Arab Republic of Egypt, Oman, Iraq, Sudan, Kuwait, Algeria, Nepal, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Japan visited India.

देश में पर्यटकों के लिए ठहरने सम्बंधी सुविधाएं

(ख) इन होटलों/होस्टलों में ठहरने वालों से प्रतिदिन किराये के रूप में कितनी धनराशि ली जाती है ?

414. श्री अम्बेश : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बतानेकी कृपा करेंगे कि :

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा. सराजिनी मीहशी) :

(क) उनके मंत्रालय द्वारा देश के किन-किन स्थानों पर पर्यटकों को ठहरने की सुविधाएं प्रदान की गई हैं; और

(क) और (ख). भारत पर्यटन विकास निगम द्वारा परिचालित होटलों आदि के स्थान व उनकी दरों का ब्यौरा संलग्न विवरण में दिखाया गया है ।

विवरण

भारत पर्यटन विकास निगम द्वारा परिचालित संस्थानों का ब्यौरा

स्थान	आवास प्रकार	दैनिक दरें			
		सिंगल	डबल	सिंगल	डबल
		वातानुकूलित	वातानुकूलित	अवातानुकूलित	अवातानुकूलित
1	2	3	5	5	6
		₹०	₹०	₹०	₹०
1 श्रीरंगबाद	श्रीरंगबाद होटल	65	110	50	90
2 बंगलौर	भरशोक होटल	95	145		
3 भरतपुर	यात्री लॉज			*30	55
4 भुवनेश्वर	यात्री लॉज			*40	70
5 बीजापुर	यात्री लॉज			*35	60
6 बौधगया	यात्री लॉज			*35	60
7 हस्सन	हस्सन होटल			20	35
8 जम्मू	जम्मू होटल	40	60	25	45
9. कांचीपुरम	यात्री लॉज			*35	60
10. खजुराहो	खजुराहो होटल	55	80	40	65
11. कोणार्क	यात्री लॉज			*30	55
12. कोवालम	कोवालम पैलेस होटल			*35	65
	कोवालम प्रोब काटेज			90	120
13. कुल्सू	यात्री लॉज			*40	70
14. कुश्ननेगर	यात्री लॉज			*30	55
15. मधुरै	यात्री लॉज			*45	75
16. महाबलपुरम्	यात्री लॉज	45	65	30	50
	तट कुटीर (शोर काटेज)	55	80	40	65

1	2	3	4	5	6
17. मनाली	यात्री लाँज			* 40	70
18. माण्डू	यात्री लाँज			* 30	55
19. नई दिल्ली	धर्मोक होटल	120	180		
	धर्मकर होटल	100	160		
	कुतुब होटल	90	150		
	जनपथ होटल	60-75	110-130		
	लांधी होटल	50-55	85	35-40	65
	रणजीत हाटल	50-55	75-85	35-40	55-65
20. मांची	यात्री लाँज			* 30	55
21. मंजाबूर	यात्री लाँज			* 35	60
22. निरुधिगपल्ली	यात्री लाँज			* 35	60
23. उदयपुर	लक्ष्मी बिलास पैलेस होटल	55	80	40	65
24. वाराणसी	भारत पर्यटन बिकास निगम का होटल	60	100	45	85

* भोजन मॉडल ।

Steps to Maintain Steady Flow of Raw Cashew Nuts to Factories

415. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that hundreds of cashew factories in the country remain closed due to non-availability of raw nuts rendering lakhs of people unemployed;

(b) whether the quantity of raw nuts for which the State Trading Corporation has entered into agreements for import from African countries is just sufficient to meet the requirements of the factories for a few weeks and the delivery of the available quality will take time due to non-availability of shipping facilities;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to maintain the steady flow of raw nuts to these factories in the coming months?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Cashew processing being a seasonal industry and having capacity in excess of the availability of nuts, the factories close down for part periods in the year.

(b) and (c). Cashew Corporation of India has contracted with African countries for the entire quantity of nuts offered by them viz. 129,000 tonnes for shipment during January-June, 1974. Even in the face of acute shipping constraints CCI has entered into an agreement for shipping the contracted quantity in a phased manner from February to June, 1974. During February and Mid March, four vessels with 36,250 tonnes of raw nuts are expected to arrive at Indian ports for distribution among eligible factories. The quantity contracted for imports together with local-nuts available is expected to keep the factories running upto September, 1974. Further shipment is also being arranged by

CCI in a phased manner with a view to maintain supply of raw nuts to the eligible factories.

Construction of New Aerodromes at Cochin and Calicut

416. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI :

SHRI C. H. MOHAMMID KOYA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any final decision regarding the construction of new aerodromes at Cochin and Calicut during the Fifth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof and the progress made in this respect so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI):

(a) and (b). No final decision has been taken by Government so far for the construction of new aerodromes at Cochin and Calicut. The proposals for construction of these aerodromes during the Fifth Plan period are, however, under consideration.

Abolition of Import Duty on Pearls and Diamonds

417. SHRI M. S. PURTY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council has urged Government to abolish the import duty on diamonds and pearls with a view to boosting the export of jewellery made out of these commodities; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has not been possible for Government to accept the Council's request.

विद्युत् प्रेषण सुविधाओं के विस्तार हेतु अन्तर्देशीय विकास संस्था द्वारा ऋण

418. डा. लक्ष्मी नारायण कांडेब : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) अन्तर्देशीय विकास संस्था द्वारा भारत को उससे दस राज्यों में विद्युत् प्रेषण सुविधाओं के विस्तार हेतु कितना ऋण दिया जाएगा ; और

(ख) उन राज्यों के नाम क्या हैं जिनमें विद्युत् प्रेषण सुविधाओं का विस्तार किया जायेगा ?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री बहाबन्तराव चव्हाण) :

(क) भारत सरकार ने विश्व बैंक की उदार शर्तों पर ऋण देने वाली अन्तर्देशीय विकास संघ नामक संस्था के साथ दूसरी और तीसरी बिजली पारवण परियोजनाओं के अन्तर्गत बिजली पारवण की सुविधाओं का विस्तार करने के लिए 3 मई, 1971 को 7.5 करोड़ डालर और 9 मई, 1973 को 8.5 करोड़ डालर के दो ऋणों पर हस्ताक्षर किये थे ।

(ख) इन सुविधाओं का असम, पश्चिम बंगाल, उड़ीसा, बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश, गुजरात महाराष्ट्र, आन्ध्रप्रदेश, कर्नाटक, तमिलनाडु, और केरल के राज्यों और दिल्ली के संघीय राज्य क्षेत्र में विस्तार किया जाएगा ।

माप तौल के सही पैमानों का उपयोग

419 श्री लालजी भाई : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने विभिन्न शहरों में माप-तौल सुनिश्चित करने हेतु आवश्यक कर्मचारी नियुक्त कर रखे हैं ;

(ख) क्या वे समय-समय पर दुकानों पर जाकर माप तौल के पैमानों की जांच करते रहते हैं ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बंधी मुख्य बातें क्या हैं ?

करीगज मंगलच में कर्मचारी (सी. ए. सी. जार्ज) : (क) कृषि माप-तोल का लागू करना राज्य के विषयों में आता है, इस लिये सही माप-तोल सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कर्मचारियों की नियुक्ति राज्य सरकार द्वारा की जाती है। देश में किस सीमा तक सही माप-तोलों का प्रयोग हो रहा है, इसके बारे में सर्वेक्षण करने के लिये बम्बई, कलकत्ता, दिल्ली तथा मद्रास में केन्द्रीय सरकार के चार क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय हैं।

(ख) समय-समय पर जाकर प्रयोग में आने वाले माप-तोलों की जांच करना राज्य के कर्मचारियों का कानूनी कर्तव्य है।

(ग) अनेक राज्यों में माप-तोलों की शुद्धता की जांच करने के लिए समय-समय पर आकस्मिक जांच अथवा आकस्मिक छापे मारे जाते हैं तथा अपराधियों को दण्ड के लिए चलते-फिरते न्यायालयों का उपयोग किया जाता है।

Central assistance for flood relief programme in Kerala

420. SHRI A. K. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has written to the Central Government regarding the inadequacy of Central assistance for flood relief programme in Kerala during the current year;

(b) whether Central assistance indicated to the Kerala is only about Rs. 135 lakhs against the State Government's request for an amount of Rs. 650 lakhs; and

(c) whether in view of serious flood problems in Kerala, Government would consider allotment of enhanced Central assistance to Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government have requested that relief expenditure to the extent of Rs. 4.50 crores should be eligible

for Central assistance as against the approved ceiling of Rs. 1.35 crores. The Central team has been asked to review the expenditure qualifying for Central assistance.

Export of Railway Wagons

423 SHRI D. P. JADEJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway wagons are being exported to foreign countries;

(b) if so, the number of Railway wagons exported during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the names of the countries to which they were exported; and

(d) the name of the agency through which they were exported?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The numbers of wagons exported to different countries during the last three years are as follows:—

Name of the Country	1970-71 (Nos.)	1971-72 (Nos.)	1972-73 (Nos.)
Burma	.	14	..
Taiwan	104
Ghana	..	95	193
Hungary	355	493	18
Kenya	..	51	78
Poland	4	20	322
Sudan	..	66	..
Iran	61
Yugoslavia	43
	463	739	695

(d) Export orders were mostly secured through Project and Equipment Corporation.

Joining of Hind Motors Board by L.I.C. and Unit Trust Officials

424. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation and Unit Trust officials have joined Hind Motors Board at the invitation of the Company;

(b) whether these persons have received clearance from appropriate authorities before they joined the Board; and

(c) what purpose will be served by such association of officials from financial institutions run by Government?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) A non official member of the board of L.I.C. and a senior official of the U.T.I. have joined the Board of Directors of Hind Motors whose functioning disclosed many shortcomings in financial affairs and in the conduct of business of the company.

(1) Yes, Sir.

(c) The nominees are expected to exercise control at key points of management so that interests of the financing institutions, which have large holdings in this concern, and the consumers are safeguarded.

Collaboration with U.S. in economic field

425. SHRI N. K. SANGHI:

SHRI K. KODANDA RAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of U.S.A. has recently thrown any hints in terms of collaborating with India in several important fields of economic activity; and

(b) whether any positive proposals have been received in this regard and if so, what?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) The

Government of U.S.A. has expressed itself in favour of closer cooperation with India in several fields of economic activity.

(b) No specific proposals have so far been received in this regard.

Ceilings on foreign exchange and value of machinery to be brought by non-resident Indians from abroad

426. SHRI FATESINGHRAO GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for relaxing ceilings on foreign exchange and value of machinery that non-resident Indians can bring to set up industries in India; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Details of the facilities granted to non-resident Indians for establishing industries in India were supplied in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No 193 dated 23.11.1973. The limit which was Rs. 5 lakhs earlier was raised to Rs. 25 lakhs in October, 1973. Certain fields have been excluded and a list of these has been detailed in another Public Notice issued on the 8th February, 1974. A copy of this Public Notice is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6182/74].

जीवन बीमा निगम में तालाबंदी

428. श्री मूलचन्द डागा :

श्री बी. मायाबन :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्ष 1974 में जीवन बीमा निगम ने किन-किन शाखाओं और किस-किस जगह तालाबंदी की तथा कितने राज के लिए और इसके क्या कारण हैं ;

(ख) क्या सरकार के पास जीवन बीमा निगम के कर्मचारियों की मांगों पहुँच गई हैं और यदि हाँ, तो क्या;

(ग) उनकी मुख्य मांगें क्या हैं और इस पर सरकार ने क्या निर्णय किया है, और

(घ) किन-किन शर्तों पर जीवन बीमा निगम के प्रबंधकों और कर्मचारियों के बीच समझौता हुआ और ऐसा समझौता कब हुआ ?

बिस्त मंत्री (श्री बसुबन्त राव चव्हाण) :

(क) सूचना निम्नानुसार है :—

प्रभागीय कार्यालय का नाम मागीर जिसका तालाबन्दी घोषित की गयी

पटना, नई दिल्ली, मद्रास तथा 9 जनवरी, 1974

बंगलौर और धारवाड

प्रभागीय कार्यालय का

मशीन विभाग

2 मेरठ प्रभागीय कार्यालय 15 जनवरी, 1974

3 धारवाड प्रभागीय कार्यालय 17 जनवरी, 1974

(मशीन विभाग के

धलावा) और बेलगाव,

बेलारी, बीजापुर, धार-

वाड़, हुबली, चिकोड़ी,

सिरसी, बागलकोट, तथा

हुबेरी के शाखा कार्यालय

25 जनवरी 1974 को तालाबन्दी खत्म कर दी गयी थी ।

तालाबन्दी के कारण :— कर्मचारियों का अनुशासनहीन बरताव और धीरे-धीरे काम करना, नियमानुसार काम करना, घराब, सामूहिक प्रतिनिधित्व, कानूनी कार्यालयी आदेशों/हिदायतों का जानबूझ कर तथा आयोजित रूप से उल्लंघन जैसी हरकतों का कर्मचारियों द्वारा आश्रय लिया जाना जिससे कार्यालय के कार्य में बाधा पड़े ।

(ख) से (घ) कर्मचारियों की मांगों पर जीवन बीमा निगम तथा उसके कर्मचारियों के संघों के बीच वार्ता हुई थी और 24 जनवरी 1974 को एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किये गये थे । तृतीय तथा चतुर्थ श्रेणी के कर्मचारियों की मांगों उनके वेतनमानों, भत्तों तथा सेवाशर्तों को संशोधित

करने के बारे में थी । इन मांगों पर जीवन बीमा निगम तथा कर्मचारियों के संघों के बीच वार्ता हुई थी और 24-1-1974 को एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किये गये थे जिसकी मुख्य-मुख्य बातें इस प्रकार हैं :—

(1) अनुशासन बनाए रखने तथा प्रशासन में अत्यधिक मितव्ययिता लाने के प्रयत्न करने और दक्षता तथा बीमा कारोबार बढ़ाने में सुधार लाने के लिए प्रबंधकों के साथ संघ सहायोग करने पर सहमत हुए हैं, जिससे निगम की आमदनी में वृद्धि हो सके और निगम को (1) पालिसी-धारियों के हितों की सुरक्षा करने तथा उनको बढ़ावा देने और (2) वेतन संशोधन संबंधी कर्मचारियों की जायज मांगों को पूरा करने में मदद मिल सके ।

(2) श्रेणी 4 में भाड़ूकश, क्लीनरों, सिपाहियों तथा डाइवरों के पदों के तथा श्रेणी 3 में रिकार्ड लिपिकों, सहायकों, आशीलिपिकों, अनुभागाध्यक्षों, उच्चतर ग्रेड के सहायकों तथा अधीक्षकों के वेतनमानों को संशोधित कर दिया गया है ।

महंगाई भत्ता :

महंगाई भत्ता मंजूर करने संबंधी वर्तमान योजना जारी रहेगी अर्थात् तृतीय श्रेणी कर्मचारियों के मामले में 75 प्रतिशत निराकरण तथा चतुर्थ श्रेणी कर्मचारियों के मामले में 100 प्रतिशत निराकरण किया जाता रहेगा ।

मकान किराया भत्ता

मकान किराया भत्ता मूल वेतन का 10 प्रतिशत होगा जो चतुर्थ श्रेणी कर्मचारियों के मामलों में कम से कम 22 रुपये प्रति मास तथा तृतीय श्रेणी कर्मचारियों के मामलों में 28 रुपये प्रतिमास होगा और सभी मामलों में अधिक से अधिक 40 रुपये प्रतिमास होगा ।

नगर निवास प्रतिपूर्ति भत्ता :

तृतीय श्रेणी तथा चतुर्थ श्रेणी कर्मचारियों को निगम के जिन केंद्रों पर फिलहाल नगर निवास प्रतिपूर्ति भत्ता मंजूर किया जा रहा है, उनमें 20 रु. प्रतिमास की दर से यह भत्ता मंजूर किया जायेगा ।

भविष्य निधि अंशदान

विशेष वतन सहित मूल वतन के 10 प्रतिशत की दर से अंशदान किया जायेगा।

उपदान

उपदान भुगतान अधिनियम 1972 का लाभ तृतीय श्रेणी तथा चतुर्थ श्रेणी के सभी कर्मचारियों को दिया जायेगा चाहे वे कितना ही वतन लें हों। अदा किये जाने वाले उपदान रकम 20,000 रु. से अधिक नहीं होगी।

बोनस

लाभ में हिस्सेदारी का कोई बोनस देग नहीं है।

तृतीय श्रेणी तथा चतुर्थ श्रेणी के सभी कर्मचारियों को (विशेष वतन तथा महंगाई भत्ता सहित) उनके वार्षिक वतन के 15 प्रतिशत की दर से वार्षिक नकदी बोनस दिया जायेगा।

वित्तिका संबंधी लाभों में सुधार, छुट्टी के दौरान यात्रा खर्चा तथा भविष्य निधि अंशदानों में अतिरिक्त सुधार की मांगों पर सहमत नहीं हुई है परन्तु निगम इन मांगों पर समझौता चालू होने के बाद तीसरे और चौथे वर्ष में विचार करने पर सहमत हुआ है, बशर्ते तीसरे वर्ष में इस पर अतिरिक्त खर्च एक करोड़ रुपये से अधिक नहीं हो और चौथे वर्ष में तीसरे वर्ष के खर्च के अतिरिक्त एक करोड़ रु. से अधिक नहीं हो। यह समझौता एक अप्रैल 1973 से 31 मार्च 1977 तक चार वर्ष की अवधि के लिए लागू रहेगा।

बदनाम होटलों के दलालों से पर्यटकों को बचाने के लिए कार्रवाई

429. श्री मूलचन्द डागा : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को दलालों द्वारा विदेशी पर्यटकों को ठगने और धोखा देने के बहुत से मामले की जानकारी है ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो पर्यटकों को बदनाम होटलों के दलालों से बचाने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या ठोस कार्रवाई की गई है ?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री. सराजनी मीहसी) : (क) इस प्रकार की विशिष्ट शिकायतों को, जो कि पर्यटन विभाग के नोटिस में लाई जाती हैं, संबंधित प्राधिकारियों के साथ उठाया जाता है।

(ख) पर्यटन विभाग ऐसे होटलों की सूची रखता है जिन का विदेशी पर्यटकों की उपयुक्तता के दृष्टिकोण से अनुमोदन किया गया है, तथा इन होटलों के संबंध में ऐसी कोई शिकायतें प्राप्त नहीं हुई हैं।

Separate Export Production Department in view of Oil Crisis

430. SHRI M. C. DAGA :

SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a separate Department for export production has recently been created, and if so, the functions thereof;

(b) whether this Department will take steps to meet the demands of the markets of the oil producing countries; and

(c) if so, the steps taken so far and the outcome thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The functions allocated to the Department of Export Production under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, are listed in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6189/74].

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Department of Export Production which has been set up recently will devise suitable measures in consultation with the Ministries and Departments concerned to expand the production base and

increase availability for export of products of interest, among others, to the oil producing countries. An important outcome of recent efforts to improve bilateral trade between India and the oil producing countries is the conclusion of a long-term trade and economic agreement between India and Kuwait which provide *inter alia* for the setting up a Joint Committee to identify fields, projects and commodities for expansion of the economic co-operation and promoting trade exchanges between the two countries.

Facing of Export difficulties by Tea exporters of Tripura

432. SHRI BIREN DUTTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tea exporters of Tripura are facing serious export difficulties; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to ease the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Most of the teas grown in Tripura are utilised for consumption within the country. Government are not aware of any difficulties faced by Tripura Tea Exporters.

(b) Does not arise

Consumer Price Index in Tripura

433. SHRI BIREN DUTTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the extent of increase in Consumer Price Index in Tripura State during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): The All India Consumer Price Index is computed on the basis of data from 50 centres spread over the country. As none of the selected centres lies in Tripura State, the information is not available.

Target of savings in various Ministries

434. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an interim assessment of savings effected in various Central Ministries indicates that target fixed therefor may not be achieved; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The series of economy measures introduced this year were aimed at effecting savings of about Rs. 400 crores in the expenditure of Government. Assessment of savings so far made indicate that, by and large, savings of the order of the targeted amount would be achieved in respect of most Ministries/Departments.

Assessment of savings so far made in 1973-74 in the different Ministries/Departments is given in the attached Statement. These savings do not, nor were they intended to, take into account substantial additional liabilities devolving on Government on account of revision of pay and allowances of Government servants, food subsidy, additional assistance to States on account of natural calamities, etc. and certain additional funds allowed to several Ministries/Departments on account of key projects and schemes.

Statement

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Ministry/Department	Total Savings reported
1	2	3
1.	Agriculture	13.84
2.	Food	4.47
3.	Community Development	5.40
4.	Co-operation	10.13
5.	Indian Council of Agril. Res.	3.87
6.	Commerce	0.34
7.	Communication and OCS	0.02

1	2	3
8. Posts and Telegraph		3.29
9. Education		11.76
10. Social Welfare		2.43
11. Economic Affairs (Finance)		0.10
12. Banking (Finance)		2.50
13. Expenditure (Finance)		159.45*
14. Health		4.60
15. Family Planning		6.25
16. Heavy Industry		8.54
17. Home Affairs		1.40
18. Industrial Development		8.76
19. Information and Broadcasting		3.68
20. Irrigation and Power		23.98
21. Labour and Employment		0.32
22. Rehabilitation		2.52
23. Petroleum & Chemicals		15.62
24. Shipping & Transport		24.41
25. Steel		31.72
26. Mines		9.71
27. Tourism and Civil Aviation		4.69
28. Works & Housing		5.30
29. Science & Technology		2.25
30. Prime Minister's Street		0.02
31. President Sevt.		0.02
32. Supreme Court		0.01
33. Planning Commission		0.06
Total		371.51

*includes Rs 93.98 crores savings in Central assistance to State Plan, Rs. 34 crores savings in Employment Schemes and Rs. 30 crores savings in Advance action for Fifth Five Year Plan.

Earning of profits by the Bengal chamber of Commerce

435 SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Calcutta earns profits in respect of fees for Certificates of Origin, fees for Special Certificates, Royalty on Publications and subscriptions from Calcutta Licensed Measures; and

(b) if so, the figures for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry is in receipt of fees for certificates of origin, fees for Special Certificates, Royalty on Publications and also share of income from partnership with Calcutta licensed Measurers.

(b) The figures of such receipts for the last three years as per the audited books of account of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Calcutta, are as follows:—

Year	Fees for Certificate of origin	Fees for Special Certificates	Earnings from royalty on publications	Partnership income from Calcutta Licensed Measurers
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
1971	73734	11344	2858	221257 (Loss)
1972	86044	16056	369	110420 (Estimated Profit)
1973	76762	10608	307	27576 (Estimated Profit)

Trade Relations between Indian Oxygen Limited and other countries

436. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oxygen Limited is having any trade relations with industrial gases industries in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma, New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong and the African countries, and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof for the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GFORGF): (a) and (b). Government are not aware of any trade relations between Indian Oxygen Limited with industrial gases industries in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma, New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong and the African countries.

Branches by Nationalised Banks in Border Areas of Country

437. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of branches set up by nationalised banks in the border areas of the country after nationalisation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): It is presumed that the term 'border areas' refers to the border districts in the States/Union Territories of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura and Mizoram.

In these border districts the nationalised banks have opened 411 branches between July 19, 1969 and December 31, 1973. The State Bank of India Group and other Commercial banks also have opened 322 and 106 branches respectively in these areas, during the same period.

Fire in Central Bank of India Calcutta

438. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL:

DR. RANEN SEN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the building of Central Bank of India in Calcutta was gutted by fire in the month of January, 1974,

(b) if so, whether any explosives were found in the building;

(c) whether the branch of the Bank located there had advanced a big credit which had not been recovered;

(d) the estimated loss including that of documents as a result of this fire;

(e) whether any enquiry has been instituted into the causes of the fire; and

(f) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) to (f) Central Bank of India has reported that its building situated at Netaji Subhas Road, Calcutta, in which the main branch of the bank was located was gutted by fire on the night of 3rd-4th January, 1974. The Government of West Bengal have constituted a team to investigate the cause of fire, and its investigation is not yet completed. It is therefore not possible to say, at this stage whether any explosives were found in the building. Central Bank of India has, in this connection, reported that it has been able to recover the entire cash in the currency chest, all documents and securities in the strong room and deposit lockers from its vault. It has however not yet been possible for the bank to assess the loss consequent on the fire, as the salvage operations have yet to be completed. According to Central Bank of India there is no big credit advance, which has not been recovered, given from this branch of the bank.

Expansion Plan of Indian Airlines

439. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines proposes to suspend its expansion plan; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI): (a) and (b) The steep increase in the price of aviation fuel and the possibility of a shortage makes it necessary for Indian Airlines to review their Fifth Plan proposals.

Representation from Kerala Government against the credit policy of Government

440. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has represented to Centre to reverse the present credit policy; and

(b) if so, the reaction and the decision of Central Government is this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) and (b) In a communication addressed to the Union Finance Minister, Kerala Chief Minister had urged the need for revising the current credit policy so that it could have an element of selectivity in it. He had also referred to the broader question of regional distribution of bank credit in the country. Another point raised by him was that bank credit should not be made available to those who use it for speculative purposes. He had also made the point that if at all credit restraint was essential, it should be in respect of the credit to monopoly houses and to large scale industries. The points made by the Kerala Chief Minister are part of the accepted policy and to the extent currently feasible are being pursued.

Deficit financing

441 **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:**

SHRI DHAMANKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are likely to resort to further deficit financing to tide over the present deepening financial crisis; and

(b) if so, to what extent, and if not, the alternative steps proposed to mobilise resources?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The steps taken this year towards mobilisation of resources included larger market borrowing and Small Savings Collections and improvement in collection of tax arrears. Besides savings have also been effected by economy in Government expenditures, both Plan and non-Plan to keep down the deficit level. Simultaneously, the Reserve Bank has taken a series of restrictive measures to reduce inflationary pressures on the economy.

The deficit position is being reviewed in connection with the formulation of Revised Estimates 1973-74 and Budget Estimates 1974-75.

Negotiations with members of the Standing Committee of J.C.M. in regard to implementation of Pay Commission's Report

442. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the anomalies arising out of implementation of Third Pay Commission's Report are being rectified by negotiations with the members of the Standing Committee of the J.C.M. at the national and departmental council level;

(b) if so, the items under discussions; and

(c) when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) to (c) It has been agreed in the last meeting of the National Council of the Joint Consultative Machinery held on 24th and 25th January, 1974 that a committee consisting of representatives of the official and staff sides of the National Council may be set up to look into anomalies that might have arisen as a result of the implementation of the Government's orders on the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission relating to common categories of employees. It was, however, clarified that where the Pay Commission had made definite recommendations on pay scales, it would not be feasible to entertain requests for modifications on the plea of anomalies based upon inter-departmental comparisons. It was also agreed that similar committees may be set up in the various Departmental Councils to look into such anomalies in respect of uncommon categories. These Committees are likely to be set up shortly and would consider the matters which may be raised by the members therein. The reports of the Committee(s) will be considered by the Government as and when they are received.

Amount of loss during Lock-out in Indian Airlines

443. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of loss suffered by Indian Airlines during the current lock-out period; and

(b) the number of flights cancelled and man-days lost during the lock-out ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) :
(a) The loss suffered by Indian Airlines during the period of lock-out, from 24-11-73 to 31-1-74, has been estimated at Rs. 276 lakhs.

(b) The number of flights not operated during the period of the lock-out from 24th November to end of January, 1974

was 7417. Information regarding number of man-hours lost is not readily available.

Supply of Yarn to Handlooms and Powerlooms

444. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state .

(a) whether position regarding supply of yarn to the handloom and powerloom weavers has shown an improvement ; and

(b) if so, how the figures of 1973 compare with that of 1972 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A C GEORGE) : (a) and (b) The handloom and powerloom weavers consume yarn mostly in hanks and cones. Cotton yarn delivered for civil consumption in hanks, cones etc during 1972 (January/December) and 1973 (January/September) is given below —

Form of Packing	1972 (Jan/Dec) (in mill Kgs)	% to total	1973 (Jan/Sept) (in mill Kgs)	% to total
1. Hanks	222 00	53.4	158 00	53.4
2. Other than Hosiery cones	120 00	28.8	90 00	29.1
3. Hosiery cones	40 00	9.6	24 00	8.2
4. Beams	23 00	5.4	14 00	4.7
5. Pirns	2 00	0.5	1 50	0.5
6 Others	9 00	2.2	8 50	2.8
TOTAL	416 00	100 00	296 00	100 00

Decision on passenger fares and freight rates by Air India

445 SHRI V. MAYAVAN :

SHRI H. M. PATIL :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India has decided to increase its passenger fares and freight rates from January, 1974, and if so, by how much and how does it compare with increase by other international airlines;

(b) the additional revenue likely to be collected at the end of the year by Air India as a result thereof;

(c) what are the other steps Air India is taking to meet its operational cost, and

(d) whether the oil crisis and fuel price increase has reduced the margin, of profit of Air India, and if so, to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) :

(a) As a result of the steep rise in the cost

of aviation fuel, an agreement was reached in the International Air Transport Association of which Air India is a member, to increase the world-wide fares and rates of 6 per cent with effect from 1 January 1974.

(b) Additional revenue likely to accrue as a result of increase in fares and rates by 6 per cent is estimated at Rs. 6.90 crores, which would be set off against the increased cost of aviation fuel.

(c) Air India cannot unilaterally raise the fares and rates to meet the rising operational costs. IATA is seized of the matter and the question of increasing world-wide fares is constantly under review by IATA. It is expected that with other major increase in fuel prices, IATA will correspondingly raise the fares which will take care of the rising operational costs.

Air India is keeping strict control on expenditure and has introduced economy measures such as freeze on staff recruitment except in very essential and productive categories, sizable reduction in publicity expenses, etc.

(d) During the financial year 1973-74, Air India is likely to incur a loss of Rs. 3.12 crores because of the steep rise in oil prices. If the oil crisis had not taken place, this year would have ended with a marginal profit for the airline.

Fall in export of Engineering Goods

446. SHRI V. MAYAVAN :

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether export of engineering goods is expected to fall considerably during 1973-74;

(b) if so, the total shortfall expected ;

(c) the reasons therefor ; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) No, Sir. Exports of engineering goods during April—December, 1973, have been of the order of Rs. 108.69 crores (Provisional) as against Rs. 96.20 crores during the corresponding period of 1972.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Ceiling on the export of Groundnut Extraction

447. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to fix a ceiling of seven lakhs tonnes on the export of groundnut extraction following fears of domestic shortages; and

(b) if so, the extent of domestic requirements in the country and the particulars regarding the demand from overseas buyers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b) keeping in view the present world conditions, the urgency to increase our foreign exchange earnings from exports and the domestic requirements in the country, Government have adopted a balanced approach to the entire question of export of groundnut extractions. This policy is constantly under review so as to ensure that, while maximum foreign exchange is being earned, the domestic requirements do not suffer.

Agreement for utilisation of PL- 480 Funds

448. SHRI K. MALLANNA:

SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S.A. has agreed to grant some financial assistance under PL-480 and other accounts to India for financing mutually agreed development projects in the Fifth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the main features of the recent agreement signed between Indian and U.S. Governments.

tribution policy and the other against the short allocation of raw nuts admissible under the revised distribution policy.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) The U.S. Government has given a grant of Rs. 1,664 crores to the Government of India from their PL 480 funds to be attributed to projects of economic development chosen by the Government of India from among those already included in the Fifth Five Year Plan. These and other details of the agreement between the two Governments have been given in the Statements laid on the Table of the House by the Finance Minister on the 13th December, 1973 and the 19th February, 1974.

Complaint from Manufacturers regarding shortage of imported raw cashew nuts.

449. **SHRI P. R. SHENOY:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the manufacturers of cashew kernels have complained that sufficient quantity of raw cashew has not been imported ;

(b) whether there is a further complaint that equitable allocation of imported raw cashew has not been made to the manufacturers from Karnataka and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) There have been complaints of processing units not getting enough raw cashew nuts for the year round working.

(b) Two complaints have been received from processing units in Karnataka; one challenging the validity of the revised dis-

(c) The installed capacity for cashew processing in the country is far in excess of what can be justified on the basis of availability of raw cashew nuts from imports and indigenous production. The Government, after consulting relevant interests and State Governments concerned, have evolved certain principles for equitable distribution of limited raw nuts available. Complaints received are being examined and where warranted are being redressed. One complaint from a Mangalore party regarding short allocation of quota had been looked into and additional allocation was made in December, 1973. Sustained efforts to import as much raw cashew as available from traditional and now overseas sources are being taken through Cashew Corporation of India.

Opening of Branches by Scheduled Commercial Banks in Rural Areas.

450. **SHRI P. R. SHENOY:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of branches opened by the Scheduled commercial banks in rural areas after the nationalisation of banks;

(b) the total deposits and advances made in these branches as on 31st December, 1973; and

(c) what portion of the advances made in these branches has gone for (i) agriculture and (ii) self-employment?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT RAO CHAVAN) :

(a) Between July 1969 and December 31, 1973 scheduled commercial banks opened 4608 offices at rural centres.

(b) The available information in regard to deposits and advances of new rural branches opened after July 19, 1969 is set out below:—

Deposits and advances of new rural branches opened after July 19, 1969

Position as on the last Friday of December, 1972				
	Deposits		Advances	
	No. of reporting offices.	Amount Rs. in crores	No. of reporting offices.	Amount Rs. in crores.
Rural Branches	3576	220.09	3558	102.99

(c) Precise information relating to the sectoral distribution of the advances of these branches is not available. However, in view of the economic setting in which these branches operate, most of their advances are likely to be only to small borrowers in the priority sectors like agriculture, small industry, road and water transport etc.

Plans to renovate Bangalore Airport

451 SHRI P. R. SHENOY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plans to renovate the Bangalore Airport;

(b) if so, the estimates of the proposed renovation; and

(c) when the work is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 49 lakhs approximately for the entire project of making modifications and extension to the building.

(c) The work is expected to be completed by 1976.

Plans to Improve Bajpe Airport

452. SHRI P. R. SHENOY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether there are any plans to improve the Bajpe (Mangalore) Airport in view of its increasing importance and in order to make the landing of Boeing 737 aircraft easier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI): Boeing 737 services are already operating through Mangalore aerodrome.

Review of Indo-Iran Trade Agreement

453 SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR:

SHRI B. S. BHAURA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has agreed on the need for review of trade between the two countries; and

(b) if so, whether the two sides will set up joint ventures in the two countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). The reference of the hon. members is perhaps to the discussions which took place in January last in the Indo-Iran Joint Commission for Economic, Trade

and Technical Cooperation. A copy of the Press Statement issued on the conclusion of the discussions is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6190/1974].

Promotion of a better balance in Trade between India and Sri Lanka

454. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR :

SHRI P. GANGADEB

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether New Delhi and Colombo have identified three Industrial projects to promote a better balance in trade; and

(b) if so, whether each project is intended to meet their needs for products now imported from a third country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). Feasibility studies have been conducted for the establishment, in Sri Lanka, of industries based on grape, glass and rubber. These are under consideration of the two governments. With its proximity to India, Sri Lanka will enjoy a competitive advantage over other sources of supply for products which India would need to import from abroad. It is in the spirit of economic cooperation between the two countries that they develop and diversify their mutual trade

Cultivation and Export of Opium

455 SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK :

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is in danger of losing its monopoly in cultivation and export of opium in the world market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) whether any steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to improve the drawbacks and maintain the monopoly in the opium trade and cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India's policy regarding production and export of opium, is based on her international obligations to restrict it to world's medical and scientific requirements of opium. Such requirements of opium are determined by the International Narcotics Control Board of the United Nations.

India is the principal opium producing country in the world and Indian opium accounts for more than 75% of the world's total production. The other major opium producing countries at present are USSR and Iran, but they do not export opium. Turkey, which was the other principal exporting country has suspended opium production from 1973.

Steps to Check Smuggling on Indo-Pak Border

456 SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK :

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of smuggling on large scale on the Haryana and Punjab borders with Pakistan, and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to check the same and the value of goods recovered by Government from the smugglers during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) and (b) Intelligence reports received by the

Government do not indicate that there is large-scale smuggling between India and Pakistan on the Haryana or Punjab border. However, following steps have been taken to check smuggling on this border:

1. Frequent meetings are held at high level between officers of Customs, State Police and Border Security Force for mutual exchange of information and devising of effective means for prevention of smuggling.

2. Officers engaged on anti-smuggling work are being imparted special training. In addition, the customs authorities have undertaken traffic checking, 'Naka Bandis' and Road Blocks at strategic points.

3. Border Security Force Officers who are deployed on the border are also vested with powers under the Customs Act to apprehend smugglers and seize the goods. The officers of the Border Security Force do patrolling and exercise constant vigilance on the border. List of suspected smugglers are prepared and ambushes are laid at vulnerable points with a view to their interception. The value of smuggled goods seized during the year 1973 from the smugglers in this area is Rs. 13 lakhs approximately.

वर्ष 1973 में विदेशी जहाजों का भुगतान

457. श्री शंकर प्रसाद सिंह : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1973 में भारत द्वारा किये गये विदेशी जहाजों के भुगतान का विवरण क्या है ;

(ख) क्या भारत ने भी इस वर्ष किसी देश को ऋण दिया है ; और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो तत्सम्बन्धी व्यौरा क्या है ?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री बलदेवप्रसाद खन्ना) : (क) एवं (ग). एक विवरण सभा-घटक पर रख दिया गया है ।

[प्रश्नोत्तर में स्थान-गणना (वर्षाव संख्या एल. टी- 6161/74]

भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम में विधे जाने वाले भर्त

458. श्री शंकर प्रसाद सिंह : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) जीवन बीमा निगम के कुल कर्मचारियों की संख्या कितनी है ; और

(ख) गत एक वर्ष के दौरान वेतन समायोपरि भत्ता तथा अन्य भत्तों के रूप में उन्हें कुल कितनी धनराशि का भुगतान किया गया ?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री बलदेवप्रसाद खन्ना) : (क) 31 मार्च 1973 की स्थिति के अनुसार 55,192.

(ख) सभी श्रेणियों के कर्मचारियों के 1-4-1972 से 31-3-1973 तक की अवधि के लिये कुल जितना भुगतान किया गया है उसके आंकड़े नीचे दिये गए हैं :—

वेतन	41,82,29,767 रु०
समयोपरि भत्ता	1,01,13,160 रु०
अन्य भत्ते	8,49,71,224 रु०
जोड़	51,33,14,151 रु०

भारतीय पर्यटन विकास निगम के दिल्ली स्थित होटलों में 1973 के दौरान लाभ और हानि

459. श्री शंकर प्रसाद सिंह : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिल्ली में भारतीय पर्यटन विकास निगम के होटलों के 1973 में कितना-कितना लाभ या नुकसान हुआ ; और

(ख) क्या सरकार का विचार दिल्ली में 1974 में और होटल स्थापित करने का है और यदि हाँ, तो तत्सम्बन्धी मुख्य बातें क्या हैं ?

पर्यटन और वायु परिवहन मंत्रालय के
राज्य मंत्री (डा. सरजीवजी मीरपुरी) :

1972-73 के लिए सूचना निम्न प्रकार है—

होटल का नाम	लाभ (+) हानि (—) (लाभ स्वयं से)
असोक होटल	(+) 27 06
अकबर होटल	(+) 6 79
होटल जनपथ	(+) 10 48
होटल रणजीत	(—) 1 83
लोदी होटल	(—) 0 67

भारत पर्यटन विकास निगम 1974-75 के दौरान एक होटल का निर्माण करने के बारे में विचार कर रहा है। उस होटल में 600 कमरे होंगे तथा तीन-स्टार स्तर की सुविधाएं प्रदान की जाएंगी। इसके ब्यौरे तैयार किये जा रहे हैं।

Checking of baggage of passengers of at Palam Air-port

460. SHRI H. M. PATEL Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state—

(a) whether previously the Customs authorities at Delhi Airport were subjecting baggage of all outgoing passengers to a physical check;

(b) whether the Customs authorities have now decided to resort to a sample check of baggage of outgoing passengers; and

(c) the extent to which the new procedure of sample check has helped expeditious clearance of passengers and timely departure of international flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) to (c). The Customs authorities at Delhi Air-port were not subjecting the baggage of all outgoing passengers to a physical check in the past.

The baggage of out-going passengers has always been subjected to a selective check at Delhi Air-port. However, with a view to expediting the customs clearance of out-going passengers it is proposed to introduce a system under which instead of routing baggage of all out-going passengers through the customs examination hall, the baggage to be examined on a selective basis will be marked by the Customs Officers immediately after the check-in formalities have been completed by the Airlines.

Review of the working of nationalised banks

461. SHRI H. M. PATEL Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have reviewed the working of the nationalised banks during the last one year;

(b) if so, whether Government are satisfied with the functioning of the nationalised banks; and

(c) if not, the nature or the proposals, if formulated, to streamline functioning of the nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) (a) to (c). The working of the nationalised banks is being reviewed on a continuing basis, both by Government and Reserve Bank of India. Such reviews cover all aspects of the performance of these banks, and wherever necessary, suitable guidelines are issued and suggestions given. Taking an overall view of the functioning of these banks, the efforts made by them towards achieving the objectives of nationalisation can be considered to be satisfactory.

इण्डियन एयरलाइंस के प्रबंधकों और कर्मचारियों में विस्थापन के बारे में की गई अनुवर्ती कार्रवाई

462. श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :

श्री पी. बेंकटसुब्बन्ना :

क्या पर्यटन और वायु परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इण्डियन एयरलाइंस

में मितव्ययिता उपाय लागू करने तथा उसमें कार्यकुशलता ज्ञान के प्रश्न पर वहाँ के प्रबन्धकों तथा कर्मचारियों में गत दिसम्बर-जनवरी में उत्पन्न हुए विवाद का ब्यौरा क्या है तथा उस पर क्या अनुवर्ती कार्यवाही की गई है और उसका अब तक क्या परिणाम निकला है ?

पर्यटन और लागू विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा. सरोजिनी माहिशी) : इंडियन एयरलाइंस का प्रबंधकवर्ग संशोधित शिफ्ट प्रणाली का अनुपालन करने तथा कुछ अपव्यय वाली कार्य-पद्धतियों को दूर करने में कर्मचारियों के कतिपय बर्गों द्वारा प्रबंधकवर्ग के साथ सहयोग करने के प्रश्न पर 24 नवम्बर, 1973 को ताला बंदी की घोषणा करने पर मजबूर हो गया था। उन कर्मचारियों के पक्ष में ताला बंदी समाप्त कर दी गयी है जो कि इंडियन एयरफाफ्ट टैक्नीशियंस एसोसिएशन, एयरलाइन ग्राउंड इन्स्ट्रक्टर्स एसोसिएशन, आल इंडिया एयरफाफ्ट्स इंजीनियर्स एसोसिएशन तथा इंडियन फ्लाइट्स इंजीनियर्स एसोसिएशन के सदस्य हैं, एवं उन प्रथक प्रमुख कर्मचारियों के पक्ष में भी जिन्होंने जहां कहीं लागू होती हो, संशोधित शिफ्ट प्रणाली के अनुसार कार्य करने तथा अपव्यय वाली कार्य पद्धतियों को दूर करने में प्रबंधकवर्ग के साथ सहयोग करने की सहमति प्रकट की हो। इसके परिणामस्वरूप, 14-2-1974 को 15,977 की कुल संख्या में से 15,504 कर्मचारी कार्य पर आ गए थे और इस प्रकार इस समय तालाबन्दी से प्रभावित कर्मचारियों की संख्या केवल 473 है। 21 फरवरी, 1974 को भारतीय वाणिज्यिक विमानचालक संघ के साथ एक समझौता हो गया है जिसके परिणामस्वरूप लाइन विमानचालकों के सम्बन्ध में, जो इस संघ के सदस्य हैं, तालाबन्दी समाप्त कर दी गई है। एयर कारपोरेशन स्पेलाइज यूनिशन के साथ अभी बातचीत चल रही है।

Export of Manganese and Iron Ore in Crude and Pelletised Form

463. SHRI B. V. NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum and value of manganese and ore in crude and pelletised form being exported from this country at present;

(b) what are the likely projections thereof at the end of the Fifth Five Year Plan; and

(c) whether any plan to form an organisation of manganese exporting countries on the lines of the Arab model for oil has been formulated?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). Export of manganese ore during 1972-73 was 8.55 lakh tonne valued at Rs. 9.08 crores. There are no facilities for pelletisation of manganese ore in the country. There is one pelletisation plant for iron ore with an annual capacity of 0.55 million tonnes of pellets and its entire production is exported. Export of manganese ore has been restricted with a view to conserving the same and policy for export is kept under review.

(c) No, Sir.

Surplus Staff in Indian Airlines

464. SHRI B. V. NAIK:

SHRI SAMAR GUHA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of surplus staff in Indian Airlines, category-wise;

(b) the circumstances under which staff was working overtime in the past in spite of being surplus; and

(c) the basis on which surplus staff is computed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) : (a) to (c). The high incidence of overtime has largely been due to certain wasteful work practices prevalent in the Indian Air-

lines. Steps have already been taken to eliminate them. The extent of surplus staff in the various categories has not yet been assessed. However, by the very nature of things some measure of work on over-time is inevitable in aviation.

पांचवीं योजना में हवाई अड्डों का निर्माण

465. श्री श्रीकृष्ण अग्रवाल : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पांचवी पंच वर्षीय योजना में देश में और अधिक हवाई अड्डों के निर्माण का प्रावधान किया गया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनके लिए चुने गये स्थानों का विवरण क्या है ?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री : (डा. सरोजिनी माहेश्वी) (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) प्रस्तावित स्थल कोंचीन, पोर्ट ब्लेयर, जमशेदपुर, पाण्डिचेरी तथा कालीकट हैं । ये स्थल बारापानी, जहाँ एक विमानक्षेत्र पहले से निर्माणाधीन है, तथा हुबली धारवाड़, जहाँ चालू योजना-अवधि के दौरान कुछ कार्य प्रारम्भ होने की संभावना है, के अतिरिक्त हैं ।

शिमला के निकट एक विमानक्षेत्र के संभावित निर्माण के लिए भी जांच की जा रही है ।

भारत और नेपाल के बीच व्यापार वाता

466. श्री श्रीकृष्ण अग्रवाल

श्री पी. एम. गेहता :

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारत-नेपाल के बीच व्यापार में गतिरोध को दूर करने के लिये जनवरी के प्रथम सप्ताह में दोनों देशों के प्रतिनिधियों के बीच एक बैठक हुई थी ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या परिणाम निकले ;

(ग) क्या विभिन्न मामलों के सम्बन्ध में सहमति न होने के कारण बैठक के कार्यावही सांश पर हस्ताक्षर नहीं हो सके ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री ए. सी. जार्ज) : (क) से (घ). भारत तथा नेपाल के बीच व्यापार में कोई गतिरोध नहीं है । माननीय सदस्यों का चाद होगा कि व्यापार तथा परिवहन संधि 1971 की शर्तों के अनुसार एक संयुक्त पुनर्विलोकन समिति है जिसकी संधि के उपबंधों का संगत तथा प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए समय-समय पर बैठक होती है । समिति की बैठक 26 दिसम्बर, 1973 से 4 जनवरी, 1974 तक नई दिल्ली में हुई । कार्यवृत्त, जिस पर दोनों सरकारों के प्रतिनिधियों द्वारा हस्ताक्षर किए गए हैं कोई असहमति नहीं है ।

1973-74 के दौरान भारत के विदेश व्यापार में वृद्धि

467. श्री श्रीकृष्ण अग्रवाल : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या वित्तीय वर्ष 1973-74 के अप्रैल-अक्टूबर अवधि में भारत के विदेश व्यापार में काफी वृद्धि हुई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह वृद्धि कितने प्रतिशत हुई है ; और

(ग) कौन कौन सी वस्तुओं के व्यापार में वृद्धि हुई है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री ए. सी. जार्ज) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) 26 प्रतिशत ।

(ग) अप्रैल-अगस्त, 1973 के दौरान, जाँक ऐसी अंततम अवधि है जिसके वस्तुवार ब्यौरे उपलब्ध हैं, जिन मुख्य मदों के निर्यातों में बड़ी वृद्धि हुई है वे हैं खली, चमड़ा तथा चमड़ा निर्मित वस्तुएं, सूती धान, लौह अयस्क, वनस्पति तेल गंध रीह्व, मछली, इंजीनियरी

गाल तथा हस्ताक्षर की वस्तुएं। आयातों में अंततम आकड़ों अप्रैल-जुलाई, 1973 के हैं जिनमें महत्वपूर्ण हैं, खाद्य, पी. आं. एल. तेल तथा घीरियां, जर्क, मशीनरी तथा परिवहन उपकरण।

position to make its final recommendations to Government. No offer for the supply of fuel for the operation of the aircraft has so far been received by Indian Airlines.

Offer from Soviet Union for Sale of Aircraft

468. **SHRI M. SUNDARSANAM** : Will the Minister of **TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Soviet Union have offered to sell civil aircraft to Indian Airlines and to make the offer attractive have also agreed to supply fuel on a continuing basis for these aircraft; and

(b) if so, the decision of Government thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL
AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI):**

(a) and (b) An offer for the sale of TU-154 aircraft has been received by Indian Airlines from M/s. Aviaexport. Indian Airlines have requested them for some further information which is awaited. After this information has been received and examined Indian Airlines will be in a

Disparity in Pay scales in L.L.C. and Central Government

469. SHRI M. SUDARSANAM :
SHRI M. RAM GOPAL
BEDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the scales of pay of the staff and officers in Life Insurance Corporation before nationalisation and the staff and officers of the Central Government, vis-a-vis the existing pay scale; and

(b) whether there is any wide disparity and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) Before nationalisation each of the 245 erstwhile insurers had their own scales and their own cadres for officers and staff Field as well as Office. The following are the existing pay scales in L.I.C. and the Government of India :

Cl. 1 Officers of L.I.C.

Managing Director	Rs. 3250 (fixed)
Zonal Manager	Rs. 2000-125- 2500 (Ordinary scale) Rs. 2500-125- 3000 (Selection scale)
Dy. Zonal Manager	Rs. 1600-100- 2000-125-2250
Divl. Manager	Rs. 1250-50-1300 75-1600-100- 2000
Asst. Divl. Manager/Sr. Branch Manager.	Rs. 1000-50- 1300-75-1675.

C. I. Officers of Central Govt.*

Secretary/Spl. Secretary	Rs. 3500
Additional Secretary	Rs. 3000
Jt. Secretary	Rs. 2500-125/2-2750
Director	Rs. 1800-100-2000
Dy. Secretary	Rs. 1100-50-1300-60-1600-100-1800
Under Secretary	Rs. 900-50-1250

Cl. I Officers of L.I.C. (contd.)

B. Manager/Admn. Officer Rs. 770-40-1050-50-1300

Asstt. Admn. Officer }
Asstt. Branch Manager } Rs. 530-40-1050
(Dev.) }

£Cl. II Officers of L.I.C.

Development Officer Gr. II Rs. 170-10-220
Gr. I Rs. 230-15-320-20-360-EB-20-400-25-550-EB-30-760.

Cl. III employees of L.I.C.£

Superintendents Rs. 370-25-470-30-830

Higher Grade Assistants Rs. 265-20-385-EB-25-735.

Stenographers Rs. 210-15-225-20-405-25-430-EB-25-630

Assistants Rs. 175-10-215-15-290-20-410-EB-25-585.

Section Heads Rs. 225-15-255-20-395-25-670

Record Clerks. Rs. 150-6-162-8-218-10-238-1-B-10-258-12-270-15-390.

Cl. IV employees of L.I.C.£

Drivers Rs. 166-5-181-6-199-7-234-8-274-9-310

Sepoy Rs. 125-5-165-6-201-7-229-8-245

Sweepers & Cleaners Rs. 120-5-160-6-196-7-224-8-240

£According to the recent agreement signed by L.I.C.

C. I Officers of Central Govt. (contd.)

*Revised scales of pay recommended by the Third Pay Commission under consideration of Government.

Cl. II Officers of Central Govt. @

Section Officer Rs. 650-30-740-35-810-EB-35-880-40-1000-EB-40-1200

Stenographers Grade I of CSSS. Rs. 650-30-740-35-880-EB-40-1040.

Assistant Stenographers PA Grade II. Rs. 425-15-500-EB-15-560-20-700-25-800

Cl. III Officers of Central Govt. @

U D C. Rs. 330-10-380-EB-12-500-EB-15-560

L.D C. Rs. 260-6-290-EB-6-326-8-366-EB-8-390-10-400

Stenographers Grade III Rs. 330-10-380-EB-12-500-EB-15-560

Cl. IV Officers of Central Govt. @

Selection Gr. Daftry Rs. 210-4-250-1-B-5-270

Record sorter " "

Gestetner Operator " "

Daftry Rs. 200-3-206-4-234-1-B-4-250

Jamadar " "
Head Chowkidar " "
Head Sweeper " "
Peon Rs. 196-3-220-EB-3-232.

@As fixed by government after considering recommendations of the Third Pay Commission.

(b) Comparison between the pay scales of employees of Central Government and LIC is not generally possible as responsibilities and requirements of various posts even with similar nomenclature differ in certain respects. Further in case of Central Government employees (upto and including class II Officers), the new pay scales are related to the twelve monthly average of the consumer price index of 200 points. (1960=100 as base year) whereas the scales of pay of employees of LIC (class III and class IV) are based on consumer price index=100 as base year).

Advertisement for Post of Pilots during Lock-out in Indian Airlines

470. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA :
SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether taking the advantage of the Indian Airlines lock-out, some foreign companies, particularly those from developing countries are scouting for Indian flying talents ;

(b) if so, the names of such countries who have advertised in Indian newspapers their demands for pilots ;

(c) the number of Indian Airlines pilots who have applied for posts in foreign airlines ; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) :

(a) Government have received to information to this effect.

(b) Singapore Airlines has advertised for Boeing captains.

(c) None have applied through the corporation so far.

(d) Does not arise.

Fall in Yarn prices after November, 1973

471. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA :
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the yarn prices have now crashed by about 50% from the peak prices ruling in November last owing to the cumulative effect of a number of factors like ban on export of yarn, rejection of export by Bangladesh and Japan in view of indifferent quality and the Supreme Court ruling upholding the Central Government Directives ; and

(b) if so, the main features of the proposed policy of Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) The prices of cotton yarn between November, 1973 and mid-February, 1974 show a mixed trend from a decrease of 17 per cent in some counts to an increase of 15 per cent in some other counts.

(b) Keeping in view the fact that the production of cotton yarn, which is now generally above normal levels, has been picked up progressively as a result of the restoration of powercuts and prospects of adequate cotton crop the following measures have been taken :—

(i) Price Control on cotton yarn of counts upto 80s has been withdrawn with effect from 14th January, 1974. distribution control on the type of yarn had been withdrawn gradually by 21st October, 1973).

(ii) The scheme of control on production of cotton yarn upto counts 80s has been modified. Under the revised scheme every producer of yarn is required to pack yarn for civil consumption in hank form, in February, 1974 and in every subsequent month, in proportion not less than 110% of the monthly average proportion of yarn, in hank form, packed by him during the year 1972, for civil consumption.

(iii) Price control on cotton yarn of counts above 80s has been lifted with effect from 12th February, 1974.

Exemption allowed to foreign companies

472 SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether Government have granted exemption to foreign companies operating in India in matters like making of security deposit by employees of firms or companies or acceptance of such deposits by firms or companies and if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRA CHAVAN) : In pursuance of Section 26(7) of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 the Reserve Bank of India has granted general permission with respect to firms or companies (other than banking companies) referred to in the said Section for the making of security deposits by their employees and the acceptance of such deposit by them.

Air-conditioning of Bombay Airport Lounge

473. SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether about 27.4 lakhs have to be spent on the air-conditioning of Bombay Airport Lounge at a time when the country is facing acute shortage of power ;

(b) whether there has been any suggestion that this money should be utilised for increasing productivity and generating more employment ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government to this suggestion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) : (a) Taking into consideration the foreign tourist traffic passing through the airport, it was considered necessary by the Authority to air-condition the lounge.

(b) and (c). The Board of the International Airports Authority of India had considered the need for air-conditioning of the public concourses in all its aspects before approving the scheme.

Goods to be imported from USSR under Indo-Soviet Trade Protocol for 1974

474. SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state .

(a) the number of items together with quantity and value thereof to be imported from USSR under the Indo-Soviet trade protocol for 1974 ;

(b) whether the price of these commodities is higher than that prevailing elsewhere in other countries, if so, by how much in the case of each commodity ; and

(c) the extent of Soviet assistance sought by India for Implementation of projects during the 5th Five Year Plan ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) The 1974 Trade Protocol with USSR envisages import of goods worth approximately Rs. 353 Crores from USSR. The major items to be imported are kerosene, diesel oil, asbestos, rolled steel products, zinc, copper, nickel, palladium, urea, ammonium sulphate, muriate of potash, sulphur, newsprint, sunflower seed oil, ships, power and electro-technical equipment, mining and geological prospecting equipment, printing machinery, components and spares for Soviet assisted projects, construction and earth-moving equipment, etc.

(b) No, Sir. In accordance with the Indo-Soviet Trade Agreement, imports and exports will be effected by the two parties provided that the said goods are competitive in relation to world prices

(c) At this stage, it cannot be stated what the precise extent of Soviet assistance will be during Fifth Five Year Plan

Import of Newsprint from Foreign Countries

475. SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI :

SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total newsprint which would be made available during the current year through imports under firm and definite contracts and through indigenous production ; and

(b) the quantity and value of the newsprint imported last year, countrywise ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) 1.46.000 metric tonnes of newsprint from imports against contracts already concluded as well as which are being concluded by the S.T.C. and about 40,000 tonnes from indigenous production

(b) A statement showing quantity and value of newsprint imported in 1973 is attached.

Statement

The quantity and value of newsprint imported in 1973 from various countries is as follows :—

Country from where imported	Quantity in metric tonnes	Value in Lakhs of Rs.
(i) U.S.S.R.	38,359	636.36
(ii) Canada	34,767	417.81
(iii) Poland	2,745	41.08
(iv) Bangladesh	14,531	203.40
(v) Scandinavia	5,363	79.18
(vi) Finland	1,000	15.20
(vii) Czechoslovakia	2,400	32.40
TOTAL	99,165	1425.43

Checks for Illegal Export of Silver

476. SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the measures Government have taken to check illegal export of silver from the country ;

(b) whether some of the Indian firms have exported silver to countries to which export of silver is completely banned through ostensible sale to countries to which such ban does not apply ;

(c) whether any penal action has been taken ; and

(d) if so, the nature thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (d). According to a recent decision of the Government, export of silver bullion, silver sheets and plates which have undergone any process of manufacture subsequently to rolling, is now allowed.

Agreement with Sri Lanka for Increase in Tea Export Prices

477. SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have made any move to persuade the Government of Sri Lanka to enter into an agreement with the Government of India to get better prices for the export of tea in order to offset the rise in oil prices; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Sri Lanka Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b) During the visit of the Indian Delegation to Sri Lanka from 2nd to 7th February, 1974, there was recognition by the Governments of India and Sri Lanka of the need to ensure remunerative prices for tea in the international market and thereby improve

the vitally needed foreign exchange earnings of the tea producing countries.

Increasing Jute Prices for Export Purposes

478. SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state whether Government are considering an increase in Jute prices for export purposes ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Government have already increased the fixed price for carpet backing from Rs. 4550 to Rs 5000 per ton. The price of other jute goods is governed by market conditions.

Aid prospects of International development Association

479. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether World Bank President has made a statement recently that International Development Association will be bankrupt on 1st July, 1974 unless House of Representatives resorted America's \$ 1.5 billion contribution representing one third of total replacement package; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN (a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) The World Bank President has stated that IDA would be left with no resources to commit for assistance to developing countries if the Fourth Replenishment arrangements do not become effective, and for the Fourth Replenishment to become effective, the U.S. Congress should restore America's contribution amounting to one-third of the total replenishment package.

Government of India believe that replenishment of IDA's resources is vitally needed to permit IDA contribute to the development of developing countries.

Amount of currency notes in circulation

480. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of currency notes at present in circulation in the country;

(b) whether the currency in circulation has risen further as compared to the currency in January, 1973; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to bring down the currency in circulation in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANFISH) : (a) The currency notes in circulation as on 1st February, 1974 amounted to Rs. 6,010 crores.

(b) As compared to currency circulation in January, 1973 there has been 18.2 per cent rise in currency circulation in January, 1974.

(c) The currency in circulation forms a part of the money supply with the public and several appropriate monetary measures have been adopted from time to time to regulate the expansion in money supply consistent with the requirements of the economy. The quantum of currency in circulation depends upon various factors important among which are the variations in the income of the community, and spread of banking habit. The ratio of currency in money supply has declined from 72.3 per cent in 1961-62 to 61.4 per cent in 1970-71 and further to 57.8 per cent in 1972-73, indicating improvement in the banking habit and shift in assets preference.

Increase in Fares by Indian Airlines

481. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA :
SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA
HAIDER :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines fares have been raised; and

(b) if so, by how much, from which date and why ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The fares have been increased by 25 per cent from 1-2-1974 on account of rise in fuel cost, insurance charges, landing fees and other airport charges, etc.

Financial assistance to Bihar

482 **SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA :**

SHRI M. S. SIVASWAMY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government are aware of the present critical financial position of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to provide financial assistance to that state through the Reserve Bank of India.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) and (b). The Government of Bihar had requested the Centre for assistance to meet its temporary ways and means difficulties in the months of January, February and March, 1974. The Government of India had agreed to assist the State by giving ways and means advance of Rs. 10 crores in December and advancing the payment of Central assistance for Plan and share in taxes amounting to Rs. 19 crores to February instead of March. Other than this, the repayment of loans to Centre in January and February has been rescheduled and the State Government allowed to repay the dues to the Centre in March, 1974.

Newsprint Crisis

483. **SHRI DHAMANKAR :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) how long the present alarming newsprint situation is expected to persist;

(b) what immediate steps are being taken or have been taken to ensure regular supplies of newsprint on short term as well

as long term basis so that the industry does not starve for want of newsprint; and

(c) whether Government concluded any agreement both on short term and long term basis with any foreign suppliers and if so, with what results?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) The present shortage of newsprint is expected to last for another year or two.

(b) All possible efforts are being made to secure supplies of newsprint for immediate requirements. Long term contracts for 3 to 5 years are also being concluded with the foreign suppliers.

(c) The STC has entered into contracts for supply of 1,26,700 tonnes of newsprint in 1973-74. The Corporation has also concluded long term contracts with Canadian and USA suppliers for supply of about 60,000 tonnes for the next 3/5 years with option for supply of further 30,000 tonnes of newsprint subject to mutual agreement.

Soiled currency notes in Delhi

484. **SHRI N. SHIVAPPA :**

SHRI D. D. DESAI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an influx of soiled currency notes in the country particularly in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, whether Commercial Banks in the Capital had to face more rejections by customers at the counters a few months back; and

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India had elucidated the reasons for the influx of soiled Notes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) There has been some increase in the circulation, rather than an influx of soiled notes, in and around areas of Bangalore, Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad, Nagpur, Ahmedabad and Delhi.

(b) There has been no complaint from any Commercial Bank in Delhi about their customer's unwillingness to receive payment in reissuable notes fit for further handling.

(c) Owing to an inadequate supply of fresh notes from Currency Note, Press Nasik, the Reserve Bank's offices have been supplementing their stocks of fresh notes by salvaging maximum quantities of reissuable notes. The problem was aggravated by the strike for about a month from September, 1973 at the Security Paper Mill, Hoshangabad. To deal with the situation, issue of fresh notes over Reserve Bank's counter has been made consistent with the stock position, the shortfall being made up by recycling the notes which can withstand further handling.

Price and Production of Standard Cloth

485. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA :

SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to raise the price of standard cloth manufactured by the mills; and

(b) whether Government have asked the mills to double the production of the standard cloth ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). The question of revision of the existing policy regarding price, production and distribution of controlled cloth is under consideration.

Decline in India's share in world export trade

486. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the problem of progressive decline in India's share in world export trade; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to arrest the decline which has assumed an alarming proportion ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). In accordance with the statistics published by the United Nations in their Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (which excludes trade of Centrally planned economies) the declining trend noticed in previous years in the India's share in world's exports has been arrested in 1972.

In order to increase India's share in world's exports the Government has taken a number of steps to strengthen the production base, generate adequate export surpluses, remove various bottlenecks in the way of exports by providing essential raw materials, both domestic and imported, market intelligence, export finance etc. In selected cases compensatory cash support is also extended. In order to make the Indian products competitive in world markets, in addition, export duties are kept constantly under review and suitable adjustment are made from time to time as circumstances warrant.

Hotel projects undertaken in Bihar

487. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of hotel projects undertaken in the Central Sector in Bihar during 1972-73; and

(b) the reasons for delay in finalising these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) : (a) No hotel project was undertaken in the Central Sector in Bihar during 1972-73.

(b) Does not arise.

Trade talks between India and Yugoslavia

488. SHRI P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he led the Indian delegation to Yugoslavia for talks on economic co-operation between the two countries in the first week of January, 1974;

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks held; and

(c) the nature of agreements arrived at, if any?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). As a result of the discussions held at the meeting of the Indo-Yugoslav Joint Committee the two sides agreed to adopt various measures and provide all possible facilities for promoting trade and industrial and economic cooperation which include periodic exchange of trade delegations, participation in international fairs, collaboration in industrial ventures in India and in third countries etc. To achieve the objectives and to ensure effective solution of problems relating to the expansion of mutual economic cooperation, the two sides also agreed to set up three Sub-Committees:—

(a) Sub-Committee for Trade.

(b) Sub-Committee for Industrial Co-operation.

(c) Sub-Committee for Economic Co-operation in the third countries.

Credit policy and its impact on rising prices

489. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey of credit policy has shown that there has been "a sectoral shift" in the distribution of credit;

(b) whether a major part of credit went to retail dealers; and

(c) if so, its impact on the rising trend of prices?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) the available data reveal that between end March, 1968 and end December, 1972, the scheduled commercial banks' advances to large and medium scale industries, expressed as a proportion of their total advances, came down from 60.6 per cent to 52.4 per cent, while the proportion of their advances to whole-sale trade (other than for food procurement) came down from 14.2 per cent to 8.9 per cent. During this period the proportion of advances to the various priority sectors registered significant gains. Under agriculture, the proportion went up from 0.3 per cent to 7.0 per cent, under small scale industries from 6.9 per cent to 11.9 per cent and under other priority sectors from less than 2 per cent to 4.8 per cent.

(b) No, Sir; at the end of December, 1972 the advances to the retail trade, as a proportion of the total advances of the scheduled commercial banks was only 2.9 per cent.

(c) Does not arise.

Sale of coarse cloth in black market

490. SHRI ISHAQUE SAMBHALI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether between 400 and 500 million metres of coarse cloth, meant for distribution through fair-price shops have been recently sold at prices three times higher;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to check the mal-practices and to ensure that the coarse cloth is sold through fair-price shops?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) No such allegation has come to the notice of the Government.

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

Operation of private air services in Eastern sector

491. SHRI DASARATHA DEB : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government proposed to increase the operation of private air services (both passenger and freight services) in the Eastern sector;

(b) if so, the names of private companies that are going to be allowed to operate more services in the said sector; and

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the number of flights of Indian Airlines in that sector and if so, to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR SAROJINI MAHISHI) :

(a) and (b). There is no such proposal. However, Jamair Company was permitted to operate on the basis of daily permits on the following sectors in the eastern region where Indian Airlines were not operating due to lock-out :

(i) Calcutta-Agartala-Calcutta;

(ii) Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal-Silchar-Calcutta.

(iii) Calcutta-Silchar-Aizal-Silchar-Calcutta.

(iv) Calcutta-Ambari-Telepara-Rupsi-Calcutta.

(v) Calcutta-Gauhati-Calcutta.

(c) Indian Airlines are presently carrying out a detailed study of the economics of their operations routewise in the context of world-wide fuel crisis.

Indo-Bangladesh Jute Trade Talks

493. SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO :
SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-Bangladesh talks were held in Delhi on Jute trade in December, 1973; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The delegation discussed matters relating to long term Co-operation between the two countries on production and export of jute as well as import of raw jute by India under the Balanced Trade and Payments Arrangement between the two countries. An agreement to import two lakh bales of raw jute was reached during the discussions.

Effect of lock-out in Indian airlines on tourism

494. SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO :
SHRI P. A. SAMINATHAN :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether lock-out in Indian Airlines has completely upset the tourism target for the year 1974;

(b) if so, the extent of loss in tourism as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) :

(a) to (c). From all indications, the tourism target for 1974 will be achieved as most of the Indian Airlines services are already in operation. During 1973, the total tourist arrivals numbered 4,09,895 as against the target of 4,00,000.

Committee to streamline functioning of Indian Airlines

495. SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO :

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines have set up a Committee to streamline its functioning, particularly in the context of its manpower needs; and

(b) if so, the composition of this Committee, its terms of reference and findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SARAJINI MAHISHI): (a) and (b). The Management of Indian Airlines propose to set up a Committee headed by a senior executive of the Corporation to go into all aspects of its organisation and operations. The composition of the Committee and its terms of reference are being finalised

Plan to boost export

496 SHRI P. A. SAMINATHAN:

SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to raise export;

(b) if so, whether the Minister had called a meeting of the industry, trade and labour on the 2nd January, 1974 in this regard,

(c) whether the proposed plan to raise the exports will help in formulating this year's import-export policy; and

(d) what are the main features of the proposed plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). Obviously, the recent meeting of the Advisory Council on Trade has been referred to. The meetings of the Council are a forum for reviewing the performance of the country's economy in its commercial aspects and for considering the problems relating to expansion of exports, regulation of imports, operation of Import & Export Trade Controls, the working of commercial services with particular reference to export marketing and

export assistance and the organisation and expansion of the export sector of the economy. Thus, the meeting referred to in the Question was not intended for planning to raise exports as presumed.

(c) The suggestions made by members of the Council, comprising the principal commercial and industrial organisations of the country and individuals in these fields, are referred to different Ministries/offices of Government for comments/action and these are invariably taken into consideration in formulating the next year's import export policy.

(d) In the above context, this does not arise

Prospects for export of jute goods in view of oil crisis

497. SHRI P. A. SAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether world-wide petroleum crisis holds out bright prospects for the export of Indian jute goods; and

(b) if so, to what extent and how Government are considering to exploit the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). The energy crisis has resulted so far in a revival of demand for Jute goods to a small extent though as yet it is difficult to predict the pattern of demand in view of the many imponderables in the situation. While Government are contemplating an in depth study of the long term implications of the energy crisis, with a view to exploit the situation, steps to improve the unit realisation for export and to increase the volume of exports, by concentrating on the production of export varieties have been already taken.

Fall in profitability of nationalised banks

498. SHRI BUTA SINGH:

SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a steep fall in the profitability of Nationalised Banks;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
 (c) the steps taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The details of the aggregate net Profits

of the 14 nationalised banks after making adjustments for payment of bonus, the working funds, and the profits expressed as a percentage of working funds, in respect of the three complete years ended 31st December, 1970, 1971 and 1972 are given below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year ended	Working funds	Net profits	Percentage
31-12-1970	432878	690	0.17
31-12-1971	468488	860	0.17
31-12-1972	554761	752	0.13

The audited accounts of the nationalised banks for the year ended 31-12-1973 are not yet available.

Though the aggregate profits of 1972 are less than the profits of 1971, they are higher than the profits of 1970.

There has, however, been a decline in the net profits expressed as a percentage of the working funds. This may be attributed to various factors. There has been a general decline in the credit-deposit ratio of banks owing to the adverse conditions in the economy prevailing during 1972 which went to reduce the aggregate earnings of the Nationalised Banks. Besides this, the steps taken to realise the objectives of nationalisation namely, extension of banking facilities to the hitherto unbanked and rural centres in the interior and backward areas of the country, progressive expansion of credit to the priority and hitherto neglected sectors involving higher servicing costs, and the building up of a development oriented banking system, have inevitably led to an increase in expenditure in terms of more branches, increased staff and higher incidental and operational costs of the banks. The newly opened branches will take some more time to stabilise themselves and earn profits.

(c) Government as well as the Reserve Bank of India are constantly reviewing the situation regarding the working of Nationalised Banks. Suitable advice and guidelines

are issued from time to time in order to economise expenditure and improve operational efficiency by the banks with a view to improve their profitability.

Effect on industrial growth in India as a result of credit squeeze by Reserve Bank

499. SHRI BUTA SINGH:

SHRI BHOGENDR JHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent credit squeeze by the Reserve Bank on the resources of Commercial Banks have seriously affected the industrial growth in India;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to meet the situation created by this squeeze;

(c) the reaction of the State Governments on this step of the Reserve Bank of India; and

(d) whether Government are considering to review its credit policy?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) and (b). In implementing the various credit policy instructions, the banks are required to ensure that genuine needs of production and movement of goods are met through a faster turn-over of credit limits already sanctioned. Further, effective from 24th

December, 1973, small scale industrial units covered under the Credit Guarantee Scheme have been exempted from the requirements of increased margins stipulated earlier. More recently in order that the credit requirements of the export sector is not affected, Reserve Bank of India has decided to exempt increase in credit to this sector from the quantitative ceiling on credit restriction during the current busy season and also provide somewhat increased re-finance facilities to this sector. Thus, the flow of bank credit to industrial units is not likely to be affected by the current credit restrictions.

(c) Some State Governments have stressed the need for ensuring that the genuine credit requirements, particularly of the small borrowers, in the priority sectors and exports, are not affected.

(d) The position is being kept under constant review and suitable measures taken from time to time in the light of the emerging situation.

Simplification of Import Rules

500. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have simplified import rules;

(b) if so, how delays in the issue of licences will be cut down by them; and

(c) the main features of the new procedure ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. With a view to cut down delays in the issue of licences, efforts are continuously being made to simplify rules and procedure for submission of import applications.

, The main features of the various steps taken in this direction are :—

- (i) Time limits have been fixed for disposal of applications for import licences.

(ii) A simplified Procedure has been introduced for clearance of applications for import replenishment licences received from Registered Exporters.

(iii) More powers have been delegated to the regional licensing authorities for issuing advance licences to Registered Exporters.

(iv) The procedure for submitting applications for import of capital Goods has been further streamlined with effect from 1st January, 1974, with a view to cut down delays in the disposal of applications within the prescribed period of 60 days. Under the revised procedure, applications will be received directly by the licensing authorities and not through the sponsoring authorities.

(v) Powers have been delegated to the subordinate authorities to revalidate all categories of import licences for raw materials, components and Capital Goods issued under free foreign exchange and rupee payment area and the regional licensing authorities are not required to make a reference to Head Quarters in this regard.

Cotton Conversion deal with U.S.S.R.

501. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA :

SHRI P. GANGADEB :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cotton conversion deal under which U.S.S.R. supplied cotton to India last year has been given up this year; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) No, Sir. Against the contracted volume of 126.60 million Sq. metres of fabrics and 5 million pieces of towels, India has so far exported 122.50 million

sq. metres of fabrics and 5 million pieces of towels. The balance quantity will be shipped in the next few weeks.

(b) Does not arise.

Duty-Free Import of Handloom by E.E.C.

502. **SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA :**

SHRI PILOO MODY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether EEC has doubled duty-free import of Indian handloom goods for the year 1974;

(b) if so, whether EEC has also removed many obstacles hampering trade development; and

(c) the additional foreign exchange earnings therefrom ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (c). The European Economic Community had established a duty free annual quota of \$ 1 million each for handloom cotton fabrics and handloom silk fabrics since 1969. Following the enlargement of the Community by the accession of three more countries, the Community has decided to double these quotas for the year 1974. It may be clarified that these quotas are available for being utilised not only by India but also by certain other developing countries.

2. The Government of India is continuously in touch with the authorities in the Community for removal of the remaining administrative and other obstacles hampering the trade of handloom goods.

3. It is not possible to give a precise figure of the additional foreign exchange earnings that would accrue to India as a result of these measures.

Agreement for loan from Japan

503. **SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI :**

SHRI CHANDER BHAL MANI TEWARI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new loan agreement has been signed in January, 1974 with Japan under the terms of which Japan will extend about 22,000 million yen partly as commodity loan and partly as debt relief;

(b) if so, the broad features and terms of the loan; and

(c) whether there is any other loan negotiated or under negotiation with Japan?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). Notes were exchanged between the Governments of India and Japan on 30th January, 1974 under which the Government of Japan would provide the Government of India, as part of Japanese economic aid to India for 1973-74, a sum of Yen 22,000 million (equivalent to about Rs. 52.80 crores) comprising of Debt Relief Loan of about Yen 14,977.91 million (equivalent to about Rs. 35.95 crores) and a Commodity Loan of Yen 7,022 million (equivalent to about Rs. 16.85 crores).

The loan agreement with the Export Import Bank of Japan, the agency through which the Japanese aid to India is channelled, was also signed on 30th January, 1974 for the Debt Relief Loan. The loan is for rescheduling of principal repayments due during 1973-74 in respect of past Yen Credits. The terms of the loan are : repayment over a period of 25 years inclusive of a grace period of 10 years and interest payment at the rate of 4.0 per cent per annum.

The agreement with the Export Import Bank of Japan for the Commodity Loan is yet to be signed. The loan will be for the purchase from Japan of components, spare parts, raw materials, etc. required for the maintenance of the Indian

economy. The terms of the loan will be: repayment over a period of 25 years inclusive of a grace period of 7 years and interest payment at the rate of 4.0 per cent per annum.

(c) The Government of Japan have also agreed to finance the foreign exchange cost upto the extent of Yen 32.9 billion (equivalent to about Rs. 78.96 crores) of three fertilizer plants to be set up in the public sector in the Fifth Plan period. While the Japanese Government would make a firm commitment in the current fiscal year 1973-74 for one plant, they would make similar commitments for one plant each in the subsequent two fiscal years 1974-75 and 1975-76. The loan agreement for the first plant specifying the quantum and the terms and conditions is expected to be signed during the current fiscal year.

(N.B. The rupee equivalents of the Yen amounts have been arrived at the Central rate of exchange of 1 Yen = Rs. 0.024)

India's requirements for foreign exchange

504. SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fiscal estimate of additional foreign exchange requirements for the current financial year (1973-74) and the coming year (1974-75) over and above the country's normal foreign exchange needs due to the escalation of international crude oil prices and fertiliser prices has been made; and

(b) the measures taken to meet these additional demands on foreign exchange; and

(c) whether any contacts have been made with the World Bank, IMF, IDA and other organisation with a view to ascertain the likelihood of receiving additional foreign exchange assistance to meet these additional demands?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) No estimate of additional foreign exchange needs in 1973-74, over and above

the normal requirements, arising from escalation of international crude oil and fertiliser prices, is possible at this stage. Additional foreign exchange needs would depend on the levels at which prices stabilise over a period and the extent to which economies can be made in consumption.

(b) and (c). Steps have been taken to curb consumption of petroleum products to the extent possible. Efforts are also being made to boost country's exports to increase our export earnings. The problem of escalation of oil prices is being studied in international forums and Government are keeping in touch with these developments. Suitable measures will be taken as and when necessary.

Scheme of suggestions/incentives launched by Central Board of Direct Taxes

505. SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Direct Taxes have initiated a scheme of suggestion/incentive;

(b) whether Government have directed Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners to encourage the members of the staff of the Income-tax Department to avail themselves of the opportunities available; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. K. GANESH): (a) The Department of Administrative Reforms had formulated a Suggestions Scheme of cash rewards for suggestions emanating from Government servants for improvements in office and administrative procedures and this scheme has been in force since 1964. The Direct Taxes Enquiry Committee have recommended, *inter alia*, that the scheme needs to be reactivated. Accordingly, the instructions on the subject were reiterated by the Central Board of Direct Taxes in May, 1973.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The salient features of the Scheme are as follows:—

Suggestions for improvement in organisation or job methods and procedures and for maintenance of integrity in administration are eligible for reward.

Rewards may be by way of cash and merit certificates/letters of commendation. Cash rewards should not exceed the ceiling of Rs. 1,500 in each case. The reward can also take the form of cash payments, advance increments, national savings certificates or even gifts of useful articles, such as fountain pens, watches, etc. The grant of every reward is to be mentioned in the character roll of the author. The reward, however, cannot take the form of out-of-turn promotion.

The reward is to be made only for suggestions which are accepted for implementation. Suggestions which in the opinion of the appropriate Committee are *prima facie* good but would require to be tested for workability are first to be tried out before a final decision regarding their fitness for reward is taken.

Visit by New Zealand Prime Minister to New Delhi

506. SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of New Zealand recently visited New Delhi;

(b) whether discussions were held for increasing economic collaboration between the two countries;

(c) if so, the broad outlines thereof; and

(d) the anticipated additional foreign exchange earning consequent upon decisions taken during these discussions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The two Prime Ministers felt that there was scope for substantial increase in trade to the benefit of both countries and also agreed on the desirability of an exchange of trade and economic missions between the two countries.

(d) It is not possible, at this stage, to quantify what might be the additional foreign exchange earning on account of increases which might come about in trade.

Helipads and airstrips constructed in Orissa

507. SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of helipads and airstrips constructed in various parts of Orissa during the last three years;

(b) the number of these helipads and airstrips which were specially put up for Prime Minister's visit to various parts of Orissa,

(c) whether these helipads and airstrips were subsequently used for any other purposes; and

(d) the amount spent in constructing these helipads and airstrips?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR SAROJINI MAHISHI) : (a) Neither the Civil Aviation Department nor the Ministry of Defence has constructed any helipad or airstrip in Orissa during the last three years.

(a) to (d) Do not arise.

Lufthansa Boeing crash near Palam Airport

508. SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO :

SHRI B. S. BHURA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether investigation has been made in regard to the causes of the recent Lufthansa Boeing crash near Palam Airport, Delhi;

(b) the important observations made in the enquiry report and action taken thereon; and

(c) whether a copy of the report will be laid on the Table?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) :
(a) Investigation by a Court of Inquiry is in progress.

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

Recovery of cancelled notes

509. SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO :
SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Police recently recovered a bundle of one rupee cancelled notes;

(b) whether any investigation has been made as to how the cancelled notes happened to be in circulation; and

(c) the action, if any, taken against the Reserve Bank officials who are suspected to be involved in this racket?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) The Reserve Bank of India made over a packet of cancelled one rupee notes to the Delhi Police for investigation. The packet was presented for exchange over the Bank's counter on 3rd December, 1973.

(b) The matter is under investigation.

(c) The Bank will consider appropriate action on receipt of the investigation report.

Amount insured with the Life Insurance Corporation of India

510. SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount insured with the Life Insurance Corporation of India in 1971-72, 1972-73 and 1973-74;

(b) percentage of increase in the Life Insurance Corporation business during the last three years; and

(c) whether the increased business is as per Government's expectations and if not, the reasons for the failure of the Life Insurance Corporation in achieving the targets earlier laid down in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) The total new business written by the LIC during the last three years and the current year upto November, 1973 and the percentage increase over the previous year are as under :

Year	Total new business sum assured (crores of Rs.)	Percentage increase over the previous year
1970-71	1303.08	25.8
1971-72	1639.89	25.8
1972-73	2075.20	26.5
1973-74 (upto 30-11-1973)	971.72	16.8

(c) Yes, Sir.

Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973

511. SHRI RAJA KULKARNI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have, under guidelines for administering Section 290F of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 asked Foreign Companies in India to

reduce equity holdings to less than 40 per cent or to convert them into Indian Companies if they are branches;

(b) whether Government will lay on the Table of the House a statement as to which companies have been asked to follow the guidelines and what period has been given to each of them; and

(c) what is the response of the Foreign Companies to Government Directives?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) In accordance with the guidelines for administering Section 29 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973, a copy of which was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on the 20th December, 1973, Indian companies having more than 40 per cent foreign shareholding will be required to have, within a specified period, Indian participation ranging from 26 per cent to 60 per cent depending upon the nature of their activities. Similarly, branches of foreign companies in India will be required to convert themselves, within a specified period, into Indian companies with Indian participation ranging from 26 per cent to 60 per cent depending upon the nature of their activities.

Such Indian companies/branches are required to submit their applications to the Reserve Bank of India for permission to carry on their activities in India within a period of six months from 1st January, 1974, the date on which the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act came into force. The question of the Reserve Bank of India asking such Indian companies/branches to reduce their foreign holdings etc. will come up for consideration while taking decisions on the applications of such companies.

(c) It is not possible to furnish this information at this stage.

Report of Yunus Committee on the Working of S.T.C.

512 SHRI RAJA KULKARNI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a committee consisting of Shri Mohd. Yunus & Shri K. Kishore, Officers of the Ministry of Commerce, was appointed in 1972 to investigate into the working of the State Trading Corporation;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the said committee;

(c) whether the said committee has submitted its report and if so, what are its findings; and

(d) whether a copy of the report will be laid on the Table?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (d). A Committee of officers was earlier set up within the Ministry to study the working of the State Trading Corporation. Subsequently, this was re-constituted by an Inter-Ministerial Action Group to go into its working and to suggest measures to improve its operations and strengthen its organisational set up. This Group has now submitted its Report.

Financial Assistance to Bihar for drought relief works

513 SHRI SUKHDLO PRASAD VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the State Government of Bihar have recently approached the Centre to reimburse the expenditure incurred by the State Government on drought relief works during the year 1973-74; and

(b) if so, the total amount spent by the State Government under this head and how far the Central Government have agreed to reimburse the expenses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) and (b) A ceiling of expenditure of Rs 176 crores on various drought relief measures in 1973-74 has been approved as eligible for Central assistance. The Government of Bihar have not so far reported the progress of expenditure as against this ceiling for purposes of Central assistance.

Dearness Allowance to Central Government Employees

514. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether dearness allowance rise to Central Government employees is due since December, 1973 as the All India average consumer price index has registered requisite increase in the three months period i.e. September-November, 1973 ; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in announcing further instalment of dearness allowance to Central Government employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) and (b). The 12 monthly average of the All India working class consumer price index for the month ending December, 1973 having gone beyond the 232 mark, a further instalment of dearness allowance would be due, in terms of the formula of the Third Pay Commission, to the Central Government employees drawing pay upto Rs. 900 in the revised scales of pay with effect from 1st January, 1974. The matter is receiving attention.

Relaxation of credit facility for the export sector

515. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have further relaxed the credit facility for the export sector ; and

(b) if so, to what extent the exports are likely to be stepped up during the year 1974 ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). In November, 1973 Reserve Bank had imposed on the scheduled commercial banks, as part of the package of measures to restrain credit, quantitative ceiling on credit expansion and refinance from the

Reserve Bank. In January, 1974 Reserve Bank decided to exempt credit to the export sector from the quantitative ceiling and provide refinance facilities on a bank-by-bank basis on a review of each bank's performance in export sector and the sectoral deployment of its credit. The facilities which are provided by the Reserve Bank are intended to ensure that exports are not hampered due to any financial bottlenecks. As export performance is dependant upon a number of factors besides availability of credit, it is not possible to estimate the extent to which exports are likely to be stepped up during the year 1974 as a result of the aforesaid relaxations made by the Reserve Bank.

Proposal to re-introduce system of serving breakfast and lunch to Air passengers by Indian Airlines

516. SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE :

SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether serving of breakfast and lunch to passengers has been discontinued by the Indian Airlines ;

(b) whether the system of giving fragrance paper, lozenges, good dishes of breakfast and cold drinks to the passengers earned a very good name for the Indian domestic air service throughout the world; and

(c) whether Government propose to direct the Indian Airlines authorities to re-introduce that system, even by raising the freight by a few rupees to make up the losses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SARAJINI MAHISHI) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The decision of Indian Airlines to discontinue meals on board is in line with the practice followed by comparable domestic carriers in other countries.

(c) No, Sir. It is understood Indian Airlines are in touch with catering establishments at the major airports to provide packed snacks for sale to passengers.

Payment to the depositors of Central Bank of India

517. SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken to pay back the deposits of Central Bank of India, Calcutta, the entire building of which was completely gutted in the beginning of the year 1974; and

(b) the steps suggested to see that such horrible situation may not recur at least in case of such concerns with immense property and which deal with so many persons' deposited money and valuables ;

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YFHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) Central Bank of India has reported that it has been making interim payments upto Rs. 500 from 11th January, 1974 to its Home Savings Depositors. Further, with a view to avoiding dislocation in the day to day transactions in business of other customers, bank is permitting larger withdrawals subject to verification in due course. The Bank has further reported that it has started a special reconstruction cell, under the charge of an Assistant General Manager specially deputed by the Central Office, Bombay. The Bank expects no difficulty in being able to meet the claims of its depositors and allow normal operations in their accounts as the clients may desire.

(b) The West Bengal Government have constituted a team to investigate into the causes of fire and its investigation is not yet completed. Special measures, if any, to be taken to prevent such fire hazards can be considered only after the findings of the team become available.

Techno-economic survey of Tea Industry by Tea Board

518. SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE :

SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Tea Board has decided to conduct a techno-economic survey of the Tea Industry in the various regions of the country on a regular basis,

(b) if so, the agency which has been entrusted with the above work ; and

(c) whether special emphasis is being given in the above study to the need for nationalising all the foreign tea plantations in India "

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN CHARGE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A techno-economic survey of tea industry in Darjeeling during 1973-74 has been entrusted by the Tea Board to the National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi.

(c) The object of the survey is to identify the specific problems of the industry in a particular tea growing area so as to enable the Board to initiate suitable remedial measures.

Financial Assistance from World Bank for development of Calcutta

519. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank team which visited India in October, 1973 has given the clearance for drawing the loan of about Rs. 25 crores from the World Bank for the development projects of the Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority ;

(b) whether the financial participation in the CMDA projects by the Government of India is a necessary prerequisite for the sanctioning of the loan by the World Bank; and

(c) if so, whether the Government of India has taken any decision on this matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) Government of India have signed an agreement with the International Development Association, the soft lending affiliate of the World Bank, on September 12, 1973 for a credit of US Dollars 35 million (about Rs. 26.25 crores) for Calcutta Urban Development Project to be executed through Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Use of key paper currencies in International Trade

520. **SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the financial experts from major world trading nations have proposed using 14 key paper currencies to replace gold as the basis for commerce ;

(b) whether the above scheme has been accepted by the International Monetary Fund ; and

(c) the reaction of the Government of India to the above proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) to (c) When the Special Drawing Rights were created as a new international reserve unit in 1969, their value was defined in terms of gold. Since the U.S. dollar was also defined in terms of gold, the transaction value of the SDR in terms of other currencies was derived by multiplying the SDR-dollar parity by the market rate of exchange of the relevant currency in terms of the dollar. However, with the suspension of the convertibility of dollar into gold in August, 1971 and widespread floating of currencies since then, the above mentioned arrangement has been found to

be increasingly unsatisfactory. In particular, when major currencies are floating, the transaction value of the SDR is likely to vary from day to day depending on fluctuations in exchange rate of a currency vis-a-vis the dollar. This has affected the use of SDR in settlement of international payments. In recognition of this fact, the Managing Director of the IMF has proposed the valuation of SDR in terms of a standard basket of currencies during the transactional period, prior to the reform of the international monetary system. This proposal was considered by the Committee of Twenty at its fifth meeting held in Rome on January 17-18, 1974. The Committee has endorsed the idea of linking the transaction value of SDR to a basket of currencies in the transitional period. However, much work remains to be done before the proposal can be given an operational form. There are still many unsettled issues regarding the composition of the basket of currencies as well as the interest rate on the SDR. The Committee of Twenty has asked the Executive Directors of the IMF to expedite their studies of these matters with a view to early adoption by the Fund of this method of valuation. India is in favour of defining the value of Special Drawing Rights in terms of a standard basket of world currencies provided the rate of interest on Special Drawing Rights is kept at a low level.

Disposal of small aircraft in the Fleet of Indian Airlines

521. **SHRI FATESINGHRAO GAEKHWAD :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to dispose of the small aircraft in the fleet of Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the names of the companies who have already approached his Ministry in this connection; and

(c) the total amount expected to be received in this deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI): phase out Dakotas and Viscounts in their fleet. These aircraft are sold as and when suitable buyers come forward. Details of sales so far effected are given (a) to (c). Indian Airlines have decided to below:—

S. No.	Party to whom sold	Type of aircraft	Number	Disposal value	Condition/Remarks
(Rs. in lakhs)					
1972-73:					
1.	Oman Investment Co (on 2-11-72)	Dakota	1	0 60	Certificate of airworthiness expired. Time expired engines.
2.	M P. Government (on 1-3-73)	Dakota	1	0 50	-do-
3		Viscount	4	1 26	Sold by auction as scrap after removing engines, propellers and accessories
1973-74:					
1—	Airborne India (In February, 1974)	Dakota	1	1 48	Certificate of Airworthiness expired. Partial Engine hrs available
2		Dakota	2	0 32	Sold by auction as scrap, without engines and propellers
3.		Viscount	3	1 01	Sold by auction as scrap after removing engines, propellers and accessories.

Increase in Tourists during 1973

522. SHRI FATESINGHRAO GAEKWAD:

SHRI VEKARIA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any increase in the number of tourists to India during 1972;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase and the total amount of foreign exchange earned during the above period; and

(c) the names of the countries from where maximum tourists came to visit India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Foreign tourist arrivals in India recorded an increase of 19.5 per cent in 1973 over the preceding year. The foreign exchange earning during 1973 are estimated at Rs. 67.5 crores.

(c) USA, U.K., France, West Germany, Sri Lanka, Japan, Malaysia, Italy, Australia,

and Canada are the first ten countries from where above 68 per cent of total tourists came to India.

Trade deficit during 1973

523. SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether our country had trade deficit with foreign countries during 1973; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The trade deficit was on account of faster increase in the rate of growth of imports of items like food grains, fertilisers, POL, etc., as compared to exports (including re-exports.)

Demand for Rationalised Wage Pattern in Public Sector

524. SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the administrators of public sector undertakings have called for a rationalised wage pattern in the public sector; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are of the view that rationality in wage policies should be achieved to the extent possible. Government have issued certain general guidelines on important aspects of wage policies in order to avoid undue differences. At present, there is a restraint on public enterprises effecting any general revisions of wages and fringe benefits without obtaining prior approval of Government. While

Proposal to retrench staff in Indian Airlines

525. SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to retrench some staff in Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the number of persons in each category; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SARAJINI MAHISHI) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Success Achieved by Indo-British Hot Air Balloon Team

526. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-British Hot Air Balloon Team which launched a balloon recently has achieved success in its mission;

(b) if so, the extent to which the experiment has been helpful in forecasting the weather conditions; and

(c) the extent to which such balloons would be cheaper than the present balloon system of observatories in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SARAJINI MAHISHI) :

(a) A hot air balloon, launched jointly by the Ballooning Club of India and the British Balloon and Air Ship Club of the U.K. is reported to have reached a height of 44,500 feet at Bhopal on 25 January, 1974.

(b) The balloon flights were undertaken for sport and not for the purpose of weather forecasting.

(c) Does not arise.

Development of Historical Forts of Nahargarh and Jaigarh in Jaipur

527. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan Government have sent a proposal for development of famous historical forts of Nahargarh and Jaigarh in Jaipur;

(b) if so, whether Government of India have accepted the proposal; and

(c) if so, when the work is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI):

(a) No specific proposal has been received from the Government of Rajasthan.

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

Reviewing of Credit Policy with Governor of R.B.I.

528. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :

SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government reviewed the credit policy with the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India on 2nd January, 1974; and

(b) if so, the conclusions arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) The Union Finance Minister had discussions with the Governor, Reserve Bank and Heads of a few major banks on 2nd January, 1974 on the credit policy. The consensus at the meeting was that the present policy of monetary restraint should continue in view of the current economic situation. It was also agreed that the situation would be kept under constant review for such action as might be necessary, so as

not to hurt production, exports and other priority sectors.

Financial benefits to Policy Holders

529. SHRI N. K. SANGHI :

SHRI BISHWANATH JHUN-JHUNWALA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the LIC management had proposed to give additional financial benefits to its employees to a tune of Rs. 6 crores;

(b) whether correspondingly Government have considered the desirability of giving additional financial benefits to the policyholders either by raising the rates of bonus or by linking the value of the matured policy to the price index as is the practice in the foreign countries; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No. Sir. Any increase in the rates of bonuses for the participating policyholders will depend on the amount of surplus which is disclosed as a result of the actuarial valuation once in two years.

The suggestion to link the amount of the matured policy to the price index is not a feasible one for this country when the Life Insurance Corporation is required to invest 75 per cent of its investible funds in Government and "approved" securities. Further the equity market which forms the basis of such Schemes in foreign countries would not sustain such a Scheme here.

Disparity in Wages

530. SHRI N. K. SANGHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether for every rise of four points in the cost of living index, an employee

in the L.I.C. gets a neutralisation of 6 per cent whereas the rate of neutralisation is much less for a Central Government employee;

(b) if so, the percentage of neutralisation of cost of living index now applicable to Bank employees, Food Corporation, Indian Oil Corporation and other public sector undertakings and the Central Government employees;

(c) if the rates are not uniform, the different principles that have been adopted for the different rates and whether this is one of the sources of disparities in wages; and

(d) if so, what steps are being contemplated uniformity on this one issue which affects all wage earners equally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) to (d). The material is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

Air Accidents at Palam Airport

531. SHRI N. K. SANGHI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether almost all air accidents at Palam Airport in the past had occurred between the outer marker and the middle-marker;

(b) whether Government have considered the desirability of instituting a thorough probe into this peculiar phenomenon either by Indian experts or in collaboration with foreign experts; and

(c) whether any detailed investigation into the matter has already been made and if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) : (a) to (c). During the last eight years commencing from January 1966, six aircraft operating scheduled services were in-

volved in accidents at or near Delhi airport. A Court of Inquiry headed by a Judge of the Delhi High Court is investigating into the recent accident to Lufthansa Boeing 707 aircraft in 20th December 1973. Causes of the other five accidents are given in the statement laid on the table of the House which will show that all these accidents were due to human error, and that there has been nothing wrong either with the facilities available at the airport or its topography. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6192/74].

Having regard to the apprehensions in the public mind, as reflected through the press reports, the Director General of Civil Aviation took immediate steps to enquire into the functioning of the Instrument Landing System at Delhi airport. All the experiments and tests conducted so far, including tests carried out by the suppliers of the ILS equipment, have indicated that there is no flaw in the functioning of the equipment.

Profit on Export of Basmati Rice by S.T.C.

532. SHRI N. K. SANGHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation has made a record profit on the export of basmati rice during the last year and if so, the extent thereof; and

(b) the names of items in which the Corporation could achieve such good results and those where the exports have gone down with reasons therefor during the same period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) The STC has made a profit of Rs. 49.62 lakhs on export of rice shipped upto December 1973.

(b) A statement is attached.

Statement

The STC has achieved increases in the exports of the following items:—

Items	<i>Rupees in Lakhs</i>	
	1973-74 April 73— Jan- uary 1974	1972-73 April 72— Jan- uary 1973
Army software	61	25
Benzene	47	—
Paraffin wax	17	—
Gum rosin	19	—
Drugs/chemicals	6	2
Gramophone records	10	—
Dried fish	96	41
Spices	8	2
Cement	159	136
Natural rubber	112	—
Footwear	520	454
Finished leather	78	71
Leather goods & com- ponents	96	45
Caster oil	1352	1043
Opium	221	218
Lemongrass oil	187	65
Myroblans	8	—
Art silk fabrics	884	529

The STC expects a decline in exports of some items, the production of which is co-related to the availability of crude oil and vegetable/edible oils or whose export is facing competition from substitutes or is affected by other constraints.

**Settlement of Issues Left Unsettled by
Third Pay Commission**

533. SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation has been submitted to his Ministry or any deputation met him personally about settlement of all issues left unsettled by the Third Pay Commission Report; and

(b) if so, the gist of the demands of Central Government Employees and the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Third Pay Commission has made its recommendations on all the matters included within its terms of reference like pay scales, allowances, benefits and facilities and conditions of service of the employees. It has, however, interpreted the term "conditions of service" in a limited sense and has excluded matters relating to Promotion Procedures, Character Rolls, Government Servant Conduct Rules, Political Rights, Right of Association, Machinery for negotiation and settlement of disputes and Disciplinary Proceedings, from its purview, also because all these matters had been examined only some time back by a number of high-powered Commissions like the Administrative Reforms Commission. No representation has been made either orally or in writing against any of these matters. On the points raised by the Staff Side of the National Council of J.C.M. on the Commission's recommendations, discussions were held with their representatives in September last, and their views were also taken into account while taking decisions on the Commission's recommendations relating to employees in Classes II, III and IV. At the instance of the Staff side, it has also been agreed to set up committees of the National and Departmental Councils to look into cases of certain anomalies arising out of the implementation of the Government orders on the recommendations of the Commission relating to the common and uncommon categories of employees respectively.

**Directions issued by Reserve Bank of India
to Foreign Companies for Acquiring or
Transfer of Immovable Properties by
them**

534. SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH:
SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has issued directions to the persons who are

not citizens of India and companies other than banking companies to obtain permission for acquiring, holding, transferring or disposing of any immovable property in India; and

(b) if so, a gist thereof and the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A copy of the press note and the notification issued by the Reserve Bank of India are laid on the Table of the House [*Placed in Library. See No. I.T. 6193/74*]. These have been issued to give effect to the provisions of Section 31 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act 1973. In terms of the press note, declaration has to be made to the Reserve Bank before 1st April, 1974. In view of this, it is too early to give an idea of the results achieved.

Fuel uplift from Indian Airports by Foreign Airlines

535. SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently requested the foreign airlines to reduce their fuel uplift from Indian airports or reviewed their policy in this regard; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) : (a) and (b). In view of the difficult fuel situation, the Director General of Civil Aviation took a meeting of all international airlines at Delhi on 19 December 1973 on the reduction of fuel uplift from India. They were requested voluntarily to reduce the uplift of aviation turbine fuel from Indian airports by 20 per cent in the months of December, 1973, January and February 1974 as against the figures of three months during the previous year. The position in respect of aviation turbine fuel is constantly under review.

Economy effected in Government Expenditure

536. SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any economies in Government expenditure have been effected during the last four months; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof including the amount saved against each head of expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. I.T. 6194/174*].

Export of groundnuts

537. SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether groundnuts are exported;

(b) if so, the quality and quantum of groundnut exported and the countries to which they are exported; and

(c) the details of foreign exchange earned on this account during the first nine months of the current financial year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Only the HPS (Hand Picked Selected) variety of groundnut in shell and kernel is allowed to be exported.

A statement showing the country-wide exports of HPS Groundnuts in shell and kernel and giving the quantity and value of export during the first five months of the current year is attached below. Export figures beyond August, 1973 are not yet available.

Statement

Statemet showing country-wise export of groundnuts during the year 1973-74 upto August, 1973

S. Country/Commodity No.	Qty. in Tonns/ Value in '000, of Rs. 1973-74 (upto August, 1973)	
	Qty.	Value
1. Groundnuts, Kernels, H.P.S.		
Bulgaria	105	275
Czechoslovakia	56	201
German Dem. Rep.	235	1077
Japan	50	224
Netherlands	—	—
Nepal	—	—
Iran	—	—
Rumania	291	1122
Poland	—	—
U.K.	—	—
U.S.S.R.	8322	32853
Yugoslavia	1816	6524
Other countries	15	63
TOTAL:	10890	42339

2. Groundnut Kernels, n.e.s.**3. Groundnut in shell, H.P.S.**

Czechoslovakia	279	718
German Dem. Rep.	392	1224
Japan	—	—
Nepal	4	6
U.S.S.R.	59	185
Yugoslavia	388	1313
Poland	—	—
U.K.	N.A.	Neg.
Romania	—	—
Other Countries	—	—
TOTAL	1122	3446

4. Groundnut in shell, n.e.s.

Notes: n.e.s. denotes "not elsewhere specified."

Deficit Financing

538. SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of deficit financing resorted to so far during the eleven months of the current financial year; and

(b) the concrete results, if any, of Government plans to effectively curb the additional deficit financing?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) and (b). Additional commitments had to be undertaken by Government on account of revision of pay and allowances of Government employees, food subsidy, drought relief assistance to States and larger funds had also to be provided for some key projects and schemes. Though economy measures taken this year to keep down the deficit have by and large been implemented, these savings would not off-set the additional expenditure.

There is no month to month synchronisation in the receipts and expenditures of Government and therefore, month-wise figures would not be a correct indicator of the likely year-end deficit.

Hotel Management Training Programme

539. SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start a regular and systematic Hotel Management Training Programme in the country; and

(b) if so, the main features of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SARAJINI MAHISHI): (a) and (b). Management training for hotels is available with the India Tourism Development Corporation, as well as with two major hotel chains in the private sector. I.T.D.C. will expand its training facilities

in the Fifth Plan period, which will mainly cater for its own growing need of trained personnel. The Department of Tourism also propose to set up an Institute of Tourism to provide professional training in Tourism and Travel Industry Management for the different segments of the travel industry, including hotels. The main programme of the Institute will be a two year post-graduate course for those who have completed 3/4 years of under-graduate education. The Institute will also offer an in-service training programme or Executive Development Programme for the travel and hotel industry at the senior, middle and junior management levels.

Newsprint Contracted and Imported by S.T.C.

540 SHRI RAMKANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the STC had contracted a number of countries for importing newsprint;

(b) if so, the quantity of newsprint so contracted and imported during the last one year; and

(c) whether the newsprint position has now eased and if not, what other efforts are being made by the Government of India to import more newsprint to tide over the existing shortage?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) There is acute world shortage of newsprint on account of abnormal increase in production cost and strikes in newsprint mills in Canada. Government is providing all possible assistance to the STC in securing maximum quantity of newsprint at competitive prices.

Statement

The quantity and value of newsprint imported in 1973 from various countries is as follows:-

Country from where imported	Quantity in metric tonnes	Value in lakhs of Rs.
(i) U.A.S.R.	38,359	636.36
(ii) Canada	34,767	417.81
(iii) Poland	2,745	41.08
(iv) Bangladesh	14,531	203.40
(v) Scandinavia	5,363	79.18
(vi) Finland	1,000	15.20
(vii) Czechoslovakia	2,400	32.40
TOTAL	99,165	1425.43

Possibility of Increase in Trade with South America

541 SHRI RAMKANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of items being exported from India to South American countries;

(b) the particulars of items being imported from South American countries by India;

(c) whether Government have examined possibilities of increasing trade with South American countries;

(d) whether studies on the subject have recently been conducted and surveys undertaken by Government and private organisations; and

(e) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) to (e). A statement is attached.

Statement

(a) Major items of export from India to South African countries are Jute Manufactures, Shellac and Tea, though non-traditional items like hand tools, bicycle spare parts, steel wire cables, diesel engines, rails, textile machinery, chemicals, paper etc. are also now being exported to some of these countries.

(b) India's imports from South American countries are confined mainly to non-ferrous metals, cotton and wheat.

(c) to (e). Yes, Sir. A number of promotional steps such as exchange of delegations including business visits, participation in fairs/exhibitions, conclusions of Agreements etc. have been taken to increase our trade with South American countries. Trade Agreements have already been signed with Peru, Chile, Brazil and Colombia. A wholly Indian Industrial Exhibition is also being organised by the Indian Council of Trade Fairs and Exhibitions at Venezuela (Caracas) shortly to project the industrial image of India.

Two delegations sponsored by Projects Equipment Corporation and Engineering Export Promotion Council also visited some of the Latin American countries in February-March 1972 and May-June 1973, respectively to explore the possibilities of increasing our exports of non-traditional items to these countries. The two delegations have identified several fields in which India has an export potential. Some of the non-traditional products identified by the two delegations include railway equipment, bicycles, hand tools, bulk handling and mining equipment, cotton textiles machinery, cement machinery, sugar mill machinery, power distribution equipment, transport equipment, consultancy services etc. The two delegations have also indicated the fields in which India can assist some of the Latin American countries in setting up of joint ventures.

विमान चालकों की मांगें

542. श्री चन्द्रभक्त मंत्री तिवारी : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या दिनांक 30 जनवरी, 1974 को सभी विमान चालकों ने अपनी कुछ मांगें तीन दिन में पूरी करने के लिये अल्टीमेटम दिया था ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उनकी मुख्य मांगें क्या हैं ;

(ग) क्या उनकी सभी मांगें तीन दिन की अवधि में ही स्वीकार कर ली गयी थी ; और

(घ) सरकार की इस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया हुई ?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा. सराजिनी मीहशी) : (क) और (ख). भारतीय वाणिज्यिक विमानचालक संघ ने इंडियन एयरलाइन्स के प्रबंधकवर्ग के नाम पत्र लिख कर अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ निम्न मांगें रखी हैं :

(1) विमानचालकों के सम्बन्ध में तालाबन्दी को तुरन्त तथा बिना शर्त समाप्त कर दिया जाय ;

(2) कारपोरेशन विमानचालकों को तालाबन्दी की अवधि का पूरा वेतन और भत्तों की अदायगी करें ।

(3) उन विमानचालकों के मामले में भी जिन्होंने व्यक्तिगत समझौतों पर हस्ताक्षर कर कारपोरेशन-सेवा में पुनः प्रवेश किया है, तालाबन्दी की अवधि का पूरा वेतन और भत्ते अदा किये जायें ।

(ग) और (घ) प्रबंधकवर्ग ने भारतीय वाणिज्यिक विमानचालक संघ को सूचित किया है कि क्योंकि उनके पत्र में उठाये गये मामले संघ द्वारा कलकत्ता उच्च न्यायालय में दायर

की गयी रिट याचिका के रूप में विचाराधीन हैं अतः इस विषय पर पत्र-व्यवहार करना उचित नहीं होगा।

Production, Manufacture and Marketing of Natural Rubber

543. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) in view of the global crisis in the production of synthetic rubber what steps Government have taken so far to promote the production, manufacturing and marketing of natural rubber;

(b) whether there is any scheme to provide better price to the small growers of rubber; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to increase the overall production of rubber?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (c) The following measures are in operation for promoting the production, manufacturing and marketing of rubber:—

(1) Granting subsidy for replanting old low yielding rubber trees with high yielding planting materials;

(2) Granting loans for expanding the existing holdings to economic units and their maintenance;

(3) Distributing high yielding planting material;

(4) Distributing fertilisers and fungicides at concessional rates;

(5) Granting loans to Co-operative Societies for purchasing and distributing rubber rollers to members or to grant loans to members for purchasing rollers for processing rubber;

(6) Granting subsidy to Co-operative Societies/Small Growers for construction of Smoke Houses for processing rubber;

(7) Granting Financial Assistance as Share Capital and Working Capital to Marketing Societies Undertaking marketing of rubber;

(8) Free Technical Advice to the growers on all aspects of rubber cultivation and processing;

(9) Setting up of a Pilot Project in Andamans to establish technical feasibility of rubber cultivation;

(10) Setting up of a Plantation Corporation in Kerala as a Centrally Sponsored Project for planting rubber.

(b) State Trading Corporation of India and the Government of Kerala (with Central loan assistance) are in the rubber market to ensure that the small grower of rubber gets the minimum notified price.

Development of Dharmashastha Temple at Sabarimala and Guruvayur Temple (Kerala)

544. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have spent a large amount of money to develop some of the very prominent religious places of worship and temples as centre of tourist attraction;

(b) if so, the reason why the temple of Dharmashastha at Sabarimala in Kerala, where three million pilgrims visited from several States of India during January, 1974 only has not been developed;

(c) whether Government propose to develop Guruvayur temple in Kerala which attracts thousands of people from several States every day throughout the year; and

(d) whether Government have received any proposal in this regard and if so, its salient features and the decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI):

(a) No, Sir. The development of facilities at pilgrim centres is mainly the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Department of Tourism is, however, constructing Tourist Bungalows at Rameshwaram and Mantrallaya, and a youth hostel at Puri, but these facilities are not primarily intended for pilgrim traffic.

(b) to (d). The proposals relating to provision of facilities for pilgrims in the form of accommodation, water supply, electricity, toilet facilities, medical facilities, construction of approach roads etc. at Sabarimala, Pampa, Aranmula, Varkala, Thiruvallam, Alwaye, Ettumanoor, Vaikom and Neryattinkara at an estimated cost of Rs. 7.55 crores were received from the Travancore Devaswom Board, which is a statutory body. In view of the constraint on resources and other priorities, the Central Government is not in a position to provide funds to the Devaswom Board for the comprehensive scheme proposed by them.

The Government of Kerala have, however, included the schemes for provision of tourist facilities at Sabarimala and Guruvayur temples in the State Plan.

New Aerodrome near Cochin

545. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA:
SHRI C. H. MOHAMMED
KOYA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the report submitted by the investigation team of the Department of Civil Aviation regarding the location of new aerodrome near Cochin;

(b) the names of the places examined by the team and the broad outlines of their findings; and

(c) the basis on which the Government had taken its decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI):

(a) to (c). The survey reports on various sites are still under evaluation in the Civil Aviation Department.

रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा व्यापारियों को दी गई अग्रिम राशिओं की वापसी

546. श्री ओंकार लाल बरैया : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रिजर्व बैंक ऑफ इण्डिया ने जिन व्यापारियों को आर्थिक सहायता दी थी, उन्हें धन वापिस करने को कहा है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं , और

(ग) उसे कब तक वापिस किया जाना है ?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री बहाबन्तराव चव्हाण) : (क) से (ग) यद्यपि भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने व्यापारियों को दिये गये अग्रिमों का वापिस मांगने के लिए बैंकों को कोई एकमुश्त हिदायत नहीं दी है ; तथापि मुद्रा सप्लाई के काफी विस्तार और बढ़ी हुई कीमतों के सन्दर्भ में वर्तमान काम काज के मौसम में नीति का समझना अधिक ऋण दिये जाने पर अधिकतम सम्भव प्रतिबन्ध लगाने की ओर है । इस नीति को द्रष्टि में रखते हुए रिजर्व बैंक ने वाणिज्यिक बैंकों को सलाह दी है कि यद्यपि उत्पादन तथा माल को लाने से जाने की वास्तविक आवश्यकता का पूरा किया जाना चाहिए जो तेजी से ऋण दे कर किया जा सकता है । रिजर्व बैंक ने बैंकों को यह भी सलाह दी है कि हाल में निकाली गयी सभी बड़ी रकमों की बारीकी से जांच कर खास तौर से 25 लाख रुपये या उससे अधिक की बड़ी सीमाओं वाली रकमों के सम्बन्ध में और सुझाव दिया कि जहाँ यह पाया जाय कि तात्कालिक आवश्यकताओं से अधिक रकम निकाली गयी है तो उन्हें वापस मांगा जाय ।

दिल्ली/नई दिल्ली में राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों की शाखाएँ

547. श्री अम्बेदा : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिल्ली/नई दिल्ली में किन-किन राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों की शाखाएँ हैं और वे कहां पर स्थित हैं ; और

(ख) उक्त बैंकों की सभी शाखाओं में पृथक्-पृथक् दिनांक 8 नवम्बर, 1973 को कितने प्रतिशत अधिकारी, श्रेणीवार, उपस्थित थे ?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री बराबन्तराव चव्हाण) : (क) और (ख). एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा है। [प्रश्नालय में रखा गया। वृत्ति के संख्या एल. टी-6195/74]

Steps to conserve Foreign Exchange due to increase in Crude Oil Import Bill

548. SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to conserve foreign exchange resources in view of the heavy increase in Crude Oil Import Bill ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : Steps have been taken to curb the consumption of petroleum products to the extent possible. Efforts are also being made to boost the country's exports. Government is keeping the situation under constant review and suitable measures will be taken as necessary.

Foreign Exchange for Import of Caprolactum

549. SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sanctioned some foreign exchange in the form of letters of authority to nylon spinners for the import of caprolactum ; and

(b) if so, the particulars thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

Statement

Name of the Unit	Item	Against Free Foreign Exchange		Against Rupees Exchange	
		Qty. (Metric tonnes)	Value (Rs. lakhs)	Qty. (Metric tonnes)	Value (Rs. lakhs)
M/s J.K. Synthetics	Caprolactum	900	90 00	—	—
M/s J K. Synthetics	Nylon Chips/ Nylon Waste	280	21 00	—	—
M/s. Nirlon Synthetics	Caprolactum	700	58 69	50	9.27
M/s. Garware Nylon	Caprolactum	400	38.00	100	18.54
M/s. Garware Nylon	Nylon Chips	50	3.72	—	—
M/s. Century Enka	Caprolactum	100	6 65	50	9.27
M/s. Modipon	Caprolactum	664	74.84	—	—
M/s. Modipon	Nylon Chips	33	3.46	..	—
M/s. Shree Synthetics	Caprolactum	185	22.37	—	—
M/s. Gujrat Polymides	Caprolactum	400	46 50	50	9.27
TOTAL		3712.00	365.23	250	46.35

Effect of shortage of Shipping Space and Congestion at Ports on our Exports

550. SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether shortage of shipping space and congestion at ports is seriously hampering export of our country;

(b) whether there was any delay in execution of orders because of lack of shipping space during 1972-73; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) It is true that at times exporters are experiencing difficulty in obtaining timely shipping space due to global shortage of shipping and port congestion.

(b) No case of delay in execution of export orders during 1972-73 only because of lack of shipping space had been brought to the notice of Government

(c) Government is fully seized of the situation and measures are afoot to improve the ship supply position. Action has also been initiated to bring about better rapport between shippers and shipowners with the object of ensuring full utilisation of available shipping space.

Discussion held by Team of Officers of Orissa Government with Representatives of Commercial Banks

551. SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any team of officers of the Orissa Government has recently held discussions with the representatives of Commercial banks;

(b) if so, whether State Government's plan covering 13 Districts has been trimmed down from Rs. 150 crores to 35 crores;

(c) if so, whether the State Government has been assured of support by bankers in implementing the State's plan for development of agriculture by constructing 60,000 shallow tubewells over the next three years; and

(d) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) On the 24th January, 1974 the Orissa State Government had convened a meeting of the State Level Co-ordination Committee at which representatives from commercial banks were also present

(b) to (d) Information to the extent possible is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Implementation of agreement reached between Accountant General of Kerala and N.G.Os. Association

552. SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN:
SHRI A. K. GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the agreement reached between the Accountant General of Kerala and Non-Gazetted Officers' Association is not fully implemented so far; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). All the terms of the understanding reached between the Deputy Accountant General (Administration) of the Office of the Accountant General, Kerala and the Vice-President of the N.G.Os. Association of that Office on 24th February, 1973 have been implemented, except one. In accordance with that item, the Accountant General was to make favourable recommendation to the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Government of India for relaxation of the

rule regarding payment of salary for the period of pen-down strike from 7-1-73 to 19-2-73, provided the arrears of work were cleared by the staff according to the programme agreed to by the Association. Since the Accountant General's making the favourable recommendation was contingent upon the clearance of arrears as agreed to and since that condition had not been satisfied, the Accountant General could not make the recommendation.

Burst of Tyres of Air India Jumbo Jet at Palam Airport on 23-12-1973

553. SHRI PILOO MODY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether two tyres of an Air India Jumbo Jet burst while landing on run-way 28 at Palam Airport on the 23rd December, 1973;

(b) whether an Air France Jumbo Jet was involved in a similar incident when its tyres burst while landing on run way 28 at Palam Airport on the 27th December, 1973,

(c) whether investigations have been made into these incidents; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI):

(a) Air India Boeing 747 VTEBN was operating a scheduled service from Beirut to Delhi on 23 December, 1973. On landing at Delhi, two tyres were found burst, with the complete tread missing. Investigation into the incident revealed that the inboard wheel tyre tread separated from the main body of the tyre on take off at Beirut prior to landing at Delhi. On landing at Delhi, the other outboard tyre had burst.

The basic cause of the incident is due to tread failure on the inboard wheel tyre which has been sent to the retreaders for detailed examination.

(b) Air France Jumbo aircraft was involved in tyre burst incident at Palam while landing on run-way 28. This incident occurred on 25th December 1973 (and not December 27).

(c) The run-way was visited by the Civil Aviation officers and the Director, International Airports Authority. There were indications that during the landing, the under-carriage of Air France aircraft struck the Lufthansa wreckage.

(d) The debris of the Lufthansa aircraft at the beginning of runway 28 did not constitute an 'obstruction' as defined internationally for aircraft operations. However, as a matter of caution, the fact relating to the existence of this wreckage to a reduced height of 11 feet had been duly notified by Director General of Civil Aviation through a notice to Airmen issued on 24th December 1973. The wreckage of the Lufthansa aircraft was finally removed from its site on 2nd January, 1974.

This incident was due to an excessively low approach by the pilot of the Air France aircraft.

Alleged Harassment to Passengers of Crashed Lufthansa Boeing

554. SHRI PILOO MODY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some passengers of Lufthansa Boeing which crashed at Palam on the 20th December, 1973, were put on a London bound Kuwait Airways plane;

(b) whether the plane was directed by Kuwait to return to Delhi and drop the passengers bound for London and to take only those who had Kuwait as their destination;

(c) whether a number of passengers took exception to this behaviour of the Kuwait Airways; and

(d) the reaction of Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) :

(a) After making necessary enquiries from both Kuwait Airways and Lufthansa, it has been confirmed by the Director General of Civil Aviation that no passenger of the Lufthansa Boeing which crashed at Palam on 20th December 1973, was carried by Kuwait Airways.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Acceptance of fresh proposals for advances by Nationalised Banks

555. SHRI PILOO MODY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether a number of nationalised banks, including some commercial banks, have virtually stopped accepting fresh proposals for advances from any sector,

(b) whether it also includes the priority sector units;

(c) the reasons for the nationalised banks and commercial banks indulging in such methods of credit squeeze;

(d) the extent to which industry is suffering consequently, and

(e) the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) to (e).

In the context of the significant increase in money supply and pressure on prices, the Reserve Bank of India's current busy season credit policy is oriented towards tightening credit control measures. These include, *inter alia*, a ceiling on scheduled commercial banks, non-food credit expansion during the busy season, limiting the scheduled commercial banks' borrowing from Reserve Bank, and increase in statutory liquidity ratio requirements. The immediate compliance with these measures necessitated placing of restrictions on their advances by some banks even as they took stock of the situation and suitably regulated the flow of credit to the various

sectors. Adequate steps were, however, taken by all banks to ensure that flow of funds to priority sector and for productive purposes was not affected. Further, in terms of Reserve Bank of India's instructions banks are also endeavouring to meet all genuine credit needs for production and movement of goods, through a faster turnover of limits already sanctioned. Moreover, in order to ensure adequate flow of funds for the export sector, Reserve Bank has decided to exempt this sector from the quantitative ceiling on credit expansion during the current busy season and also to provide somewhat increased relinance facilities in this sector. Small Scale industrial units covered under the credit guarantee scheme have also been exempted from the requirements of increased margins stipulated earlier. The availability of the genuine credit requirements of industry and of the small borrowers in the priority sectors, including exports is thus not likely to be affected by the credit restrictions.

Mobilisation of resources of Indian settlers Abroad

556 SHRI PILOO MODY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether any initiative has been taken by the Government of India to mobilise resources of Indian settlers abroad to India's benefit,

(b) if so, the nature of initiatives, and

(c) whether as a result of these initiatives Indian settlers have come forward to invest money for developmental activities in India?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) to

(c). The problems relating to mobilisation of resources of Indian settlers abroad to meet the developmental requirements of the country are constantly under the review of the Government. Currently operations of non-resident accounts have been simplified. Further, persons may send amounts to non-resident (external) accounts to be opened in their own names. These accounts

are free from all restrictions and are also repatriable. Interest earned on external accounts is exempt from income tax. Response to this facility has been encouraging. Attention is also invited to the replies to Unstarred Questions No. 426 and 573 being answered separately. Further, as indicated in reply to Unstarred Question No. 426 the limit on import of machinery has been raised from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 25 lakhs.

विदेशी मुद्रा कोष

557. डा. लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय :

श्री ब्यालार राव :

क्या बिस्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि लायान्न तथा उद्योगों में लगाने वाले कच्चे माल के आयात पर हुए विदेशी मुद्रा के व्यय के कारण वर्ष 1970-71 की तुलना में वर्ष 1973-74 के दौरान विदेशी मुद्रा कोष में कितनी कमी आई ?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री यशवन्तराव चव्हाण) : रिजर्व बैंक के विदेशी मुद्रा कोष में मार्च 1973 के अन्तिम शक्रवार को 376.02 करोड़ रुपये की मुद्रा 8 फरवरी, 1974 को घटकर 356.18 करोड़ रुपये रह गयी। 43.58 करोड़ रुपये के पुनर्-मूल्यन लाभ को शामिल करने के बाद रिजर्व बैंक के विदेशी मुद्रा कोष में 1973-74 में अभी तक 63.42 करोड़ रुपये की श्रद्ध कमी हुई है जो विभिन्न लेंडनें जिनमें अनाज और औद्योगिक कच्चा माल शामिल हैं, के कारण हुई। पूरे 1970-71 में रिजर्व बैंक के विदेशी मुद्रा कोष में 116.13 करोड़ रुपये की कमी हुई थी, इस कमी का बहुत बड़ा हिस्सा मुख्यतः अन्तर्देशीय मुद्रा निधि को अदायगीयां करने के कारण था।

रतलाम तथा मंदसौर जिलों में अफीम की खेती के लिए लाइसेंस

558. डा. लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय : क्या बिस्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रतलाम तथा मंदसौर जिलों में कुछ स्थानों पर अफीम के काश्तकारों को इस

वर्ष अफीम की खेती का लाइसेंस प्राप्त करने में भारी कठिनाइयां हुईं ;

(ख) क्या रतलाम जिले के अफीम काश्तकारों को उक्त कार्य के लिये बहुत चक्कर काटने पड़े ;

(ग) क्या यह कठिनाई उपर्युक्त समय पर नीति निर्धारण न किये जाने के कारण हुई ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इस कठिनाई को दूर करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाये हैं ?

बिस्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कै. आर. गणेश) : (क) और (ख) जून, 1973 में अफीम के किसानों को लाइसेंस देने से संबंधित नीति निर्धारित करने के बाद, इस नीति का, ऐसे क्षेत्रों में, जहां किसानों को लाइसेंस देने का निर्णय किया गया था, संचार के विभिन्न माध्यमों द्वारा अधिकतम प्रचार किया गया। रतलाम और मंदसौर जिलों के कितने ही गांवों में बन्दोबस्त केंद्र बनाये गये थे जहां उरा गांव के तथा आस-पास के गांवों के कृषकों को लाइसेंस दिये गये। यह इसलिये किया गया था कि किसान, अधिकारियों के साथ आसानी से सम्पर्क स्थापित कर सकें। लेकिन, कुछ ऐसे मामलों में, जिनमें अधिकारियों द्वारा पूछताछ की जानी थी, पहले दारें में ही लाइसेंस नहीं दिये जा सके।

(ग) लाइसेंस जारी करने के संबंध में सरकार की नीति निर्धारित करने में कोई विलम्ब नहीं हुआ, जिसकी घोषणा, पोस्ट का मासम प्रारम्भ होने से बहुत पहले, जून, 1973 में कर दी गई थी।

(घ) यह प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

मध्य प्रदेश में अफीम का कारखाना

559. डा. लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय : क्या बिस्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या नीमच (मध्य प्रदेश) में अफीम के कारखाने का विस्तार किया जा रहा है ;

(ख) क्या वहां पर एक अल्कासाइड कारखाना भी निर्माणाधीन है ;

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो अल्कासाइड कारखाने का कार्य कब तक पूरा हो जायेगा ; और

(घ) इस पर कुल कितना व्यय होगा ?

बाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री ए. सी. जार्ज) : (क) विगत 3 वर्षों तथा चालू वर्ष के दौरान मोटरगाड़ियों के हिस्से पुर्जों के निर्यात निम्नांकित प्रकार रहे :

विस्तार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कै. आर. गणेश) : (क) फिलहाल नीमच में अफीम कारखाने का विस्तार नहीं किया जा रहा है। किन्तु सितम्बर, 1972 में नीमच के अफीम कारखाने में ब्रिटेन से आयात किया गया एक मिश्रण-एवं-शोधक यंत्र (मिक्सर-कम ड्रायर) अवश्य स्थापित किया गया था और वर्ष 1972 में एक नए गोदाम का निर्माण करके, अफीम कारखाने की भंडारण-क्षमता का भी विस्तार किया गया था।

(ख) जी, हाँ।

(ग) लगभग जुलाई, 1974 तक संयंत्र की प्रतिस्थापना पूरी कर लिये जाने की संभावना है। संयंत्र में उत्पादन अभी आरंभ हो सकेगा जब उसके बाद इसका परीक्षण के तौर पर सफलतापूर्वक चला लिया जाये, जिसमें 3 से लेकर 6 महीने लग सकते हैं।

(घ) अब इस परियोजना पर 172.41 लाख रुपये का कुल व्यय होने का अनुमान है।

मोटर गाड़ियों के पुर्जों (आटोमोबाइल पार्ट्स) के निर्यात से बनाई गई विदेशी मुद्रा

560. डा. लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय : क्या बाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मोटर गाड़ियों के पुर्जों (आटोमोबाइल के पार्ट्स) के निर्यात से गत वर्षों में वर्षवार, कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा की आय हुई ;

(ख) मोटर-गाड़ियों के पुर्जों (आटोमोबाइल पार्ट्स) के निर्यात को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाये हैं ; और

(ग) भारत में मोटर गाड़ियों के पुर्जों (आटोमोबाइल पार्ट्स) के प्रमुख-निर्माता तथा निर्यातक कौन-कौन हैं ?

	क्रोड़ रु.
1970-71	5.29
1971-72	6.54
1972-73	5.40
1973-74 (अप्रैल-सितम्बर)	7.42

(ख) मोटर गाड़ियों के हिस्से पुर्जों सहित इंजीनियरी माल के निर्यात बढ़ाने के लिए निम्नांकित कदम उठाए गए हैं :

1. पंजीकृत निर्यातकों के लिए आयातित कच्चे माल की व्यवस्था ;
2. प्राथमिकता आधार पर इस्पात तथा एलुमिनियम जैसे कच्चे स्वदेशी माल की सप्लाई ;
3. निर्यात हेतु माल तैयार करने के लिए सहकारी क्षेत्र अभिकरणों द्वारा कीर्तपण कच्चे माल के विपुल परिमाण में आयातों की व्यवस्था करना ;
4. हाल ही में स्थापित किए गए विकास प्राधिकरण को, कीर्तपय चुनी हुई वस्तुओं का निर्यात उत्पादन बढ़ाने और विदेशों में उनके विपणन करने का कार्य सौंपा गया है ;
5. परियोजना तथा उपस्कर निगम, इंजीनियरी माल का निर्यात बढ़ाने के लिए अपने क्रियाकलापों में वृद्धि कर रहा है ;
6. विपणन क्षमता विकसित करने तथा देश के विकास की विद्यमान अवस्था में जो कमियां हैं उन्हें समाप्त करने के लिए चुने हुए उत्पादों के निर्यातों पर प्रतिपूरक समर्थन दिया जाता है ;
7. सीमा-शुल्क तथा केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्कों की वापसी तथा कीर्तपय निर्यात उत्पादों पर रिवायती रेल भाड़ा भी दिया जाता है ; और

8. उपरोक्त के अतिरिक्त, इंजीनियरी निर्यात संबंधी परिषद्, सतत, आधार पर निम्नांकित कदम उठा रही है : व्यापार प्रतिनिधि मंडलों व तथा अध्ययन दलों को भोजना, विदेशों में बाजार सर्वेक्षण करना, निर्यातकों के बीच व्यापार संबंधी जानकारी देना, विदेशों में प्रचार तथा प्रसार, अन्तर-राष्ट्रीय प्रदर्शिनियां तथा व्यापार गैलॉ आदि में भाग लेना ।

(ग) मोटरगाड़ी के हिस्से पुर्जों के कुछ प्रमुख विनिर्माता तथा निर्यातक निम्नीलिखित हैं :—

- (1) मैसर्स मोटर इंस्ट्रूज कं. लि.
- (2) मैसर्स एस्कार्ट्स लिमिटेड.
- (3) मैसर्स गैबोरियल इंडिया लि.
- (4) मैसर्स यूनिनयन मैन्युफैक्चरिंग कं.,
- (5) मैसर्स गैरार्क्स एंड आयल गील्स प्रा. लि.
- (6) मैसर्स लुक्स टी. वी. एस लि.
- (7) मैसर्स सुन्दरम क्लंटन लि.
- (8) मैसर्स इंडिया त्रिस्टन लि.
- (9) मैसर्स बीला इंडिया लि.
- (10) मैसर्स मुरारका इंजीनियरिंग वर्क्स
- (11) मैसर्स ब्रान्स इंडिया लि.
- (12) मैसर्स इंजन वाल्व्स लि.
- (13) मैसर्स टैकरान्स प्रा. लि.
- (14) मैसर्स आटोमोबाइल प्रोडक्ट्स आफ इंडिया लि.
- (15) मैसर्स टाटा एक्सपोर्ट्स लि.
- (16) मैसर्स हिन्दुस्तान मोटर्स लि.
- (17) मैसर्स बजाज आटो लि.
- (18) मैसर्स एनफील्ड इंडिया लि.
- (19) मैसर्स मीहन्द्रा एण्ड मीहन्द्रा लि.
- (20) मैसर्स अशोक लैलण्ड लि.

Import of Long Staple Sudanese Cotton

561. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to stop import of long staple Sudanese Cotton within the next five years; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). Since 1972-73 cotton season, import of long staple cotton from Sudan has been stopped, in view of increase in output of such cotton within the country. However, import of some extra-long staple cotton above 1-3/16" staple length is being allowed as such cotton is not yet being grown in the country in any appreciable quantity. A specific time-limit for stoppage of extra long staple cotton import cannot be predicted at present.

Curbs imposed by Reserve Bank of India on advances of Cooperative Banks

562. SHRI RAM PRAKASH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has imposed curbs on Co-operative bank advances also; and

(b) if so, the nature thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) :

(a) and (b). With a view to eliminating the possibility of the misuse of co-operative credit for speculation and hoarding of such sensitive commodities as food-grains, oilseeds, vegetable oils (including vanaspathi), sugar and khandsari, in the current busy season the Reserve Bank of India has imposed certain selective credit control measures. Advances made by Central Cooperative banks against cotton and kapas have been regulated by raising the margin fixed last year by 10 per cent and by restricting the aggregate level of

credit upto certain monetary limits. In order to ensure quick turnover, schedules for bringing down the levels of advances and borrowings have also been prescribed. The advances made by selected primary (urban) cooperative banks have also been brought under credit control measures by prescribing minimum margins, rates of interests and maximum levels of credit.

Re-Orientation of Customs, Excise and Income-Tax departments

563 SHRI NARENRA SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to re-orient the Departments of Customs, Excise and Income-Tax to achieve social and economic objectives is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the main features thereof;

(c) whether the proposal to bring forward a legislation to equip these departments with necessary powers is under consideration of Government; and

(d) if so, when that would be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) (a) to (d). It has been the constant endeavour of the Government that Customs, Central Excise and Income Tax Departments subserve the social and economic objectives of Government within their respective spheres of work. The steps taken by the Government in respect of each of these Departments so far are briefly indicated below:—

I. CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT

The rates of Customs duties are under constant review, keeping in mind such objectives as encouraging import substitution, making the rates progressive so as not to fall heavily on the weaker sections of the community etc.

Smuggling has been one of the major problems which this Department has been facing and the success of the socio economic objectives will depend on how effectively smuggling is stopped. Some of the steps taken by the Government to prevent smuggling are—

Systematic collection and follow up of information, keeping a watchful eye on the suspected smugglers, rummaging of suspected vessels or aircraft and checking of vulnerable sectors along the coast and the land frontiers. Additional launches and vehicles are being provided from time to time for effective interception, prevention etc. Some senior officers of the rank of Collectors of Customs, Additional Collectors of Customs and Assistant Collectors of Customs have been posted in vulnerable areas to look after anti-smuggling work exclusively. The Customs Act, 1962, was amended in 1969 making additional provisions to take special measures for the purpose of checking illegal import of certain commodities and facilitating their detection. Recently, the Customs Act, 1962, has been further amended to provide more severe punishment for smuggling offences and to plug loopholes.

The question of augmenting anti-smuggling staff and acquisition of fast sea-going launches is under active consideration. The position is kept under constant review.

II CENTRAL EXCISE DEPARTMENT

On the Central Excise side, the objective is being achieved through constant review of the taxable commodities and rates of levies to make them progressive. The procedural requirements are also simplified for small producers and manufacturers of excisable goods within the frame work of the Self Removal Procedure. A Committee is also going into the Self Removal Procedure. Incentives have also been provided to small entrepreneurs or self employed workers by grant of exemption or lower rated levies of duties through legislative and administrative measures.

Increased attention is also paid to combating tax avoidance and surreptitious removal of excisable goods.

It is also proposed to bring before Parliament a comprehensive Bill codifying, stream-lining and simplifying the Central Excise Law and Procedures keeping in view the need to inspire confidence in the manufacturers who are liable to pay excise duties and at the same time making stringent provisions for combating surreptitious removal of excisable goods without payment of duty.

III. INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT

The levy of Income-tax, Wealth Tax and Estate Duty at progressive rates, putting of limits on deductible salaries and perquisites to Directives and senior Executives, tightening the provisions regarding Trusts, increased attention to combating tax evasion and avoidance through legislative and administrative measures—giving incentives for savings and life insurance, etc., as also for industrialisation in required directions are some of the relevant features. Mass communication programmes for contacting the smaller tax payers and inspiring confidence in them and accepting bulk of the returns in the lower income cases are also designed to serve the same objective.

The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill 1973, based on the report of the Wanchoo Committee for strengthening the law was introduced in the Parliament some time back and is now before the Select Committee.

Ban on Export Paper

564. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision taken by Government to ban the export of paper in order to meet the shortage at home will have adverse affect on foreign exchange earnings;

(b) if so, the total loss involved; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (c). The export of "Writing and printing paper, all sorts" has only been banned with effect from 30th November, 1973. This is likely to affect the foreign exchange earnings only marginally.

महत्वपूर्ण कागजातों की 'माइक्रो फिल्म' बनाकर रखना

565. श्री लालजी भाई : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह

बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या दिनांक 4 जनवरी, 1974 को कलकत्ता के सेंट्रल बैंक के भवन में आग लग जाने से अधिकांश महत्वपूर्ण कागजात जलकर राख हो गए थे ;

(ख) क्या सरकार इस घटना से सबक लेकर भविष्य में महत्वपूर्ण कागजातों की 'माइक्रो फिल्म' बनाकर रखने के प्रस्ताव पर विचार कर रही है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो प्रस्ताव की मुख्य बातें क्या हैं ?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री बशवन्तराव चव्हाण) :

(क) सेंट्रल बैंक आफ इण्डिया ने यह सूचित किया है कि उसे कर्सी चेस्ट में रखी सारी नकदी, स्ट्रांग रूम में रखे सभी कागजात और प्रतिभूतियाँ और वाल्टों से डिपॉजिट लाकर ठीक-ठाक मिल गए हैं ।

(ख और ग). कलकत्ता में आग की वारदात होने से काफी पहले सेंट्रल बैंक अपने रिकार्डों की माइक्रो फिल्मों लेंन पर विचार कर रहा था । माइक्रो फिल्मों से दस्तावेजों की नकल तो मिल सकती हैं लेकिन इससे असली कागजात और प्रतिभूतियों का आग से नुकसान होने से नहीं बचा जा सकता । चूंकि माइक्रो फिल्म तैयार करने की मशीनें बहुत महंगी हैं और वे बाहर से मंगवानी पड़ेगी, इसलिए ऐसा करना व्यावहारिक प्रतीत नहीं होता ।

पंचवीं योजना के दौरान राजस्थान में पर्यटन केंद्रों का विकास तथा होटलों का निर्माण

566. श्री लालजी भाई :

श्रीमती कृष्ण क. मारी :

क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) राजस्थान में वे स्थान और ऐतिहासिक स्थल जहाँ से हैं जिन्हें केंद्रीय सड़क पांचवी पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान पर्यटन केंद्रों के रूप में विकसित करना चाहती हैं ; और

(ख) उक्त अवधि में राजस्थान के किन स्थानों पर पर्यटकों के लिये होटलों और बंगलों का निर्माण करने का सरकार का विचार है ?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा. सरोजिनी माहिषी) : (क) पर्यटन की पांचवी योजना के दौरान, सांस्कृतिक पर्यटन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत, भरतपुर, डीग जयपुर तथा जैसलमेर में सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था करने के लिए योजनाएं प्रारंभ करने का प्रस्ताव है ।

(ख) भारत पर्यटन विकास निगम की पांचवी पंचवर्षीय योजना में जयपुर में 100 कमरों/200 शय्याओं वाले एक 3-स्टार मोटल के लिए 135 लाख रुपये का आवंटन सम्मिलित है । एक व्यवहार्यता अध्ययन हो जाने पर इस कार्य के 1974-75 के दौरान प्रारंभ कर दिये जाने की आशा है ।

भरतपुर में एक विश्रामगृह तथा जैसलमेर में एक पर्यटक बगले का निर्माण कार्य जो कि सांथी योजना के दौरान प्रारंभ किया गया था भी पूरा किया जाएगा ।

Import of Newsprint from Bangladesh

567. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Bangladesh had agreed to supply 10,000 tonnes of newsprint to India ;

(b) if so, when the supplies arrived or are expected to arrive; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the imports of newsprint from Bangladesh?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) 3543 metric tonnes of newsprint have already been supplied by the Bangladesh Paper and Board Corporation. The balance quantity will be supplied by the end of June, 1974.

(c) There is possibility of supply of a further quantity of 7000 tonnes of newsprint from Bangladesh in 1974

Effect of Fuel price hike on Tourist traffic to India

568 SHRI E. V. VIKHE PATIL :

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIF

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether fuel price hike is likely to effect adversely the tourist traffic to India; and

(b) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to offset the effect of fuel price rise on the volume of tourist traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) : (a) Tourist figures for 1973 indicate that so far the rise in fuel prices has not affected tourist traffic to India. 4,09,895 tourists came to India during 1973 against the target of 4 lakhs 45,295 tourists came in December 1973 against 40,563 in December 1972 showing an increase of 11.7 per cent. However, it remains to be seen what effect the increase in international air fares will have on tourism to this country and much will depend on the level at which world oil prices settle during 1974.

(b) Government are trying to ensure that concessional fares on Air-India and internal air fares are kept down to the lowest levels consistent with viable operations of the air lines. Steps are also being taken to increase our joint promotional efforts with Air India in the tourism—generating markets of USA, Europe and Japan. In order to stimulate tourist traffic from West Asia, a regional office for tourism promotion is being set up in Beirut.

Consultancy and development Services rendered by Public Sector Banks

569. SHRI E. V. VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the main features of "Consultancy and Development Services" rendered by the public sector banks for helping small entrepreneurs for setting up viable projects; and

(b) whether such services are available in branches of nationalised banks located in rural areas for industrial projects?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) :

(a) The arrangements for provision of consultancy and development services to small entrepreneurs vary from bank to bank. While most public sector banks have set up separate cells for this purpose in their Head Offices, some have provided such cells in their Zonal/Regional offices as well as at the larger branches offering good potential for financing small entrepreneurs. The banks have formulated specific schemes, some of them in collaboration with outside agencies to assist potential entrepreneurs. Some banks also participate through financial contribution in setting up consultancy organisations such as Kerala Industrial Technical Consultancy Organisation and North Eastern Industrial Technical Consultancy Organisation which are concerned with the preparation and scrutiny of project report for small and medium scale entrepreneurs.

In addition to extending credit on easy terms, the banks also generally assist entrepreneurs in giving proper shape to their proposals. In some cases, complete package of services covering formulation of schemes, advice on procurement of raw materials and marketing, arrangements for in plant training etc. are also extended to entrepreneurs.

(b) The provision of a separate cell for providing consultancy and development services in a particular branch would depend to a large extent on the potential for financing small entrepreneurs. As it may not be feasible to set up consultancy and development services at each of the branches of the nationalised banks located in rural areas, the arrangement which is currently in vogue is that development officers and other technical officers attached to the regional offices and bigger branches visit rural areas periodically and offer whatever consultancy services may be required by the present or prospective borrowers there. Moreover, almost all public sector banks have formulated special schemes for assisting units set up in Rural Industries Project areas. The project officers from the respective State Governments with the help of their technical officers and the economic investigators render consultancy assistance to the projects financed by banks.

Setting up of a Cotton Textile Export Corporation

571. SHRI SHRIKASHAN MODY :

SHRI D. D. DESAI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given up the idea of setting up Cotton Textile Export Corporation; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Submission of Memorandum by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry regarding Adverse effect of Credit Squeeze on Industry

572. SHRI D. D. DESAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has submitted a memorandum to Government about the adverse effect of the recent credit squeeze on industry; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof and action taken by Government to avert any danger to industrial progress?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While broadly agreeing with the restrictive credit policy of the Reserve Bank is so far as it is intended to curb trading activities of a speculative nature, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has contended that, this policy is unintentionally hurting manufacturing and export operations. It has also contended that in view of the price rise, the credit ceilings put by the Reserve Bank are hurting a number of industries like textiles, jute, sugar and engineering industries.

In view of the prevailing inflationary pressures in the economy which called for maximum possible monetary restraint the Reserve Bank announced certain credit ceilings and increase in interest rates for the 1973-74 busy season after a careful examination of the genuine needs of the productive sectors of the economy. In order to ensure that credit needs of the export sector and small scale industries were met adequately, the Reserve Bank subsequently relaxed its restrictions in respect of credit to these sectors. Thus, bank credit to the export sector was kept out of the ceiling on credit expansion stipulated earlier and banks were also promised increased refinancing facilities on the basis of their performance in

the export sector. The Reserve Bank has been operating its credit policy flexibly without impairing in any way the credit needs of genuine productive sectors.

Permission to Indians residing abroad for holding accounts in Indian Banks in Foreign Exchange

573. SHRI D. D. DESAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a request by Indians residing abroad to allow them to hold accounts in Indian Banks in foreign exchange; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) :
(a) and (b) The matter is under consideration.

Loan advanced by Nationalised Banks in Gujarat to unemployed Engineering to start their Business

574. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL :
SHRI VEKARIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed engineers who were advanced loans by the Nationalised Banks in Gujarat to start their factories or business during the last three years, and

(b) the amount of loan advanced to them, District-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). Public Sector Banks do not maintain separate statistics regarding the number of unemployed engineers who are advanced loans to start factories/business. The advances to such persons would generally find a place in the priority sector categories of "small scale industry" and "professional and self-employed". Avail-

able information in regard to public sector bank's advances to these two categories in Gujarat as at the end of June, 73 is set out below:

As on 30-6-1973		
Category	No. of borrowal accounts	Amount outstanding Rs. in crores
Small Scale Industries	13676 (units)	67.70
Professional & self-employed persons	14240	1.70

Dishonouring of contract by East European Countries for supply of Fertilizers to India

575. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL :
SHRI D. P. JADEJA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some East European countries have dishonoured the contract of supplying fertilizers to India;

(b) if so, which are these countries; and

(c) the reasons for dishonouring the contracts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (c). Some of these countries have approached us for renegotiating the outstanding contracts for supply of fertilizers on account of abnormal increase in ocean freight rates and prices of raw materials.

सिन्धीटिक नाइलोन फैक्टरी, उज्जैन द्वारा उत्पादन शुल्क का भुगतान न किया जाना

576. श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाब: क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सिन्धीटिक नाइलोन फैक्टरी, उज्जैन (मध्य प्रदेश) ने उत्पादन आरम्भ होने से अब तक वस्तुओं की कितनी मात्रा पर उत्पादन शुल्क का भुगतान नहीं किया गया है ;

(ख) क्या उक्त कम्पनी उत्पादन शुल्क के किसी प्रकार के अपचन में लिप्त है, और यदि हां, तो भविष्य में इस शुल्क अपचन को रोकने के लिये क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं ;

(ग) उक्त फैक्टरी के मालिकों तथा भागीदारों के क्या नाम हैं, और क्या कहीं अन्य भी उनका कोई और कारखाना है ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उन कारखानों के नाम क्या हैं और वे कहां कहां पर हैं ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य (श्री के. आर. गणेश) : (क) से (घ). सूचना एकत्रित की जा रही है तथा सभापटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

आयकर अधिकारियों द्वारा कानपुर की दुकानों पर छापे

577. श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाब : क्या वित्त मंत्री आयकर अधिकारियों द्वारा कानपुर की दुकानों पर छापे के बारे में 14 दिसम्बर, 1973 के अतारहित प्रश्न संख्या 4845 के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या जांच इस बीच पूरी हो चुकी है, और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या परिणाम निकले ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के. आर. गणेश) : (क) और (ख). जांच पूरी नहीं हुई है, परन्तु आयकर अधिनियम की धारा 132(5) के अन्तर्गत सरसरी तौर पर कर निर्धारण किया गया है और विभाग ने 4,49,022 रु. के मूल्य की चांदी, चांदी के गहने और चांदी के सिक्के अपने अधिकार में रख लिये हैं।

Plan to Import Raw Material for export purposes

578. SHRI R. S. PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether Government have been urged to chalk-out a long term plan for the import of raw material for goods to be exported; and

(b) if so, the decision of Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All possible steps are being taken to meet the requirements on a long term basis.

Enquiry into the destruction of Bales of Jute in a Godown at Kidderpore Dock

579. SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have instituted an inquiry into the destruction of 10,000 bales of jute in a godown at Kidderpore Dock due to fire;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) whether this jute was purchased from some foreign country; and

(d) if so, the names of the country and the purpose of purchasing the jute?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (d). 10,000 bales of raw jute are reported to have been burnt in one of the godowns in the Calcutta port. The godown was hired by the National Trading Co., a Nepal Government undertaking. The jute is reported to be of Nepalese origin belonging to the Nepal Government undertaking meant for exports. The raw jute does not appear to have been purchased by any Indian concern. The Port Commissioner is understood to have ordered an enquiry which is in progress.

Profits earned by Cotton Textile Industry during 1971-73

580. SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of profits earned by the Cotton Textile Industry during 1971-72 and 1972-73 and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to reduce the price of Cotton Textiles?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) A study of balance sheets of 228 cotton textile mill companies in the private sector for the year 1972-73 reveals their gross profit (after depreciation but before interest, development rebate and taxation) as Rs. 8,664.73 lakhs in 1972-73 as compared to Rs. 5,171.33 lakhs in 1971-72.

(b) There is a scheme of Controlled Cloth covering 400 million metres of cloth in the five categories of Dhooties, Sarees, Long cloth, Drill and shirting. The prices were fixed in May 1968 and have not been revised. In addition a Voluntary Price Restraint Scheme was brought into effect from 20.7.73 according to which all composite cotton textile mills agreed to maintain ex-mill prices of wearable varieties of non-controlled cloth upto higher medium category at November, 1972 levels plus 10 per cent. The distribution margin of non-controlled cloth under the scheme was limited to 20 per cent over the ex-mill prices inclusive of excise duty. The scheme stands extended upto 28th February, 1974.

Central assistance for creating facilities for Foreign Tourists

581. SHRI VEKARIA:

SHRI D. P. JADEJA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) The total amount of Central assistance provided for creating facilities for foreign tourists to states, state-wise during the years 1971-72, 1972-73 and 1973-74.

(b) the total amount spent by these States during that period?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL
AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI):**

(a) Development of facilities for foreign tourists is mainly the responsibility of the Central Government. Most such schemes are included in the Central Plan. No financial assistance is given to State Governments for these schemes, but they are executed with the cooperation of State Governments who are expected to provide power and water supplies, road links and so on. The expenditure incurred by the Central Government during the last five years is as follows :

(Rs. in lakhs)

1969-70 to 1971-72 (Actuals)	1098.69
1972-73 (Actuals)	719.49
1973-74 (Anticipated)	745.00
TOTAL:	2563.18

(b) A statement showing the expenditure incurred by State Governments on tourism schemes during 1971-72, 1972-73 and 1973-74 is appended.

Statement

Name of the States and Union Territories	1971-72 Actual Expnd.	1972-73 Actual Expnd.	1973-74 anticipa- ted
1. Andhra Pradesh	4.61	—	—
2. Assam	4.08	5.00	15.88
3. Bihar	3.90	3.00	5.00
4. Gujrat	13.00	20.08	21.00
5. Haryana	80.57	44.00	45.00
6. Himachal Pradesh	14.69	40.00	25.00
7. Jammu & Kashmir	113.53	69.75	70.00
8. Kerala	14.20	10.30	*
9. Madhya Pradesh	11.37	24.30	26.94
10. Maharashtra	26.49	29.11	45.00
11. Mysore	3.90	12.00	12.00
12. Manipur	1.00	2.00	4.00
13. Meghalaya	1.25	6.25	10.00
14. Nagaland	3.14	5.00	8.00
15. Orissa	12.44	7.00	9.65
16. Punjab	5.07	14.00	18.97
17. Rajasthan	25.73	15.50	12.00
18. Tamil Nadu	10.00	12.00	*
19. Tripura	0.24	0.50	2.88
20. Uttar Pradesh (excluding Uttar Khand)	7.00	16.00	..
21. West Bengal	10.00	13.00	13.00
..	366.19	348.79	844.32
22. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.02	1.00	0.50
23. Chandigarh	—	—	—
24. Goa, Daman & Diu	8.66	7.90	8.00
25. Pondicherry	2.94	3.52	6.74
	12.62	12.42	15.24

*Figures are awaited from the States concerned.

Foreign exchange required as a result of increase in prices of crude oil

582. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how much more foreign exchange shall be needed for importing all the oil India needs in the year 1974-75 as a result of increase in prices of crude oil by oil producing countries;

(b) how the gap is contemplated to be filled up; and

(c) whether any success is likely to be achieved in persuading the oil producing countries to buy more and more Indian goods partly to compensate the exchange deficit being affected by purchase of oil?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) No estimate of additional foreign exchange needs in 1973-74, over and above the normal requirements, arising from escalation of international crude oil prices, is possible at this stage. Additional foreign exchange needs would depend on the levels at which prices stabilize over a period and the extent to which economies can be made in consumption.

(b) and (c). Measures to restrict the use of POL to meet the bare essential requirements have been initiated. Export drive has been intensified and special emphasis is being laid on the need to increase our exports particularly to West Asian countries. Efforts are also being made to obtain larger assistance from foreign governments and institutions by way of debt relief and for imports of maintenance requirements

Impact of fall in value of sterling on Indian rupee

583. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA :
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the effects on Indian currency and economy due to the fall in the value of the pound sterling recently;

(b) whether any adjustments have been made or are being made to offset the differences in value of the sterling and other foreign currencies including the dollar in so far as rupee is concerned; and

(c) what are the actual effects, in terms of loss or gain in rupee value of the fluctuations in the prices or value of foreign currencies in world markets?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) The exchange rate of the Indian rupee is designated in terms of pound sterling. Variations in the exchange rate of pound sterling with other currencies lead to similar variations in the exchange rate of rupee vis-a-vis other currencies. The recent decline in the value of the pound sterling may well have improved the competitive position of our exports. There do not seem to have been any other significant effects on the economy.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The rupee has depreciated significantly against the dollar, but has improved against DM and has remained more or less steady in respect of yen.

Import of Newsprint by S.T.C. during 1974

584. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the State Trading Corporation for timely import of newsprint during 1974; and

(b) the broad outlines of the contracts entered into with various countries for supply of newsprint?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) As a result of firm contracting during '74 as well as contracts entered into earlier, a supply of 1,46,000 tons of newsprint is expected during the year. Besides there is an option for purchase of further 30,000 tons of newsprint from Canada subject to confirmation by the suppliers.

(b) The following quantities of newsprint would be available for import from various countries during 1974:—

<i>Name of the suppliers</i>	<i>Quantit</i>
1. Canada	
New contracts	38,000 M/T
Old contracts	28,860 "
2. USSR	45,000 "
3. Bangladesh	12,500 "
4. Scannews (Old contracts)	11,000 "
5. F.P.M. (1973-74 contracts)	5,000 "
6. Czechoslovakia—1973 contracts	5,700 "
Total	1,46,060 M/T

Raid by Income Tax Department on film laboratories in Bombay

585. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax Department had recently carried out raids on certain film laboratories in Bombay;

(b) whether during these raids documents revealing concealment of crores of rupees were seized; and

(c) if so, the gist thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

Export Growth in Fifth Five Year Plan

586. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated amount of export growth envisaged in the Fifth Five Year Plan; and

(b) what are the main items accounted for increasing the export earnings?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) According to the Draft Fifth Five Year Plan 1974-79 the exports are envisaged to grow from Rs. 2000 crores in 1973-74 to Rs. 2890 crores in 1978-79 representing a compound growth rate of 7.6 percent per annum.

(b) The major items which are to make substantial contribution to export earnings are engineering goods, iron ore, handicrafts, (incl. pearls, precious stones and jewellery), cotton textiles, steel, fish and fish preparations, leather and leather products. These seven items account for about 2/3 of the total increase anticipated.

Items under Banned List for Exports

587. SHRI P. GANGADEB: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the list of items under the banned list for exports is lengthening;

(b) if so, why more items are being constantly added to it; and

(c) the steps taken to safeguard the equilibrium of external economy?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) (a) No, Sir.

(b) At the time of issue of the Exports (Control) Order 1968 on 8th March, 1968 29 items were banned. Since then there has been a net addition of 7 items in a period of about six years.

(c) At the time of addition or deletion of items from the banned list, due consideration is given to various economic factors likely need to earn larger foreign exchange and thus maintain external equilibrium and the requirements for domestic consumption.

Seizure of smuggled cloth and silver in Gujarat

588 SHRI P. GANGADEB Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether smuggled cloth worth Rs. 12 lakhs was seized by customs authorities in South Gujarat on 3rd January, 1974;

(b) if so, whether silver worth Rs. 9 lakhs was also seized from a jeep near Surat on 4th January, 1974; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) (a) to (c) On the night of 3rd/4th January 1974, Officers of the Customs Preventive branch of Bulsar Division of Ahmedabad Central Excise Collection, seized smuggled fabrics approximately valued Rs. 14 lakhs and razor blades valued about Rs. 24,000/- along with one vessel valued Rs. 75,000/- 10 crew members (3 foreigners and 7 Indians) have been arrested in this connection. Further proceedings are in progress.

On 4th January, 1974, the Customs Officers of Bulsar Division also seized an unclaimed jeep worth about Rs. 30,000/- which carried 1060 Kgs of silver valued about Rs. 8.64 lakhs at Ring Road, Surat. The silver was seized. Further investigations are going on.

Increase in Export during 1973-74 as compared to the previous year

589 SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHA-PATRA :

SHRI RAJDEO SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether exports from our country registered a 20 per cent increase during April to October, 1973 as compared to the corresponding period last year

(b) whether imports for the same period also increased by 33.7 per cent, and

(c) if so, the reasons for the adverse balance of trade?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir

(c) The main reason for the adverse balance of trade during April to October, 1973 was the large increase in imports, mainly of food, petroleum and petroleum products, non-ferrous metals and other essential raw materials necessary for maintaining the industrial production and economic growth of the country.

Illegal forward trading in Delhi

590 SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHA-PATRA Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Police vigilance and disconnection of telephone lines of the speculators have been able to check illegal forward trading in Delhi; and

(b) if not, what further action Government contemplates to stop illegal forward trading in Delhi?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) (a) and (b) Illegal forward trading has diminished since vigilance of Delhi Police and disconnection of telephone lines of speculators. Police have been instructed to step up their vigilance and to carry out now and then raids to stop illegal forward trading in Delhi.

Disposal of unclaimed items by International Airports Authority

592. SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Airports Authority has a collection of lost and unclaimed items;

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof and the estimated cost thereof; and

(c) how it is proposed to dispose of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI): (a) and (b). There are some lost and unclaimed items like blankets, overcoats, umbrellas, cameras, overnight bags, clothes, cosmetics, spectacles, hats, watches and jewellery at Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi airports. Their value is estimated at Rs. 3,300/-.

(c) These will be disposed of in accordance with the International Airports Authority (Lost Property) Regulations which are under consideration of Government and are expected to be promulgated shortly.

Export of blood derivatives to western countries

593. SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any investigation was conducted on the export of blood derivatives to western countries; and

(b) if so, the particulars thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Increase in India's total imports

594. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's total imports increased significantly during April—September, 1973 thereby registering a rise of 17 per cent over the imports during the corresponding period of the previous years; and

(b) if so, the figures and main reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). According to the data, published by the Director General Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta, imports during April—September, 1973 were Rs. 1117 crores and at this level were about 31 per cent higher as compared to the corresponding period of 1972. The main factor which has contributed to the expansion in imports during the first half of 1973 is larger imports of food grains, petroleum and petroleum products, non-ferrous metals, chemicals, machinery and transport equipment necessary for increasing the industrial production and sustaining growth of the economy.

Agreements between Management and various employees Unions and Associations of Indian Airlines

595. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines' Wage pacts lapsed in the 3rd week of January this year;

(b) if so, whether all agreements entered into between the management of the Indian Airlines and its various employees Unions and Associations since 1969 have also lapsed; and

(c) whether while entering into fresh agreements the management proposes to see that Indian Airlines Services are at par with other like Central Services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI):

(a) and (b). The period of validity of the agreements/settlements signed with the 8 Unions/Associations in Indian Airlines was up to 31st March, 1973 and thereafter till these were terminated by either party by giving two months' notice. The All India Aircraft Engineers' Association gave notice of termination of their agreement in February, 1973 and the Indian Aircraft Technicians' Association and the Air Corporations Employees' Union gave notices in April, 1973. The management reviewed the whole position in the light of past experience and terminated the settlements/agreements with all the Unions/Associations after due notice in November, 1973. Nonetheless, the provisions contained in the earlier settlements/agreements would continue to be in force until fresh settlements are reached.

(c) While negotiating fresh agreements/settlements, the management proposed to keep the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission and also the service conditions obtaining in other Public Sector Undertakings in mind.

Assurance by Commerce Minister on the Tariff Commission Report on artificial yarns and fibres

596. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commerce Minister had given an assurance during the discussion on the Tariff Commission Reports on Artificial Yarns and Fibres in the winter session last year that Century Enka and Shree Synthetics will be brought under the voluntary agreement soon, and that if they refuse to come in, other measures would be taken to bring them in line with other spinners;

(b) whether another unit, which is soon coming up in the private sector, will also be similarly brought in within the ambit of voluntary agreement;

(c) whether Century Enka, because it kept out of the voluntary agreement, has made a profit of Rs. 3 crores at the installed capacity of 2 tonnes a day; and

(d) whether Shree Synthetics who have an installed capacity of about 3 tonnes a day has made similar profits on its first year's working?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE):

(a) Yes, Sir; the two firms have been advised to agree to participate in the voluntary agreement between the spinners and weavers of nylon yarn so that 55 per cent of their production of flat yarn could be released to actual users at the agreed prices.

(b) This can be looked into as soon as this unit goes into commercial production.

(c) and (d). Government have no specific information about the quantum of profits of these firms on account of their non-participation in the voluntary agreement.

Circular issued by Maharashtra Bank and other nationalised banks regarding displaying of photographs of President and Prime Minister in their branches

597. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Bank and other nationalised banks have issued a circular directing their branches to display photographs of the present President and Prime Minister of India; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN):

(a) and (b). Of the 14 nationalised banks, Bank of Maharashtra and four other banks have issued, on their own, instructions for the display of photographs of the President and Prime Minister of the country, in some of their important offices, on the ground that the banks have now become wholly owned by the State.

Impact of rise in prices of Gold in Europe's bullion markets on its smuggling into India

598. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an extraordinary rise in the price of gold in Europe's bullion markets at the end of 1973;

(b) the impact of this rise on smuggling activities on the West coast of India;

(c) whether there has been any reduction in 1973 in the smuggling of ganja, opium and silver out of this country; and

(d) if not, the steps which Government propose to take in the current year to curb the smuggling activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) The price of gold in the bullion markets in Europe has been showing an upward trend from December, 1971 onwards. The price rise has been particularly high from December, 1973 upto now.

(b) The impact of the rise in price of gold abroad at a rate higher than the rise in price of gold in India has been that the smuggling of gold has declined very considerably. On the other hand, smuggling of synthetic fabrics has increased as smugglers of gold have apparently switched over partly to synthetics fabrics.

(c) There are no reliable means of estimating the extent of smuggling of any item. However, on the basis of figures of seizures of ganja, opium and silver there are no indications that smuggling out of narcotic drugs or silver has decreased in 1973.

(d) Anti-smuggling measures are kept under constant review. Some of the fast sea-going launches for which orders have been placed recently are likely to be delivered during the current year. It is also proposed to augment the anti-smuggling staff. Further measures are being taken to augment the equipment of various types available to the anti-smuggling staff.

Operation of a Third Shift in most of the Textile Mills in Bombay

599. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the textile mills in Bombay has been operating a third shift;

(b) whether as a result of the credit squeeze and shortage of furnace oil, some mills have decided to discontinue the third shift; and

(c) if so, the number of mills involved and its likely impact on production?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No decision by any mill in Bombay to discontinue its third shift as a result of the credit Squeeze or shortage of furnace oil is within the knowledge of Government.

अमृतसर रेयन सिल्क मिल्स लिमिटेड

600. श्री हृकम चन्व कछवाय : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या अमृतसर रेयन सिल्क मिल्स लिमिटेड, जी. टी. रोड, अमृतसर ने गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान कोई उत्पादन-शुल्क और आयकर अदा नहीं किया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है , और

(ग) उक्त कम्पनी में कितने भागीदार हैं और वे अन्य कौन-कौन सी कंपनियों के भागीदार हैं ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के. आर. गणेश) : (क) अमृतसर रेयन एण्ड सिल्क मिल्स प्राइवेट, लि. अमृतसर ने गत तीन वर्षों में केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क तथा आयकर की अदायगी कर दी है ।

(ख) यह प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

(ग) यह एक प्राइवेट लि. कम्पनी है न कि साझेदारी कम्पनी । इसलिए उक्त कम्पनी में साझेदारों की संख्या का प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

**WEALTH-TAX (AMDT.) RULES UNDER
WEALTH-TAX ACT, 1957,
NOTIFICATIONS etc.**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R.
GANESH) :** I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Wealth tax (Amendment) Rules, 1974 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S. O. 21(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 1974, under sub-section (4) of section 46 of the Wealth-tax Act, 1957. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6170/74.]

(2) A copy each of following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 38 of Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 :—

(i) The Central Excise (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 1973, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1359 in Gazette of India dated the 15th December, 1973.

(ii) The Central Excise (Fourteenth Amendment) Rules, 1973, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1360 in Gazette of India dated the 15th December, 1973. [Placed in Library. See No. IT-6171/74.]

(3) A copy of the Emergency Risks (Goods) Insurances (Fourth Amendment) Scheme, 1973 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 762(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 1973 under sub-section (6) of section 5 of the Emergency Risks (Goods) Insurance Act, 1971. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6172/74.]

(4) A copy of Emergency Risks (Undertakings) Insurance (Fourth Amendment) Scheme, 1973 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 763(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 1973, under sub-section (7) of section 3 of the Emergency Risks (Undertakings) Insurance Act, 1971 [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6173/74.]

(5) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Financial Corporation together with a statement of assets and liabilities, profit and loss account and Auditor's Report for the year 1972-73 published in Notification No. F. 6/10/73 Fin. (G) in Delhi Gazette dated the 1st November, 1973, under sub-section (3) of section 38 of the State Financial Corporations Act, 1951. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6174/74.]

(6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 114 of the Gold (Control) Act, 1968 :—

(i) The Gold Control (Licensing of Dealers) Amendment Rules, 1973, published in Notification No. S O 790(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 1973

(ii) S.O. 8 published in Gazette of India dated the 5th January, 1974 containing corrigendum to Notification No. S O 765(E) dated the 27th December, 1972 [Placed in Library. See No. IT-6175/74.]

(7) A copy of the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Fifth Amendment) Scheme, 1973 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 3467 in Gazette of India dated the 15th December, 1973, under sub-section (5) of section 9 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6176/74.]

(8) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 13 of the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 :—

(i) The Central Sales Tax (Registration and Turnover) (Second Amendment) Rules, 1973, published in Notification No. G. S. R. 519(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 73.

(ii) The Central Sales Tax (Registration and Turnover) (Amendment) Rules, 1974, published in Notification No. G. S. R. 26(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st February, 1974. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6177/74.]

(9) A copy of the Delhi Sales Tax (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 1973 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. 4(18)/73-Fin. (G) in Delhi Gazette dated the 6th December, 1973, under sub-section (4) of section 26 of the Bengal Finance (Sales Tax) Act, 1941, as in force in the Union territory of Delhi. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6178/74.]

(10) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 6(F) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 1974 making certain amendment to the Second Schedule to the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, under sub-section(2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6179/74.]

(11) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 17 of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 :—

(i) The New India Assurance Company Limited (Merger) Scheme, 1973, published in Notification No. S.O. 803 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1973.

(i') The United India Fire and General Insurance Company Limited (Merger) Scheme, 1973, published in Notification No. S.O. 804(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1973.

(iii) The Oriental Fire and General Insurance Company Limited (Merger) Scheme, 1973, published in Notification No. S.O. 805(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1973.

(iv) The National Insurance Company Limited (Merger) Scheme, 1973, published in Notification No. S.O. 806(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1973. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6180/74.]

(12) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

(i) G.S.R. 1361 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th December, 1973 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(ii) G.S.R. 1383 published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd December, 1973 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(iii) G.S.R. 1410 published in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 1973 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(iv) G.S.R. 541 (E) published in Gazette of India, dated the 29th December, 1973 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(v) S.O. 810(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1973 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(vi) G.S.R. 19(E) published in Gazette of India, dated the 31st December, 1973 together with an explanatory memorandum. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6181/74].

(13) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under the Central Excise Rules, 1944:—

(i) G.S.R. 520(E) published in Gazette of India, dated the 13th December, 1973 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(ii) G.S.R. 14(E), 15(E) and 16(E) published in Gazette of India, dated the

18th January, 1974 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(iii) G.S.R. 21(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th January, 1974 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(iv) G.S.R. 82 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th January, 1974 together with an explanatory memorandum. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6182/74].

(14) A copy of the Final Report of the Direct Taxes Enquiry Committee (Hindi version). [Placed in library See No. LT-6183/74].

REPORT (1973) OF THE TARIFF COMMISSION ON THE BIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE SERICULTURE INDUSTRY

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report (1973) of the Tariff Commission on the Biennial Review of the Sericulture Industry (Hindi version), under sub-section (2) of section 16 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951. [Placed in library. See No. LT-6184/74].

12.01 hrs

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 19th February, 1974, has passed the enclosed motion referring the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Bill, 1973, to a Joint Committee of the Houses and to request that the concurrence of the Lok Sabha in the said motion and the names of the Members of the Lok

Sabha to be appointed to the said Joint Committee may be communicated to this House.

MOTION

"That the Bill to regulate the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution or hospitality by certain persons or associations, and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 60 members; 20 members from this House, namely:—

1. Shri D. D. Puri.
2. Shri Chakrapani Shukla.
3. Shri G. R. Patil.
4. Shri Kali Mukherjee.
5. Shri Harsh Deo Malviya.
6. Shri Ganesh Lal Mali.
7. Shrimati Pratibha Singh.
8. Shri Kasim Ali Abid.
9. Shri Manubhai Shah.
10. Shri Emonsing M. Sangma.
11. Shri Shamlal Gupta.
12. Shri Om Prakash Tyagi.
13. Shri Kalyan Roy.
14. Shri S. S. Mariswamy.
15. Shri Sitaram Singh.
16. Shri D. Y. Pawar.
17. Shri Abu Abraham.
18. Shri K. P. Subramania Menon.
19. Shri Bhupinder Singh.
20. Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha.

and 40 members from the Lok Sabha; that in order to constitute a meeting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee;

that in other respects, the Rules of this House relating to Select Committees shall apply with such

variations and modifications as the Chairman may make;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the last day of the first week of the next Session; and

that this House recommends to the Lok Sabha that the Lok Sabha do join in the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of members to be appointed by the Lok Sabha to the Joint Committee."

12.02 hrs.

UNTOUCHABILITY (OFFENCES) AMENDMENT AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISION BILL

REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

SHRI S. M. SIDDAYYA (Chamarajanagar): I bet to present the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to amend the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 and further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

कुमारी मणिबेन पटेल (साबरकण्ठा) : अध्यक्ष जी, रात को 12 बजे मेरे पास एक तार आया है जो इस प्रकार है :

"Police atrocities beyond measure with no parallel even under foreign rule."

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इसके लिए प्रोसीजर बना हुआ है। एकदम आप खड़ी हो कर इस तरह से नहीं कह सकतीं। आपको लिख कर नोटिस भेजना होगा।

12.03 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government

Business in this House during the week commencing 25th February, 1974, will consist of:—

(a) Discussion on the President's Address.

(b) Consideration and passing of the Esso (Acquisition of Undertaking in India) Bill, 1974.

As Members are already aware, the Railway Budget for 1974-75 will be presented on Wednesday, the 27th February and the General Budget for 1974-75 on Thursday, the 28th February, 1974.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): I suggest that the following items should be taken up and due time allotted for the discussion of those subjects.

(1) In the last session it was agreed that the recommendations of the Sugar Commission should be discussed. I hope that some time will be allotted to that.

(2) We had already set up various committees for the Plan. I hope a comprehensive discussion of the Plan would be taken up.

(3) There have been references on a number of occasions to some of the aspects of the international monetary system. A comprehensive discussion, once and for all, should be taken up on this question so that members of this House will have the opportunity to express their view-points on the reforms to be introduced in the International Monetary Fund.

Very often, our representatives attend the international conferences. But they do not have the sense of the House. Therefore, I expect that a comprehensive discussion on this subject should be taken up.

Lastly, during the last session, I was myself permitted to initiate a discussion in the House on the Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute. I withdrew my motion when it was suggested that some time should be given to the Government to consider the proposition. I earnestly request

that if they have not been able to settle the dispute, the House should be taken into confidence and we should be given an opportunity to express our view-points as to the method in which the dispute should be settled.

सरकार पूरा करे। और अगर नहीं कर सकती है तो सदन को विश्वास में ले और बताये कि ऐसा सरकार ने क्यों किया? जो जेलों में हैं उनको रिहा करे और पूरी कार्यवाही जो लोगों के खिलाफ चल रही है उसको बिदहा करे।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : अध्यक्ष जी, मैं चाहता हूँ कि अगले सप्ताह में हम जिन बातों पर विचार करें उसमें ये बातें भी जोड़ी जायें। अखबारों में ये बातें निकल रही हैं, और मेरे पास अभी हिन्दी दैनिक "जनयुग" है जिससे पता चलता है कि भारतीय खाद्य निगम, जिसके बारे में इतना ज्यादा घोटाला चल रहा है देश के अन्तर उसकी बातें हो रही हैं, धान की कटाई के सिलसिले में 12 करोड़ रु के कपले का समाचार छपा है। इसी तरह से 20 करोड़ रु की गेहूँ साफ करने वाली मशीन बंकर पड़ी हुई है और इस तरीके से सरकार का पैसा बर्बाद किया जा रहा है। और इतना ही नहीं जो लोग इसके बारे में ध्यान आकृष्ट करते हैं अफसरों का यूनिफॉर्म के लोग, उनको सजा दी जाती है और वाहनों की यूनिफॉर्म के नेता श्री प्रेम कुमार जी इन बातों को लेकर भ्रष्ट हस्ताल कर रहे हैं। इन सबालों की जांच की जाय और मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस पर बहस हो।

दूसरी बात यह है कि 25 नवम्बर से 24 जनवरी तक इंडियन रेलवे लोको मॉकीनकल स्टाफ असोसिएशन ने वर्क ट, रूल किया और रेल मंत्री के हस्तक्षेप पर, उनसे बातचीत के बाद 24 जनवरी को हस्ताल खत्म हुई और कहा गया कि उनकी मांगों पर विचार किया जायगा और जिन लोगों ने आर्गुमेंट में भाग लिया है उनके खिलाफ कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की जाएगी। लेकिन उसके जनरल सेक्रेटरी सहित दर्जनों कार्यकर्ताओं का तबादला किया गया है और चार आदमी, दो रीनिंग स्टाफ के और दो मॉकीनकल स्टाफ के भगलपर सेंट्रल जेल के अन्दर एम आई एस. ए. के अन्दर गिरफ्तार हैं। तो कहा कुछ जाता है और किया कुछ जाता है और लोगों को जेल में डाला जाता है। इससे खतरा पैदा हो गया है कि फिर रेलवे में गड़बड़ी पैदा हो, हस्ताल की नौबत आ जाये यह अच्छा नहीं है। मैं चाहूंगा कि जो वायदे किये गये थे उन्हें

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाह (मुरादाबाद) : अध्यक्ष जी, मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि गुजरात विधान सभा का भंग करने वाली घोषणा कब करने वाली है। साथ में न्यायिक जांच आप कब कराने वाले हैं। तथा पुलिस की गोली से जो लोग मरे हैं या घायल हुए हैं उनको कितना-कितना मुआवजा आप देना चाहते हैं। इसके साथ ही जो शहीद हुए हैं उनके संबंधियों के प्रति प्रधान मंत्री दो सहानुभूति के शब्द कब कहनी वाली हैं।

देश में डाक्टरों की हस्ताल बन्नी जा रही है उससे मरीजों को परेशानिया हैं उसके बारे में सरकार क्या कार्यवाही करने जा रही है। इंजीनियरों ने हस्ताल कर रखी है उसके बारे में भी आप क्या कर रहे हैं, यह मैं जानना चाहता हूँ।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : अध्यक्ष जी, सदन कार्य मंत्री कुछ जवाब देना चाहते हैं।

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH. As the House is aware, regarding many of the subject suggested by the hon. Members there will be opportunities to discuss them during the discussion on the President's Address, the General Budget and the Demands for Grants. In any case, I shall convey to the Minister concerned the desire of the hon Members. There is also the Business Advisory Committee which will look into the suggestions made.

MR SPEAKER. Even if there is going to be a debate, the Members have asked for certain statements or informations. When the Ministers reply, they should also be dealt with.

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH. I shall convey it to the Ministers concerned.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the Business Advisory Committee had decided in the last Session to admit certain items. At least those items like the Sugar Commission's recommendations should receive priority in this Session.

श्री हुकम चन्व कछवाब : अध्यक्ष महाशय उत्तर दिलावाएं। गुजरात में हर रोज गोलीयां चल रही हैं, लोग मारे जा रहे हैं, वहां कोई सरकार नहीं। वहां कल भी और आज भी गोली चली है। आपकी सरकार यह सब करवा रही है। (इंटरप्शन) मैं आपसे प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि उत्तर दिलावाएं। क्या जो घटनाएं वहां घटी हैं उनकी न्यायिक जांच करवाने के लिए तैयार हैं। विधान सभा को भंग करने के लिए तैयार हैं। यह एक गम्भीर विषय है। इसकी चर्चा मदन में होनी चाहिए। जल्दी इस पर चर्चा होनी चाहिए।

अध्यक्ष महाशय : एडजर्नमेंट मोशन आप लाए थे इस पर। मैंने उसकी इजाजत दी। चूंकि आपकी नादाद पूरी नहीं थी, उसको आपने वापिस लिया। उस पर मैंने कल कार्लिंग एंशन की इजाजत दी। कल आप नहीं थे। अगले सप्ताह प्रेजीडेंट्स एड्रेस पर बहस आ रही है। मैंने हायरेशन दिया है कि जो प्वाइंट्स रेंज किए गए हैं उनका बहस का जब जवाब दिया जाय तो इनका भी जवाब दिया जाए।

श्री हुकम चन्व कछवाब : यह बहुत महत्व का मामला है। रोज लोग गोली से मारे जा रहे हैं। स्पष्ट उत्तर आप क्यों नहीं दिलाते हैं कि विधान सभा भंग करने की घोषणा करेंगे, न्यायिक जांच बिठाने की बात को ये मानेंगे, जो मारे गए हैं या जल्मी हुए हैं उनके परिवार वालों को उचित मुआवजा देंगे और कब इस सारे मामले पर बहस का मौका ये देंगे।

अध्यक्ष महाशय : मैंने कह तो दिया है और आप क्या चाहते हैं? उलटा हो कर दिखाएं कि घोषणा कर रहे हैं।

श्री हुकम चन्व कछवाब : रोज लोग गोली से मारे जा रहे हैं।

अध्यक्ष महाशय : आप भी उन पर मेहरबानी करो।

श्री हुकम चन्व कछवाब : हम क्या करें। हम पर तो गोली चलाई जा रही है। सरकार को नहीं कहते हैं कि वह मेहरबानी करो। घरों में घुस कर लोगों को गोलीबारी से मारा जा रहा है।

अध्यक्ष महाशय : एक दिन एक मसला आया, दूसरे दिन आया। आप नहीं थे।

श्री हुकम चन्व कछवाब : लोक सभा के सामने भूख हड़ताल पर विद्यार्थी बैठे हैं। यह आंदोलन सारे देश में विद्यार्थियों का फैलने वाला है।

अध्यक्ष महाशय : सरकार को कह तो दिया है। पार्लियमेंटरी एफेयर्स के मिनिस्टर संबंधित मंत्री तक इस बात को पहुंचा देंगे।

श्री हुकम चन्व कछवाब : वह कुछ बोलते ही नहीं हैं।

अध्यक्ष महाशय : पार्लियमेंटरी एफेयर्स के मिनिस्टर कैसे बोल सकते हैं। वह कन्व कर देंगे। प्रोसीजर जो है उसको फालो तो करना चाहिए। उत्तर नहीं उत्तर प्रदेश हो रहा है।

श्री हुकम चन्व कछवाब : आप भी ऐसी बात कहते हैं। आपको तो ऐसा नहीं कहना चाहिए।

अध्यक्ष महाशय : आप तीन दिन कह रहे हैं? उत्तर प्रदेश में ही तो रहे और कह रहे हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश की वजह से नहीं आ सके और आज आते ही उत्तर मांगने लगे हैं।

12.15 hrs.

CINEMATOGRAPH (SECOND
AMENDMENT) BILL—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we take up
Cinematograph (Second Amendment) Bill.

Shri Gujral.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION
AND BROADCASTING (SHRI I. K.
GUJRAL): The hon. House will recall

[Shri I. K. GUJRAL]

that in 1965 the Rajya Sabha had passed a resolution asking for setting up of a committee to examine the working of the film censorship law. Accordingly, a Committee was set up under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Khosla on which, in addition to various other eminent people. Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were also represented. The Committee did a very worthwhile work and after years of labour they produced what is now commonly called the Khosla Committee Report and on that basis, the Government examined the law and we have now come before you to amend the censorship law as it was promulgated in 1952 and later on amended in 1958.

Censorship, to say the least, is a negative function. Generally speaking, negative functions are hardly popular. All the same, a variety of considerations, all firmly rooted in the principle of public responsibility, make it necessary for certain negative functions to be operative.

In our Constitution is enshrined the right to freedom as a fundamental right of the people of India. Under Article 19(a) the freedom of speech and expression is guaranteed to all citizens. However, this freedom is limited by certain reasonable restrictions in respect of the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence, etc. The law of censorship is the instrument of the discharge of public responsibility in respect of ensuring freedom of speech and expression subject to constitutional limitations.

Although the general principles of censorship remain fairly constant, several factors introduce a variety of variables. That is why, as the demands of society change, the system of censorship has also to change as the community keeps on adjusting to new norms and new situations.

The salient features of the present Bill which is before the House are that the censorship Board will not be merely an over-seeing advisory body as it is at present but will be actually involved in the judging of films, of course, with the assistance of assessors from different disciplines and with different social, cultural and professional background.

The Government propose to entrust the appellate functions to an independent tribunal whose advice will be accepted except in a few cases covered by Article 19(b) of our Constitution.

I may say here that so far as the issue of decency and morality is concerned, the Government, by and large, propose to abide by the findings of the appellate Board unless the Government find some very special reasons for intervention. The Government also has been feeling from time to time that the stage has come when we should very explicitly express our views regarding the trends about sex and violence in films which have been exhibited of late. When I brought into sharp focus the increasing trend of explicit sex and violence, the initial reaction in a section of the film-makers was one of fright and suspicion.

In deference to the strong wishes of this House and the other House and the intense public concern voiced by several public institutions and associations the Central Board of Film Censors had to perform the unhappy task of rigorously enforcing the code and even banning some films, which violated the principles defined in the code. I am glad to say that on due course within the industry itself voices of reason and responsible objectivity emerged in consonance with our own thinking and the unfortunate disastrous trends now seem to be on the wane. I appreciate that it is not easy to switch off the trends in a short span of time. However I do feel that it will not be fair not to notice the marked improvement which is noticeable. Several producers and directors are now coming forward to express fairly strongly against vulgarity obscenity

and violence and films which had shunned these elements completely as a matter of conscientious choice, are now gradually beginning to succeed at the box-office. I am relieved at this very happy development and through you, Mr. Speaker, I wish to place on record our appreciation for the new role which the leaders of the film industry have assumed to reverse the unfortunate trends. Public opinion is slowly asserting itself. I do feel that public opinion has finally prevailed because no media, especially the media like films, which has a direct social relevance can exist in a vacuum and without being sensitive to public opinion.

I do not want to go at length and amplify or reiterate what I have already said in the past. But I do hope the Members will take interest in this Bill and when I have heard them, I will be able to say more towards the close of this Debate.

But before I sit down I would like to say this that Government on its part will not be content by only relying upon the negative functions of censorship which as I submitted is inescapable in our circumstances, but would cause meaningful positive intervention in the film scene, which alone can contribute to the revival and regeneration of the Indian films. The honourable House is aware of our thinking to set up a Film Council as an apex body with consultative and regulatory role, a National Film Corporation to handle commercial activities in consonance with the broad principles of our film policy, the essence of which is that film is not a mere commercial commodity to be traded in, but an important input into our social and cultural milieu.

I do hope that with the proposed amendment Bill we are making our pattern of censorship meet our needs and also create conditions which are necessary for the full growth and development of the film medium.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion Moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952 as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Before I proceed with the consideration of the Bill, I have to inform hon. Members that the Foreign Minister has returned from Iran and he will make a statement at 6 O' clock in the evening, just at the end of the sitting.

There are two hours allotted to this Bill. I request hon. Members to confine themselves to the time limit. Before I call Mr. Hazra, I want to call Mr. Sreekantan Nair; he says he is not well and he wants to go; so I will give him chance now. Shri Sreekantan Nair.

SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR (Quilon): I am very thankful to you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to speak.

I called the attention of the hon. Minister to this Bill moment it was presented to this House and I pointed out how cumbersome it is and how it defeats its own purpose because it is so costly, and there are so many bodies constituted under this new amendment. I said then that the purpose will be defeated. Sir, admire his independence and his appreciation of aesthetic values and his resistance to pressures put in by some top members of his party in such matters.

So far as Censorship Board is concerned it is all right. With regard to the Appellate Tribunal you have got 11 members and you have got the examining committee.

In the very first page of the Bill, there is constitution of an Examining Committee in relation to films; on page 2, for Section 3(a)(i) for the words 'not more than nine other Members', the words 'five other whole-time members and six honorary members' making a total of all shall be substituted. This will make it more costly.

[Shri N. Shreekantan Nair]

Again under 3A, you have provided for seven assessors in each language. That means the examining committee is very very costly to Government and it defeats the very purpose which you want to serve. I would have moved a motion for sending the Bill to the Select Committee. But, for want of time, I would only like to bring this to your notice for the consideration and also for the consideration of this House and also the hon. Minister so that this cumbersome procedure may be eliminated as far as possible.

That is all what I want to say.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Betul): Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the objects of the Bill are concerned, there would hardly be any controversy. As far as laudability and salutariness of the objects of the Bill are concerned, I entirely agree with the principles enunciated in the Bill. They are in conformity with some of the recommendations of the Khosla Commission.

On reading the report, one would find that the commission have rendered yeoman service to the film industry by going into great details of the various malaise of the industry and in suggesting remedies to get out of the malaise in which it has been languishing for decades.

The Bill seeks to revise essentially the set-up of the Central Board of Film Censors so ably pointed out by the very personable and able Minister of Information and Broadcasting. Censorship in the present stage of Indian society is utterly indispensable to maintain certain moral standards for those who go to see and view the motion pictures. We cannot, at this stage, ever dispense with the censorship of films because we have yet to ensure who are in the show business. And one cannot ever undermine the influence of films on the India society. This is one media of entertainment which is a very powerful media and it has the largest impact on the social and moral values which govern any open society permitting ex-

hibition of films, produced without State intervention. The impact of the films, particularly, on the younger generation is tremendous. They are at a stage when their mind is still cultivable. It can be cultivated in the direction which could be highly dangerous and pernicious for the future of the country. But, at the same time, may be with proper sort of entertainments, we may be able to harness the tremendous wealth of the talent that we have in our young men for the emancipation of the lot of the people in this country.

In other words, censorship by itself has an exceedingly important role to play not merely in ensuring moral standards of the people who go to the films but also ensure a proper direction for the younger generation of this country.

SHRI M. C. DAGA (Pali): I want to know what is the moral standard which will be ensured for our younger generation

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Moral standards those are which moral and standards. My learned friend will not be able to understand the explanation without standard. It would be futile for me to explain it if he does not understand it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It is like the Holy Roman Empire which was neither Holy nor an Empire.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: I shall come to the moral standards a little later.

MR. SPEAKER: They differ from person to person.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: I do not want to barter away regut to creation of art for supposed moral standards. But at the same time, rampant licentiousness must not be allowed under the name of art; it must not be allowed under the name of aesthetics, and it is to that that I am going to address myself.

If one were to see the responsibility of the censors to ensure that certain moral standards are maintained in the films and to ensure that an improper or immoral direction is not allowed to be given to the younger generation who are particularly vulnerable, then one must submit that the performance of the board of film censors so far has been appallingly dismal. That is the finding of the Khosla Commission. The board of film censors tried to shift the blame on to the industry and the industry tried to shift the blame on them, and other witnesses who came in evidence before the commission tried to blame both the industry and the film censors. It has to be appreciated that in view of the very serious responsibility which this board carries, its failure means a very serious lapse. In fact, today, we find a very unholy effect of these lapses on our younger generation, and in fact, one would not hesitate in stating that the history of degradation and debasement in the values of life of our younger generation is in fact the history of tremendous box office success of films, full of excessive sex, intense eroticism and over-abundance of crime. If that is correct, Government cannot escape their own responsibility, because a casual tinkering with a very serious responsibility like film censorship is utterly unconscionable. This sort of censorship is much worse than rank naked licentiousness. This is what has been happening so far in our country. If one were to see ten box office hits, one would find that nine out of them are such as have violated the entire guiding principles of censorship in letter and spirit, the one which has not violated the letter of the guiding principles of censorship, according to which the board was supposed to act, has violated the spirit of such principles. If this be the story that all our box office hits are only those which violate the norms and principles of censorship, then it is an extremely lamentable story for which the hon. Minister will have to answer this House.

Coming to moral standards, I think it is necessary for me to offer a personal explanation and submit that whatever I

have said regarding moral standards are not something which I am stating as a puritan; nor am I an orthodox person; I am liberal in my views and fairly modern in my attitude. . .

MR. SPEAKER: That is quite a normal attitude.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: But that certainly does not debar me from expecting certain moral standards in public life, and if we have been seeing the most obnoxious obscenity, vulgarity, and lewdness in the public, we have got to protest against it somewhere some time. I do not know how effective that protest is going to be. If public exhibition of these obscene vulgar films is rampant and has become the order of the day, I submit that we are not poking our nose inside the private affairs of anyone, because I do not want to poke my nose into the private affairs of anyone.

SHRI M. C. DAGA: Can he cite the instance of any film which he calls obscene? Has he seen that film?

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: I have recently seen a film which is saturated and dripping with juvenile sensualism.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Daga wants the hon. Member's guidance.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He wants the name of that film so that he can see that.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Prof Dandavate will provide the name. It comes from a genius of producer, who is a friend of mine. He produced a tremendous film 'Joker', it was poetry on celluloids. It had its romance and it had its other entertainment angles and it was not an insipid film. But that film flopped. From that he climbed down to this, another film full of absolute sensualism and juvenile infatuation of the most shameless and contagious variety. This film is clearly and completely violative of so many principles which have been laid down. I just want to refer to some of them. Dagaji is a

[Shri N. K. P. Salve]

hard taskmaster. He will ask, next, 'Why do you say the film is violative of general principles?'

These general principles have been enunciated in a Notification issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, of which the hon. Minister is the head, and he owns the full responsibility for its implementation. It is dated, 6 February, 1960. It lays down principles which, *inter alia*, are (1) It is not desirable that a film ought to be certified as suitable for public exhibition, either unrestricted or restricted, to adults which (a) deals with crime in such a manner as to depict the *modus operandi* of criminals. Then it says 'which throws the glamour of romance and heroism over criminal characters'. Two criminals indulging in the worst type of juvenile sensualism being glorified—if that is not crime, I really do not know what it would be.

But there is more direct violation, under (b). It says 'deals with vice and immorality in such a manner as to undermine the accepted canons of decency'. A rich parents' minor sons falls in love with a minor girl fairly rich herself, and without there being the slightest semblance of anything sublime and noble in that love, both of them elope and try to commit suicide. The unfortunate part of it is that they do not die in that scene.

This film is making crores and crores of rupees. The censor has passed it. Why blame the Board of Censors? Why don't you exercise the power of review, if you have the courage? I am addressing this to the Minister. He is one of the very few Ministers who understands his job thoroughly well. He has the courage to take the requisite decision if this film is violative of these principles.

SHRI D. BASUMATARI (Kokrajhar): What is the name of the film?

SHRI M. SATYANARAYAN RAO (Karimnagar): Why does he not say 'Bobby'?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Basumatari, you can speak in your own turn whatever your experiences are.

SHRI D. BASUMATARI: Since he has described it and we are tempted by the description, let us know the name of the film.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: I am not leading him to any temptation. It does not matter which film it is. It is a film of this nature which is making roaring business; whether it is A, B or C does not matter. If I whisper the name of the film into the minister's I will not be surprised if the Minister will say 'I have seen it half a dozen times'.

Then (c) says 'which deals with the relations between the sexes in such a manner as to depict excessively passionate love scenes, scenes suggestive of immorality'.

If these principles were ever applied with a modicum of sincerity, minimal sincerity, while censoring films, I think nine out of ten films would never have been inserted into the projector for public exhibition. If at all these principles have been shown any respect, if they have ever been adhered to, they have been adhered to in their breach.

It is easy to blame the Board of Film Censors. But what has the Government done about it? Let them today ban a film like this which is having crores worth of business and tomorrow the film industry will come down to its senses. It is your responsibility. Why don't you take the responsibility yourself? Why are you browbeaten by the powerful film industry which always says, 'We are a languishing industry, we are a starving industry, we are a famished industry, we are very small people and even the 'black' which we make is niggardly as compared to the 'black' made in any other industry? This is the way they compare themselves. But what is of importance is what influence it has on the teen-age children. The Minister has a son, a handsome young man. Can he imagine what influence it has on his son when he goes and sees that film which has no nobility, no sublimity, about the sort of love making adventure that is depicted there?

I have nothing against a man and a woman having been in love from the days of Adam. It will go on till eternity. But I refuse to accept sheer carnal lust between a man and woman, however universal, as a matter of public exhibition in the name of art. An American friend of mine was telling me, "I have a serious grievance against your Indian films." I asked him what was it. He said that his grivance is that they end with the marriage, as though in India after marriage there is no romance between a man and his own married wife. This is what we have allowed our films to become just because the censors do not discharge their duties properly and the Minister himself and the Government itself are utterly blind to their own responsibilities and they merrily allow the films to go on exploiting the so me what sex starved Indian society.

Every film has a cabaret scene, a cabaret scene with a young lady shown half-nude, danoing and swinging, her bottoms in a very obscene and vulgar manner which goes on. I have yet to see a cabaret in India having that sort of dancing anywhere. We are not living in Paris; this is not Honolulu; this is not copenhagen; we are not a Scandinavian country. In this way you create a sex-starved society. You do not have cabarets in India of that nature. You allow people to witness that sort of cabaret scenes. Will the Minister give an assurance in the House that all these cabaret seen as here after at least will fall within this censor's banned list and will not be allowed with half-nude lady coming out and dancing and to create a sex-starved society? There are one or two points which I will be making, and I shall have done.

The Bill contemplates a mechanism for making the Board of Censors more effective; they will have one paid Chairman as it is now, and instead of having casual members who never discharge their duties properly and who absented themselves most of the time whenever films were sought to be censored, the Bill contemplates that there will be five wholetime members and six honorary members, out of which three would be drawn from the industry.

It is our most unfortunate experience that radicalism has come to mean State capitalism and socialism has come to mean sheer bureaucratisation. I hope the Minister will give a solemn assurance on the floor of the House that these men—five, six and the Chairman—that are drawn will be people of imagination, people drawn from public life, who have an image, who are respected, and are capable of conscientious duty and that it will not be another Board to accommodate some of the retiring ICS and IAS officers; and that it is not going to be a Board in which some yes-men will be sitting, because the Board has an extremely onerous and delicate responsibility.

Before I conclude, I would like to draw your attention to an extremely important recommendation made by the Khosla Commission. They have sought to keep the Censor Board itself out of the pernicious influence of the film industry. It is good that they have not suggested another Censor Board to censor the presen Board. They have however suggested to remove the Board office from Bombay, Madras and all those places where the corrupt influence is tremendous. I do not find anything in the Bill to remove this from the corrupt influence of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. I have nothing against Bombay, Madras and Calcutta. But the Commission, after a thorough examination of the entire pros and cons of the matter came to the conclusion that this Board must be located away from these places. One of the places they have suggested in Nagpur. I hope the Minister will give an assurance that the main Board will be located at Nagpur.

These are my submissions.

SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA (Arambagh): Sir, I want to confine myself within the periphery and jurisdiction of this Bill only. At the very outset, I would like to remind the hon. Members of this House that in the last budget session the hon. Minister told us that he would bring a comprehensive Bill in respect of the film industry. But as ill-luck would have it, we the Members of Parliament and the

[Shri Maroranjan Hazra]

people of this country do not feel that the Minister has desired to keep his promise. I must say emphatically that this Bill has been brought here not to further the cause of the cine industry or develop the industry as a whole. On the contrary it has been brought here only to tighten the grip of the party in power over the industry by creating a bureaucratic octopus. It is a matter of regret that a pair of chair and a table brings crores of rupees from this industry as amusement, or as entertainment tax at that time. The Government has a moral responsibility to do something for the industry but they are evading their duty. They are creating a miniature from a espionage system with regard to this industry

There are five kinds of units over this industry. Firstly, there is the appellate tribunal with 12 persons who will be nominated by the Government. Secondly, there will be a board consisting of 11 members out of which five will be whole-timers and six will be hon. members. Only three out of eleven will be taken from the industry. It is needless to say that the remaining eight will have a brute majority over them. Thirdly, there will be an examining committee and fourthly, a revising committee and fifthly, assessors for the regional languages. The work of all these five agencies is almost the same and to some extent is auxiliary. It is just like the police organisation. The assessors are like the TOP's, the examining committee is the police station, the revising committee is the S.D.Po's office the fourth is the office of the Superintendent of Police and the Appellate tribunal will be like the office of the IG police. If the Bill had the purpose of safeguarding the sovereignty and integrity of India, it would have been drafted in a different way. Nobody will say anything against the safeguarding of the sovereignty and integrity of India. But what has the Minister done? The Minister is going further and that arises suspicion. It is dangerous for this industry. If we go through this Bill, we would find that a provision had been inserted at a place which I want to refer at present.

A provision of the Act says:

"A film shall not be certified as a film free for exhibition outside India if, in the opinion of the authority competent to grant the certificate, the film or any part of it presents, or is likely to present, an erroneous, distorted or misleading image of the social, cultural or political institutions of India, or any part thereof".

The question of the sovereignty and integrity of the country are already there in the previous clause. Then why again, in the name of the same, new fetters are being introduced in this Bill? Since there is no definition of this, the competent authority is bound to misuse it. Suppose in a film I insert a scene of several men and women collecting their food from the dustbin, will that be considered a fit film? The competent authority, without having any knowledge of the reality, surely would not certify that film for exhibition abroad because, according to them, it will blacken the image of India. The Minister should think over and over again as to what he is going to do in such circumstances.

In the last budget session I mentioned the problems facing the workers behind the screen like set-makers, light men and other technicians. There is not a single word about them in this Bill. I appeal to the Minister that their grievances should be looked into. I would request the hon. Minister to think over these problems and bring a comprehensive Bill in the near future which will cover all the aspects of the film industry, including the problems of the workers and technicians, so that the film industry can flourish.

श्री गुलशनचन्द डागा (पाली) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, सेंसरबोर्ड की जब मैं बात सुनता हूँ तो मेरे मन को चोट लगती है। सेंसर नाम की कोई चीज नहीं रहनी चाहिए। सेंसर क्या है? सेंसर का मतलब है किसी की अभिव्यक्ति को रोकना। इसलिए गुजराल साहब, आप मेहरबानी करके सन 1974 में सेंसर बर्ड को हटा दीजिए। साल्वे साहब जब बोल रहे थे तो दबी हुई जवान से बातें कह रहे थे, मैं उनकी बात को

समझ नहीं पाया। यह किसका आम्मीन कहते हैं, किसका मन्दगी कहते हैं? मारस स्टैंड्स क्या हैं? शौतान जब कुरान की आयरों कोट करता है तब कहता है। तो यह सारी बातें बेकार हैं। आपकी छुट्टी की रिपोर्ट है। आपके लेखकों ने जो बातें कहीं हैं उसपर आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ। सेंसरबोर्ड ने बड़ा कठाराघात किया है हमारी एण्डस्ट्री पर, हमारी अभिव्यक्ति पर, हमारी भावनाओं पर और हमारी कला पर। और यह जो बूढ़े, सफेद बालों वाले हाँते हैं वह ज्यादा जाते हैं देखने के लिए। जो शरीर से कमजोर हो गए हैं वही लोग फिल्मों देखने के लिए ज्यादा जाते हैं। एडल्ट्स के लिए जो आपने रखा है उसके लिए मैं नहीं कहता लेकिन बयोवृद्धों के लिए क्या रोक है। इनसे मुझे एक खतरा और भी है। जब कभी मैं फिल्म देखने के लिए जाता हूँ वहाँ अगर कोई बयोवृद्ध पास में बैठ जाता है तो मेरी शामत आ जाती है क्योंकि न तो बोल ही सकता हूँ और न चुप ही रह सकता हूँ। इसलिए या तो इनको पीछे बिठाला जाये या इनकी सीट्स रिजर्व हों। वहाँ पर यही लोग ज्यादा देखने के लिए जाते हैं। और यहाँ पर यह कहेंगे कि हम इसका बुरा समझते हैं। मैं कहता हूँ अपने घर में जो आप काम करते हैं उसका ही असर बच्चों पर पड़ता है, फिल्मों का कोई असर नहीं होता। फिल्मों का जो असर है वह कुछ घंटों के लिए ही होता है। 1973 में जो हिन्दुस्तान अंक निकला था उसके मैं पढ़ रहा हूँ :

"... लेकिन वे यह बात समझने में असमर्थ रहे हैं कि फिल्मों में सस्ते-पन को जन्म देने की सब से बड़ी जिम्मेदारी हमारे सेंसर बोर्ड पर ही है। वर्तमान सेंसर बोर्ड संविधान की परिधि से बाहर जा कर फिल्मों पर ऐसी पाबान्दियाँ लगाता है कि इसके अन्तर्गत सच्चे फिल्मकारों को यथार्थवादी फिल्में बनाने की गुंजाइश बहुत कम रह जाती है।"

"सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने जहाँ फिल्मों पर पूर्व सेंसरशिप को जरूरी माना है वहाँ यह भी

कहा है कि सेंसरशिप संविधान का अतिक्रमण न करे। खासला समिति ने भी अपनी सिफारिशों में यही कहा था। इन सब को यह कहने की जरूरत क्यों पड़ी? क्यों कि हमारा वर्तमान सेंसर बोर्ड अंग्रेजों ने अपने राज की यथास्थिति को कायम रखने के लिए बनाया था।... आशा यह भी कि जबतक नया बोर्ड न बने, सरकार पुराने बोर्ड का पालन बिलाई से करेगी, सेंसर बोर्ड में स्वतन्त्र व्यवहार करने में समर्थ लोगों को उच्च पद देंगी।"

"सेंसर के हाथ में दर्जी का टोप पकड़ा दिया गया है और वे स्क्रीन पर नायिकाओं के कपड़े नापने का काम करने में व्यस्त हैं।"

जैसे आप न्यूड के लिए कहने लगे तो मैं समझ नहीं सका यह किसको कहते हैं। (व्यवधान) सारे अखबारों में, पत्रिकाओं में यह पिक्चर्स आती हैं। जितने भी अखबार निकलते हैं, जितने एडवर्टीजमेंट्स होते हैं यह निकलती हैं। छोटी छोटी फिल्मों की जो रील्स दिखाई जाती हैं जोकि "फार एडल्ट्स" होती हैं लेकिन वह दिखाई जाती हैं तो उसके लिए क्या मुमानियत है? यह जो आप आम्मीन की बात कहते हैं उसपर आपकी खासला कमेटी ने भी निर्णय दिया है। पेज 55 पर खासला कमेटी की जो फाइंडिंग्स हैं वह मैं आपके सामने रख रहा हूँ।

MR. SPEAKER : You may continue after lunch.

13.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch

till Fourteen of the Clock

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch
at Six Minutes Past Fourteen of the
Clock*

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

CINEMATOGRAPH (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL—contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will now resume the discussion of the Cinematograph (Second Amendment) Bill.

Shri Daga.

SHRI M. C. DAGA (Pali) : I was quoting from this report of Khosla Committee. On page 147 the Committee says :

"The Board is criticised for not being a board of censors at all because in a large number of cases the final decision is arrived at without any member of the Censorship Board having seen the film. The Board has been categorised as a parking place for Government officials who are due to move from one post to another but for whom suitable jobs cannot be immediately found. The members of the Advisory Panels have been criticised for being mostly ill-educated and for not taking sufficient interest in censorship. They work in an honorary capacity, and for each viewing they are paid a derisory amount of Rs. 10 The Board has also been criticised for inconsistency in their various decisions"

So, these are the observations of the Khosla Committee and what have you got as certain general principles or norms ?

A word about the general principles. The same Khosla Committee says:

"In most countries, there is State censorship . . . Censorship all over the world as tending to become increasingly liberal . . . There is a growing tendency not to have detailed rules of censorship but to lay down briefly-worded general principles..."

... But what about your Rules which you have framed now? I will quote only from certain portions of the Khosla Committee report and say that this Board is useless...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do you think that the Government has not read that report? Why waste the time of the House quoting extensively from it?

SHRI M. C. DAGA : I am quoting from this report. Has the Government implemented their findings?

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Betul) : He is only giving the Minister the benefit of doubt.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Daga is a versatile man, he can speak on anything.

SHRI M. C. DAGA : Now, as to the details, it goes on to say.

"Under H(ii), details of surgical operations are to be considered objectionable. We find nothing in any law which prohibits such a scene or sequence. It may be necessary to make a film giving details of surgical operations for the benefit of medical students or in order to disseminate knowledge about the advance of medical science. Many more instances of indefensible clogs on the right of freedom of expression contained in the 'Application of General Principles' can be cited".

So, what I want to submit is and which is also said by the Khosla Committee is:

"It is clear that many of the rules which are at present in force have no legal sanction behind them".

They further say:

"The public taste is best looked after by the public itself..."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What have you to say? That is the report.

SHRI M. C. DAGA : I am supporting these very principles.

तीन तीन कमेटीयां आपने बना रखी हैं। जब सरकार में पहुँच कर हम जैसे लोग मनों एक तो सेंसरशिप बोर्ड हैं। एक एग्जामिनिंग कमेटी हैं। फिर एक रिवाइजिंग कमेटी हैं। कितना ही लम्बा प्रोसीजर आपने बना रखा है। कोई टाइम लिमिट कहीं पर नहीं है। एग्जमिनिशन कमेटी कितना समय लेगी, रिवाइजिंग कमेटी कब तक रिवाइज कर देगी इसकी कोई टाइम लिमिट नहीं है। फिर जो सेंसरशिप बोर्ड हैं इसके जो मॅम्बर हैं उनकी क्या क्वालिफिकेशन होगी इसका कुछ पता नहीं है। आपने बारह मॅम्बर रखने की बात कही है। यह भी कहा है कि ये लिबरल व्यूक के होंगे। मैं तो कहूँगा कि सेंसरशिप बोर्ड को ही स्क्रैप करें। अगर स्क्रैप नहीं कर सकते हैं तो जो रिक्मंडेशंस हुई हैं उनको तो आप इम्प्लोमेंट करें। वह भी आप नहीं कर रहे हैं। जो लैंग्वी प्रोसीजर आपने रखा है, उसको भी आप न रखा। एग्जमिनिशन कमेटी, रिवाइजिंग कमेटी, एपेलेट ट्रिब्यूनल और बोर्ड ये सब आपने रखे हैं। बोर्ड इंटरोल्फ ड्रज नॉथिंग बट एन एडवाइजरी कमेटी।

I now come to Section 6 of the present Act . . .

It says: "Notwithstanding anything contained . . ."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I must now ask you to conclude. There is a time-limit. Quoting takes the time of the House. Please conclude.

SHRI M. C. DAGA: It says: "Notwithstanding anything contained . . . the Central Government may at any stage call for the record of any proceedings in relation to . . ." etc. You can call record at any time.

बिना बोर्ड का डिडिक्शन हुए एक्शन छः के तहत आप रिकार्ड को ले सकते हैं। सेंसरशिप बोर्ड को आपने कौन सी सब पावजे दी हैं। जो लैंग्वी प्रोसीजर आपने रखा है वह आपको नहीं रखना चाहिये

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta North-East): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I fear this is a futile piece of legislation and I am very sorry that the Minister who has earned the reputation of being acknowledgeable person in regard to Cinematography has chosen to bring forward this legislation which might very well have been kept away from Parliament. We have already taken 10 years or so because in 1965 the Khosla Committee was appointed and then a long period of gestation has led to the appearance of the Cinematographic legislation. Sir, I do not understand why the Minister with his flamboyant appeal to the country chooses not to apply his mind to the evolution of some kind of a national policy in regard to the production, the exhibition and the distribution of films in this country in a manner which would really be worthwhile.

I see, for instance, something of the mood of the Government and I have no patience with this kind of conduct when I find that nearly a couple of years ago this House had the delectation of having listened to discussions on a Bill moved from the Government Benches regarding the working conditions of workers in the cinema industry and that was withdrawn on the plea that it had to be formulated a little differently, and since this time, nearly two years ago, we have been treated to the spectacle of one assurance after another by the Minister in regard to the introduction of the Bill about the conditions of work of those who are producing these

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

pictures either in the production side or in the exhibition side or in the distribution side.

Nothing has been done in spite of the fact that in the autumn session last year, the Minister himself had suggested that he was going to move this Bill in that very session itself. But, nothing happened in the winter session; nothing has happened also in this session and in this session you would be ever so busy with your budget. I find that he said in answer to a question on 19th of December, 1973 that the drafting stage is still continuing in regard to this matter. This goes on at a point of time when certain interests—big money interests—Indian as well as foreign, are vitiating the entire atmosphere of cinematographic production, exhibition etc. in this country. We have heard about the tone which prevails in the big-money cinema centres like Bombay and Madras where most of the production is too tinsel and too footling for any self-respecting country to produce films either for herself or for exhibition outside. We have seen also foreign interests coming into the picture. And Government seems absolutely indifferent in a manner which is, to put it very politely, egregious. I say this because only the other day we were told that there is, in this country—this was on 19th of December, 1973, U.S.Q. No. 5464 in the Lok Sabha—accumulated account on 30th of June, 1973 in favour of eight U.S. firms, to the extent of Rs. 4,973 crores in block funds by firms which were importing films into this country. There was an idea at one time that this could be utilised for producing worthwhile joint-venture films. But, nothing has happened from what the Government's answer was on it. The answer was 'No'. These funds are there. I wish to point out how big-money operates. Only last year, there was a transaction which caused an uproar all over the country because a scandal was exposed and Government itself admitted position.

The Metro Cinema owned by an American Company M.G.M., transferred its interests by a corrupt transaction in Swit-

zerland to a so-called Swiss company which obviously, was operating through an Indian national who was their stooge, a man called Shiva Shander Gupta, whose name was also mentioned in this House and who was described by the Minister of State for Finance, Shri Ganesh, as a person who was evading the clutches of the law. He was put up as the show-man. The Swiss Corporation took over the interests of MGM Metro Cinema and its exhibition, distribution and so on and so forth. As a result of this transaction, I am sure that MGM had indirectly transferred its block funds in India in favour of the Guptas and in return, got some accrued amount abroad. This man, who has accounts, operating in Switzerland and elsewhere, was described by Shri Ganesh as a person who was escaping from the clutches of the law; he goes about, strutting all over the place threatening even Members of Parliament who are trying to stand for the rights of the Metro Cinema employees. He threatens them because he has got a whip hand over the administration. There is no doubt about it.

And when we discovered the full exposure of the Metro scandal, the Minister himself, Mr I. K. Gujral repeatedly stated in Lok Sabha and in Rajya Sabha that he was seriously considering the idea of taking over the Metro cinema; it would have been a wonderful proposition if the best cinema houses in Calcutta and Bombay could have been taken over and run by the Government. He said repeatedly in this House and the other House that he was considering the taking over of that cinema, but of course, nothing has been done, and to make matters worse, with the employees of Metro Cinema trying to get out of the clutches of a criminal, who is evading foreign exchange regulation laws and other things, like Shiv Shankar Gupta, when the Metro Cinema employees in Calcutta got from Calcutta High Court an injunction preventing that man Gupta from operating as the owner of Metro Cinema, the Government of India was brought in as a party to the application, but the Government of India did not have the gump-

tion to appear in the Calcutta High Court merely to say what the Minister did say openly in this House and the other House that they were considering taking over the Metro Cinema.

I hear now from the Minister himself that they have dropped the idea of taking over the Metro Cinema because they cannot touch the people in Switzerland; there is a change of ownership of cinemas operating in India from American hands to so-called Swiss hands; the hands have got an Indian agent to operate for them, yet they can do nothing about it, because some hocus-pocus has taken place in Switzerland and the arm of the Government of India cannot extend there. The Government of India has not got the gumption to do a thing. That is why they cannot bring in legislation for the working people in the cinema industry, they cannot do anything to control big money interests, and when big money interests are allied with foreign money, then, of course, the Government shivers in its shoes and cannot do a thing to touch those interests concerned. This Government is thinking of bringing in legislation to improve the cinema industry by acting in accordance with the modified recommendations of the Khosla Committee. It is about time that this nonsense stops. It is about time that this fraud on the country stops. It is about time that Government ceases to talk about this kind of thing. The time of Parliament need not be wasted over the discussion as to how far the Khosla Committee's recommendations about kissing being permissible or cuddling being permissible can be sanctioned by the vote of Parliament; that can be left to other agencies.

If you wish to have my opinion, I would cut out this censorship business altogether. The way to operate it is: let Government keep to itself the power of making sure that nothing that is vulgar in the sense of something which goes against the grain of Indian national decency would be allowed in the cinema. But all this talk about puritanical pruning here and there is sheer abracadabra and the sooner we can give up this kind of exercise

which costs money to the country the better. The Khosla Committee's report was submitted some time after 1965, and we find Mr. Khosla is busy with a hundred inquiry committees and commissions and in his leisure he produce something and Parliament has to consider it. Stop this nonsense. Go ahead with a sensible policy, and then alone you would be able to do something. I say so because Government comes forward and puts in something about the image of India having to be projected properly. Do it in a fundamental manner. Do not continue to work in the mechanical, official, bureaucratic fashion which you have conducted so far. Do not allow your corrupt elements in the Ministry as well as in the administration to be won over by big money interests Indian and foreign, as they have been repeatedly. If there were time for a full discussion, there are people here who know something about the cinema industry and they would be able to tell you all about it. Do not allow this sort of bureaucratic practice to continue, and I say this because they talk about the improvement of the standard of Indian films.

The Indian film which brought laurels to this country, was '*Pather Panchali*', directed by Satyajit Ray, which brought India to the forefront of the world cinema. It was made by Satyajit Ray and it showed the life in our villages in the 1920's, not now; but even so, it was a beautiful story because it was truthful; a true story aesthetically told can be as beautiful as you wish it. Satyajit Ray told that story in a beautiful fashion. He got the story written by Bibhuti Bhushan Bandyopadhyaya, and he made a wonderful job of it as a film.

When it went to the bureaucrats, they said: it shows the poverty of India—and India had two Plans at that point of time—and after the two Plans have been in the picture, to show the poverty of India would be a terrible thing and, therefore, add on to this picture something about the factories set up under the First Five Year Plan and the Second Five Year Plan and make a different job of it! This is the criterion

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applied by bureaucrats who operate under the aegis of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. They do not know a thing about the aesthetic aspects of the cinema. They do not have a notion about how the image of this country can be projected. If a scene is there showing the poverty of our people, they say 'Look here, this is something which goes against the Indira Government the Congress Government and all the rest of it'. If the truth is told at the same time, the nobility of the people of this country in the midst of the wallowing poverty, that would shine out like stars in the heavens. If you do a truthful job of it as a film producer, you can bring out something of the worst aspects of human life and you can show how they coexist with some of the noblest and the most magnificent elements of the human character.

That was why when a Frenchman produced a picture 'Oh Calcutta', they went on making a noise about it. They do that sort of thing. But our film masters have the capability in them provided they have a free hand in this matter. Today no wonder they cannot do it.

I know Mr. Gujral has done a few good jobs. The Poona Institute is working very well. To some extent, the Film Finance Corporation at least is ready and willing to assist those who come out with original ideas about production and that sort of thing. But that is not enough. On the contrary, you have to do more if you really mean business.

You know I have said in this House that I have a soft corner for the Minister. But my patience is exhausted when I find the way in which the working people in the cinema industry are treated. When I see them working in Tollygunge, Calcutta—I do not know about the Bombay situation; my friends know it better—I see that nothing is done to help them. When I see that big-moneyed interests who control the production, distribution and exhibition dominate the scene, I am fed up with this petty fogging little legislation about kissing or cuddling or God knows what other sort

of thing. I am no puritan, I was reminded of what a 14th century friar had said. He said it in the 14th century and he was a friar and you can imagine the kind of morals he pressed. He said: 'A young man and a young maiden in a green arbour on a May morning—if God does not forgive them, I will'.

It does not matter two hoots to us. This is a country of sunlight, of sun and rain, a country open to the elements. This is a country of Konarak. This is a country of Khajuraho. Nobody in the country is worried about it.

So I would cut out this legislation. I would throw it in the wastepaper basket. Khosla report or no Khosla report, this is not necessary. The Government, coming into the picture in an enlightened rational manner, can control this industry in the national interest and look after the working people who are the salt of the Indian earth, on whose toil depends whatever little production you are going to sell abroad. You get some pneumatically attractive females to be picturised and you earn some foreign exchange. I would not mind it in the least. Go ahead in that manner, but deep down, have a genuine policy. Open more cinemas—You have rung the bell. We do not get much opportunity to discuss this. I hope I am not being irrelevant.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER. Left to myself, I would like to hear more of it.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE. I discovered that on the 4th April, 1973 we were told in reply to starred question No. 605, that the Conference of State Ministers of Information held in December 1972 at New Delhi, attended by all States except Tripura, recommended that the States should divert a fixed proportion of collections from entertainment tax for promoting the construction of more cinemas, and this was adopted unanimously.

Nothing has been done in regard to this. We can have so many more cinemas. Nothing has been done here also. For instance, I find that in Bangalore city,

with a population of a little over 12 lakhs, there are 61 cinemas. On this account, Bombay has 87 while Bombay should have 121 more. Calcutta has 150; it could have 210 more. All over the country we could have a larger number of cinemas, but they must be run properly.

Go ahead; let the State come into the picture and begin by taking over such a criminal concern as the MGM—Metro—how in the hands of an Indian stooge. Get a national sector in so far as the cinema industry is concerned. Extend your operations; extend colour films and other facilities to be used by different areas of the country, and then you will find a genuine advance in cinema production. Otherwise this legislation as proposed is worth nothing at all. It should be thrown into the waste-paper basket.

श्री राम सहाय पांडे (राजनद्यांव) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं प्रोफेसर हीरेन्द्र मुखर्जी को इस बात से सहमत हूँ कि इस विधेयक को अगर और काम्प्रीहेंसिव बनाया जाता, इस के निर्माण के पीछे जिन-जिन लोगों का हाथ है, जिन का श्रम है, कथाकार हैं, कलाकार हैं, संगीतकार हैं, मजदूर हैं, उन सब का ध्यान इस में रखा जाता और एक ऐसा विधेयक आता जिस में कि हमारी कला की ओर कलात्मक सृजन करने की जितनी प्रवृत्तियाँ हैं उन सब के वर्णन होते तो अधिक अच्छा था। आप कुछ आनरैरी, कुछ पेड सेंसर बोर्ड के मेम्बरस बना कर उन से क्या तबक्को रख सकते हैं ? क्या चाहते हैं आप उन से ? खासला कमेटी का रेफरेंस देते हुए प्रोफेसर हीरेन्द्र मुखर्जी ने कहा और मैं भी उस को दोहराता हूँ कि उस काम्प्रीहेंसिव रिपोर्ट को सामने रखते हुए उस के बाद जितनी पिक्चर्स प्राइयर्स हई उन पिक्चर्स का खासला कमेटी के क्रिमिनल, और सेक्स तथा मोरैलिटी के आस्पेक्ट में, कौन से तराजू में तौलकर के ए कटेगरी या यूनिवर्सल कटेगरी का सीर्टीफिकेट दिया ?

मैं समझता हूँ कि इस वक्त एक सब से बड़ा मीडिया मनोरंजन का फिल्म है जे कि कामन मैन तक पहुँचता है। आप ने यह कहा कि

सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट फाइन एथास्टी हांगी अपीलट एथास्टी के बाद भी यह देखने के लिए कि उरा में इंडीप्रिटी एंड सावरेनटी आफ दि कंट्री पर कोई विपरीत प्रभाव तो नहीं पड़ता है या उस में अश्लीलता या नंगापन जहाँ कहीं भी आएगा उसको हम देखेंगे . . .

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री आइ. कै. गुजराल) : देखेंगे नहीं, काटेंगे।

श्री राम सहाय पांडे : मैं समझता हूँ कि नंगापन को देखकर के तो आप को जरूर काट देना चाहिए। लेकिन आप को यह देखना है कि यह एक सब से बड़ा मीडिया है और संसार में जितने भी चलचित्र बनाने वाले उद्योग हैं हमारे देश का नम्बर शायद उस में तीसरा या चौथा है . . .

श्री आइ. कै. गुजराल : टाप पर हैं, पहला है।

श्री राम सहाय पांडे : अभी हाल में हो गया होगा। तो उस में हमारा पहला नम्बर है। अब मुझे ऐसा अनुभव हो रहा था कि एक हिस्सा सेंसर का तो आप ने रख लिया कि सेंसर बोर्ड कैसे बनेगा, उस के अधिकार कैसे होंगे, उस के ऊपर एक अपीलट एथास्टी हांगी। उस के बाद केंद्रीय सरकार हांगी। लेकिन यह उसी तरह की बात हांगी जैसे हम तुम एक कमरे में बन्द हो जायें और चाबी खो जाय वाली बात है। इस में कोई चाबी गुम हो गयी है। परा ही नहीं कि चाबी है कहाँ ? मूल को छोड़ दिया आपने और ऊपर के हिस्से को पकड़ लिया। मूल में कहाँ है ? कला कहाँ है ? कौन है कलाकार ? सत्यजीत राय के संबंध में हीरेन्द्र मुखर्जी ने कहा। बंगाल के निर्मित चित्रों को देख कर क्या हमारे अंदर गहरा नहीं होता ? क्या कला के सृजन और निर्माण के प्रति सौन्दर्य के प्रति, गत्य के प्रति हमारे अंदर की सुन्दर भावनाओं का उद्गम नहीं होता ? लेकिन कलकत्ता को छोड़ कर बम्बई और मद्रास आइए जहाँ केवल क्रिमिनल ऐक्ट और सेक्स के चित्र हमारी तमाम इन्द्रियों को उत्तेजित करने वाले प्रावधान, नंगे हाँस, ठूँसाठूँसी बर्बन्दा, जानें क्या क्या उसमें वह मंजाते हैं और उस के पीछे सब से बड़ा क्रिमिनल जो है वह डिस्टीन्यूट

[श्री राम सहाय पांडे]

हैं जो कहता है कि हम को एम सीन दो तब दिल्ली को हिट करेंगे। पंजाब वाला कहता है कि हम को ऐसे सीन दो तब पंजाब में बाक्स हिट करेंगे। यू. पी. का डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर कहता है कि पैसे चाहें अधिक लें लां लेकिन हम को ऐसे सीन दो वुअन्नी चवन्नी और पैसे फेंकने वाले, हाथ हाथ करने वाले जिस में काजेंज के लड़के जिनकी जेब में गां बाप का पैसा होता है, वह खर्च कर के वे सिनेमा के अंदर आएँ चाहें फीस देने के लिए पैसे उनके पास न रहें। हाथ हाथ के चक्कर में, धासना के उल्टीपन के चक्कर में वह जा कर ऐसी पिक्चर्स को देखते हैं। डीसेंसी या इनीडिसेंसी ये रिलीज्ड टर्म्स हैं। यह बड़ा मुश्किल है कहना कि डिस्ट्रिब्यूटर क्या है और इनीडिसेंसी क्या है। लेकिन हमारी संस्कृति का पुरातन तत्व या हम जिस ढांचे में पले हैं, जिस में बढ़ रहे हैं, मा बाप की संस्कृति की पृष्ठभूमि जो भी है, उस में हमें यह तो देखना है कि कहीं उस में गूम्प तो नहीं आ रहा है कहीं हाहाकार तो नहीं गरा गया रहा है, कहीं हमारा समाज तो नहीं झूट रहा है, उस से हमारी वितृष्णा तो नहीं हो रही है। मैंने यूरोप में कई जगह ऐसी पिक्चर्स देटी लेकिन मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि उन पिक्चर्स से वह जी जनता थक चुकी है, ऊब चुकी है। आप किसी नायिका को निर्वसन करने से मना कर देंगे तो उस के सौन्दर्य को उस के सत्य रूप को उभाड़ेंगे, कला से भीड़ें उठेंगे और मैं कहता हूँ यह जिज्ञासा रहने दीजिये देखने वाले के अंदर कि ऐसा अगर होता तो क्या होता? आगे प्रश्न चिह्न उस पर छोड़ दीजिए। अगर आप ने कला को गंगा कर दिया नायक नायिका को गंगा कर दिया तो क्या बच गया? फिर कुछ बचा ही नहीं। फिर कहाँ है कला, कला का सृजन कहाँ है? कहाँ है शोध, कहाँ है सत्य, कहाँ है सनातन, कहाँ है परम्पराएं? इस शरीर को गंगा करने के लिए एगे पिर्मिटिव स्टैंज पर जाना पड़ेगा और अगर उस को हम सजाएँ तो कला और सुन्दर बन कर सामने आती है। हमारे यहाँ उस को सजाया गया है और सजा कर के प्रस्तुत किया गया है। कला को परिधानों से, वस्त्रों से संगीत से नृत्य से स्थापत्य से मूर्त से सजाया गया है। हम ने

ऐसे मन्दिर भी बनाए हैं। लेकिन उस से हमारी संस्कृति भंगकती है। उस में हमारी संस्कृति पीरायी हुई है। हम उस को ओफल नहीं कर सकते। लेकिन डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर के कहने पर, डाइरेक्टर के कहने पर हम अपनी नायिकाओं और एक्सट्राज को जो हमारी ही बहने हैं पकड़ कर और हिला हिला कर नचाएँ उग रें उस करवाएँ कैद करवाएँ, यह क्या है? अभी हमारे बाढ़ डा कर्णी सिद्ध बोलेंगे, वह कह रहे थे कि हम पिक्चर देखने जाते हैं तो पूछ लेते हैं पहले कि कौसी पिक्चर है, स्टोरी कौसी है, कहीं बच्चों के साथ बैठ कर देखने में लज्जा न आए। हम जानते हैं कि ऐसी पिक्चर देखने बाप और बेटे के लिए एम्बेरीसंग होता है। अब जैसे बंगाल में बनी हुई पिक्चर्स हैं उन में भी रोमांस होता है, उन में भी कला है। नामगा को अगर आप कलात्मक रूप दें दें नायिका को यदि परिधानों से भ्रूसीज्जग करके सौंदर्यगयी बना दें और उस में हमारा उन्दीयन होना हो तो हमें कोई एतराज नहीं है। मैं उसको डिसेंट कहता हूँ लेकिन उसके वस्त्र उतारना - आपको पता है ट्रॉपिडी के वस्त्र को दुश्शासन ने उतारना चाहा और उसको दुर्योधन की गोद में बैठाने की प्रवृत्ति उसकी थी उसको आज तक समाज ने माफ नहीं किया। इतना जघन्य कार्य, सार्वजनिक मनोवृत्ति के उस जघन्य पाप को आज भी जनता ने माफ नहीं किया। हम जानते हैं कि बंड रूम में क्या होता है और यह भी जानते हैं कि स्त्री पुरुष के सम्बन्ध क्या होते हैं, लेकिन सार्वजनिक रूप से जिस स्त्री को हम बहन कहते हैं, भैं कहते हैं, कलाकार कहते हैं उसको इस रूप में प्रदर्शित नहीं करना चाहिए। हमारे ऐसे कलाकार हैं।

जैसे लता मंगेशकर हैं, उनकी सुरीली आवाज के कारण पिछले 30 सालों से वे "क्वीन आफ मेलोडी" बन चुकी हैं, उनकी मधुर आवाज को सुनकर कौन उन पर गर्व नहीं करेगा। श्री सत्यजित रे के पारिवारिक चित्रों को देख कर क्या भारत की कलाकृति गौरवान्वित नहीं होती है, लेकिन बड़ा गरक हो इन बम्बई और मद्रास वालों का जो हिंसा और माफक के नाम पर एक पर्वटेंड एक्साइटमेंट करते हैं, क्योंकि उस फिल्म को बाक्स-ऑफिस हिट

बनाना चाहते हैं, उससे अनाप-शनाप पैसा पैसा करना चाहते हैं। आप इन बनाने वालों, थियेटरों और डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरों को पकड़िये जो सात हजार सिनेमाघरों से बंझिन्हा पैसा कमाते हैं। यह तो ऐसा धन्धा है जिस में कौश पैसा आता है, उधार का कोई काम नहीं है और इसमें काम करने वाले कलाकार खुद ब्लॉक में पैसा लेते हैं और उसके बाद ऐसी जिन्दगी बसर करते हैं जो हमारी सामान्य जिन्दगी से कहीं दूर है, इस तरह की रंगीनियों में वे भ्रमते रहते हैं।

हमारे समाज का एक सार्वभौम रूप है, उसकी इन्टीग्रिटी है, यदि हम उसके स्वरूप का निर्माण करना चाहते हैं तो हमें एक काम्प्रीहेंसिव बिल लाना पड़ेगा, इस अधारिटी के बनाने से काम नहीं चलेगा। इस लिये मैं आप से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि आप एक काम्प्रीहेंसिव बिल लाइये।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: On a subject like this, I can appreciate that one can easily fall a prey to going into the intricacies of nesthetics, philosophy, morality and things of that sort. But the House has allotted only two hours and I do not know what to do; the list of speakers keeps on swelling. Each member seems to be inspired by another, and the field is limitless.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): If this House devotes time only to economics and not to culture and art, it is a sad aspersion on the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Left to myself. I would prefer to hear more of speeches like that of Professor Hiren Mukerjee. Even if we take one full day, I am sure we can never come to any consensus or agreement on what is morally right and what is morally wrong. I will try to accommodate as many members as possible. But no member should take more than ten minutes.

श्री हुकम चन्द् कछवाह (मुरेना): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी जो बिल लेकर आये हैं मैं इसका विरोध करता हूँ, क्योंकि इस

बिल को देखने से ऐसा लगता है कि यह बिल उनकी पार्टी और सरकार के प्रचार के उद्देश्य से लाया गया है। जहां तक सेन्सर बोर्ड की बात है, यह एक सफेद हाथी के समान है। बम्बई में फिल्म उद्योगपतियों ने इसे ऐसा जकड़ रखा है, सुरा और सुन्दरियों के बीच में, कि यह हिल नहीं सकता, इतना अधिक भूष्ट हो गया है कि हर एक व्यक्ति यह कहने को तैयार है कि जो अच्छे चित्र हैं, जिनसे लोग शिक्षा ले सकते हैं, जो चरित्र निर्माण कर सकते हैं, उन्हें यह बोर्ड अनुमति नहीं देता, लेकिन जो चरित्र को गिराते हैं, जो जीवन स्तर को गिराते हैं, उनका प्रोत्साहन देता है। यह धारणा आज आम लोगों में फैल गई है।

पिछले 15 सालों से जो फिल्में बन रही हैं, बड़ी बड़वा फिल्में बनी हैं। मंत्री जी इस बात को स्वीकार करेंगे कि जिस प्रकार के पोस्टर आज बाजारों में लगाये जाते हैं, उनमें कितने भद्दे और नंगे चित्र होते हैं और छोटे छोटे बच्चे उनसे प्रेरणा लेते हैं—बिगड़ने की जहां तक फिल्मों में दिखाया जाने वाला नंगापन है, मैं आपको एक उदाहरण देता हूँ, वह फिल्म आज भी बाजार में चल रही है—उसका नाम है—प्राण जाय पर बचन न जाये, उसमें कितना खुला नंगापन है, जिसका कोई हिसाब नहीं, इसका लोगों पर क्या असर पड़ेगा। आज हमारा दायित्व यह है कि लोगों का चरित्र निर्माण हो, लोगों का राष्ट्रीय चरित्र बने, उनमें अन्दर देशभक्ति की भावना पैदा हो, उनके अन्दर सामाजिक ज्ञान पैदा हो, वे देश के हित के बारे में सोच सकें। लेकिन आज विद्यार्थी का जीवन क्या है—जो पांशाक एक्टर पहनता है, वही विद्यार्थी पहनता है। ऐसा लगता है कि देश के नाइयों ने हड़ताल कर दी है, लड़के लड़कियों के बराबर बाल रखने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं, दोनों को पहचानना मुश्किल हो गया है।

प्रो. मधु दण्डवत: राम-कृष्ण के दिनों में भी बाल बड़े रखे जाते थे।

श्री हुकम चन्द् कछवाह: वह उस समय का फैशन था। मैं बतला रहा था—मध्य प्रवेश में एक घटना घटी—एक लड़का प्लेट फार्म पर जा

[श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय]

रहा था, उसको देखकर दूसरे लड़के ने सोचा कि कोई लड़की जा रही है, उसने आगे बढ़कर उसका चुम्बन ले लिया, लेकिन बाद में पता लगा कि वह लड़का था, लड़की नहीं थी। लड़के काँशिश कर रहे हैं कि लड़कियाँ जैसे हों जाय, उनके जैसे बाल और उनके जैसे कपड़े पहनना चाहते हैं। मैं समझता हूँ आपका भी इस किस्म की गलतफहमी होती होगी, बाजारों में आप ने कार में से देखा होगा कि लड़के और लड़की को पहचानना मूश्किल हो गया है, हमारे इरा सदन में भी कई ऐसे सदस्य हैं।

इस गलती का मूल कारण हमारा सेंसर बोर्ड है, इसका स्तर दिन-प्रति-दिन गिरता जा रहा है, गानों का स्तर गिरता जा रहा है। मैं आपसे प्रार्थना करूँगा कि आप इस क्षेत्र में कुछ सुधार करें। यह हमारे पास एक ऐसा साधन है जिसके द्वारा हम लोगों का चरित्र निर्माण कर सकते हैं, देश-भक्ति की भावना उनके अन्दर भर सकते हैं—लेकिन आपका बोर्ड इस तरफ ध्यान नहीं दे रहा है। लोगों के अन्दर विलासिता बढ़ रही है। अश्लीलता बढ़ती जा रही है।

भारत की फिल्मों विदेशों में बड़ी प्रसिद्ध हैं, बड़ी लोकप्रिय हैं, लेकिन वहाँ की जनता को भारत की फिल्मों देखने का कम मिलती है। पता नहीं हमारे यहाँ से ही विलम्ब से भेजी जाती है या वे लोग उनको विलम्ब से मंगाते हैं। वहाँ पर जो भारतीय और दूसरे लोग रहते हैं वे भारत की फिल्मों को बहुत अच्छा मानते हैं, उन से प्रेरणा लेते हैं, उनको पता चलता है कि हम क्या कर रहे हैं। दूसरी ओर यूरोप में जो फिल्में बनती हैं उनका प्रचलन यहाँ हम काफी तेजी से कर रहे हैं, वहाँ के रीति-रिवाजों को यहाँ पर फैला रहे हैं, जब कि यूरोप की ये फिल्में हमारे देश के लिये ठीक नहीं हैं। वे फिल्में जब यहाँ पर चलती हैं तो इतनी भीड़ होती है कि 5 रुपये का टिकट ब्लैक में 15 रुपये का बिकता है और लोग उनमें दिखलाई गई अश्लीलता

को देखने जाते हैं, जिनसे उनके मन के अन्दर उत्तेजना पैदा होती है, काम-वासना ज्यादा पैदा होती है। ऐसी विदेशी फिल्में बन्द होनी चाहियें तथा भारतीय फिल्मों को अधिक मात्रा में विदेशों को भेजने का प्रबन्ध कीजिये।

हमारा जो सत्तारूढ़ दल है आम तौर पर उस की यह पालिसी है कि जिन फिल्मों में उस की आलोचना होती है, उन को सेंसर बोर्ड इजाजत नहीं देता। सेंसर बोर्ड को इस प्रकार के आवेेश दिये गये हैं, वे ऐसी फिल्में पर पाबन्दी लगाते हैं। देश की जनता की जो परेशानियाँ हैं, उन की जो कठिनाइयाँ हैं वे भी देश के सामने आनी चाहियें।

आप ने एक अच्छा काम किया है। कला के विकास के लिये, कलाकारों के प्रशिक्षण के लिये आप ने एक ही स्थान पर एना में ट्रेनिंग स्कूल खोला है—मैं चाहता हूँ कि यह अनन्त स्थानों पर होना चाहिये। यह जरूरी नहीं है कि जहाँ फिल्में बनती हैं, वहीं पर ट्रेनिंग स्कूल खोला जाये। जब भरती के लिये इन्टरन्यू होता है तो बड़ी लम्बी क्यू होती है और अधिकांश लोग रह जाते हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि हर प्रदेश में स्कूल खोलिये जहाँ लोगों को ट्रेनिंग मिल सके और अच्छे कलाकारों का निर्माण हो, अच्छे कलाकार ही आगे देश का मार्गदर्शन कर सकेंगे। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि आप अभिक मात्रा में स्कूल खोलेंगे।

देश में आज जितने सिनेमाघर चलते हैं उन की हालत बड़ी खराब है। आप किसी भी सिनेमाघर में जाएँ, बड़ी गन्दी और बहूदा हालत में हैं, फिल्म चलती है, देखने वाले का वहाँ बैठे-बैठे दम घुटता है। उसको अच्छा नहीं लगता। इसलिए आप ऐसी योजना बनायें कि जितने सिनेमाघर हैं वह अच्छे और सजे हुए हों, साफ-सुथरे हों, अच्छे ढंग से बने हों जिससे वहाँ पर बैठने के बाद—दर्शक के मन में आकर्षण पैदा हो और वह महसूस करे कि मैं एक अच्छे स्थान पर बैठा हूँ हाल का जो असर है वह भी उसके मस्तिष्क पर पड़ता है। इसलिए आप अच्छे हाल बनवाने का प्रयास करें।

अन्त में मैं मंत्री जी से प्रश्न करना चाहूंगा कि मैंने जो दो तीन बातें उठाई हैं उनको ठीक प्रकार से लागू करने का प्रयास करेंगे। साथ ही यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस बिल में बहुत जल्दबाजी की गई है और जितने भी वक्ता यहां पर बोले हैं उन्होंने इससे अपनी सहमति व्यक्त नहीं की है इसलिए मंत्री जी इसको वापिस ले लें तथा विस्तार करके दूसरा बिल लायें जिससे इस उद्योग में जो कलाकार और कर्मचारी हैं उनका भी कुछ हित हो सके।

एक बात और है कि जो बड़े-बड़े ऐक्टर हैं उनका जो जीवन है वह राजा-महाराजाओं से कम नहीं होता, वे अपने ठाट-बाट पर बड़ा पैसा व्यय करते हैं। उनके पास जो काला धन है उस पर भी अंकुश लगाने का प्रयास होना चाहिए। इतना ही मैं कहना चाहता हूँ।

SHRI AMRIT NAHATA (Barmer) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the films in our country are not organized as an industry. It is a misnomer to call it a 'film industry'. It is at best a trade or a business or commerce; we can call it a show-business. There is nothing wrong with our film people. Our artistes, actors and actresses, our technicians, our directors, our musicians and singers, are comparable with the best in the world. And still the films that are exhibited in our country leave a lot to be desired. I am not going to distinguish a religious film from a sex film or a crime and violence film from a social film. That is not the correct distribution. Even a religious film can be a very bad film. That is not the correct distinction. The distinction is whether a film projects things in a beautiful way, in a sensible way. If it appeals our sensitivities, if it appeals to our finer instincts, if it cultivates our tastes of aesthetics, it is a good film. Nude in itself is nothing. There are nudes which are beautiful, there are nudes which are crude, vulgar and obscene. What I mean to say is that most of the films that are exhibited in our country today are bad, ugly, crude, obscene, and they cater to the lower and

vulgar tastes of the masses. This is the basic question. How is it that these directors who are technically very competent, who know how to handle the medium, these very musicians who can compose the most melodious tunes in the world, these very singers whose melody is comparable with the best in the world, these very actors and actresses whose histrionic talents are comparable with the best in the world, these people are giving us bad films? It is said that they produce what is required or what is desired by the audiences. This is an argument which does not stand reason. Did the people ask some industrialist to manufacture the Lux Soap? Nobody does any demand survey. It is just the reverse. When a particular type of films are shown to the people repeatedly one after another, the tastes of the people are conditioned. I entirely agree that it is very difficult for a good film to succeed at the Box Office today.

That is why dozens of films, indeed very good films, are lying in cans and no distributor is buying them, the reason being that the tastes of our people have been conditioned and circumscribed by a particular type of vulgar films. No amount of half-hearted measures, no amount of patch work here and there can remedy the situation.

Sir, I have never demanded nationalisation of the film industry and I am opposed to it because that does not help. Of course, theoretically, it is possible as they say that once films are nationalised, the only films we will have shall be the films about family, films about the Five Year Plans, films about the public undertakings and films about the Government policies and all that. I do not see anything wrong in that. If art is hired for advertisements, nobody raises an eye-brow. If house-wives are used to publicise or advertise aspro or saridon or cigarettes, nobody raises an eye-brow. But if these very media are used for family planning, for propagating certain policies, objection is raised that it is propaganda. After all,

[Shri Amrit Nahata] all art is propaganda. Still, I do not plead for the nationalisation of the film industry. I was trying to find out and place before you the reason why the best of the people give us the worst of the films. The reason is the domination, the octopus grip of private finance over this industry. That is the basic reason...

AN HON. MEMBER . Very correct.

SHRI AMRIT NAHATA : The private financier in the form of distributor, in the form of exhibitor are the immediate audience of a film producer. And what is the film producer? He is a proposal-maker and a proposal-seller. The Indian film producer does not do anything. He does not direct the film, he does not write the film, he does not do anything in the making of the film. He does not even process the film. He makes certain proposals. To-day in India's film industry, everything has a price. If I take a particular actor and a particular actress with a particular music director, it has a price. So, I make a proposal and sell it. My immediate audience is not the people who will be coming to the theatres to see the film. My immediate audience is the film distributors. And most of these film distributors are ignoramuses, they are idiots and stupid people who have heard the names of Prem Chand or Tagore. They are black-marketeers, racketeers and smugglers and what not. They are gamblers essentially and they are suffering a lot. Most of the distributors go bankrupt within a couple of years. Still in a spirit of gamble they enter the industry and they buy the films and they dictate the terms. They say, 'No. There must be a cabaret dance here.' And the poor producer asks the Director, 'You must introduce it' and he has to introduce a cabaret dance. If he does not, his film will not be sold. If it is not sold, he cannot get finance. No producer invests any amount, substantial money in the films. . .

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : This is a film man speaking.

SHRI AMRIT NAHATA : The film producer invests a small initial sum. Then he takes half a reel or a reel of the film, gets it processed and shows it to the distributors and then sells it. Those distributors, one or two of them, who want to buy the film for a particular territory, will pay money in instalments. This is how the film will proceed further and will be completed.

So, the financier is the distributor and the distributor also does not pay from his own pocket. He collects advances from the exhibitors and the cycle goes on. Nobody invests money from his own pocket. Ultimately, it is the cine-goers who finance the film at the window. This is the basic reason.

That is why I say, liberate the film producer or the Director or the technician or the writer from this octopus grip of private finance and these very directors, these very technicians and these very musicians will give us good films and beautiful films.

How to do that? There are various ways. I can place a very concrete suggestion. Let the Government of India constitute a Film Corporation of India. This Film Corporation of India shall be manned by anybody who has directed at least one film during the last three years and all directors will be members as also the technicians except the producer because, as I have already said, the producer is nobody in the actual making of the films.

15.00 hrs.

The Directors, the Actors, the Music Directors, the Editors, the Cameramen, all these can be Members of the Film Corporation of India. Let that Film Corporation body be democratically constituted, let it be democratically run. Some membership should be open to anybody who is qualified and trained under certain educational film institutions being run by this very Film Corporation of India. This shall have monopoly of making films. Its entire financial responsibility should be taken up by the Central Government. That is my submission. If such a financial responsibility is undertaken by the Central

Government and if in this way they are liberated from the grips of private financiers, I am sure you will have good films in this country. That is all that I wanted to say.

DR. KARNI SINGH (Bikaner) : I welcome the opportunity in this House for Members to discuss the Cinematographic Act and other matters connected with it. There is no doubt that in the last few years, the Indian Motion Picture Films have improved in quality. I remember, in my college days, most college students considered it a waste of time to go and see Indian films. But in a very short span of time today you have seen that we make some of the finest films in the world and we can rightly be proud of them. It has just been mentioned about Shri Satyajit Ray. I think his name is so famous that even foreigners think that they have got a lot to learn from his art and technique.

SHRI AMRIT NAHATA : Please excuse me for this intervention, but I have a serious intervention; the first film that Shri Satyajit Ray made could not be finished because he could not find a single buyer and it was the West Bengal Government which came to his rescue and the first film, that is, *Pather Panchali*, was finished.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is not a petty intervention, it is a pretty intervention !

DR. KARNI SINGH : I agree that very often very high standard of art can very easily go over the heads of masses and very often prove a flop although in later years the same film may be a great success.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY (Rajnandgaon) : I think that that picture was a flop because another bad and vulgar picture was available in the market.

DR. KARNI SINGH : Sir, I hold the view that movies and television entertainments have an educational value. Therefore it is essential that Government in some shape or form of censorship controls the type of films and television programmes

that are put up before the masses so that they do not hurt the sentiments of the laymen who go and see them.

I had two occasions which make me think seriously about these cinematographic and censorship aspects. One was this. A friend of mine was playing golf with me. I met him in the golf club and he told me that his son had come and asked him one thing. He had a girl friend and he asked whether he could bring his girl friend along and could he use his house, father's house. As adult human beings, we are concerned with this because this is a phenomenon that they are learning from foreign films. You cannot say that any amount of liberty can be given to film producers to protect any aspect of life because it may not correspond with the Indian way of life, Indian way of thinking. Another occasion was this. There was a theft at the National Museum and when the thief was caught he said that he was influenced by some of these western films that glorified thievery and crime and all that kind of thing, how to steal a million and how the most elaborate modern scientific means were used to break open bank safes. Now you have only to go and see certain movies today, not so much Indian films, but Western films. I do not know the reason why such Western films are permitted to come to India. Every film that you see is connected with violence and crime. Actually I once wanted to write to the Minister after seeing two or three foreign films. Here what was the idea of prohibiting first-class epics made in other countries from coming into this country and allowing the third class murder mysteries depicting violence, thefts, arson, murders and killings ? If the youth of this country are going to be exposed to this type of films, what type of a country are we going to build for the next generation ?

Therefore, I feel that censorship in some shape or form is necessary. I am not opposed to art. I consider myself an amateur photographer. It has been my hobby. I make amateur movie films. I do feel that art should not be smothered or

[Dr. Karni Singh]

controlled. But, where art gets off and phornography enters, that is a very thin dividing line. I think even the Western world which has experimented it, makes the obscene phornographic films available to every man who wants to see it, are now having second thoughts. I do not really know whether it is really improving their society at all or whether it is only something that caters to their baser instincts.

I would like to make a suggestion to the hon. Minister that your censorship board must consist of teachers, doctors, psychiatrists not just anybody, but, people who deal with the human mind or who deal with the minds of India's youth. I think they will be far more capable in telling the censors as to what types of films should be made available to the youth. I am not opposed to the liberalising of the censorship too. I do feel that. I would like to see movie films and take my children and wife who will sit with me and enjoy the films. I mean what I call the family films. I have seen some films with my adult son and daughter and have felt extremely embarrassed. You may turn round and say you are a prude. After all I am an average Indian human being and so I feel that there are certain norms in which we, the Indian people, have been brought up in. It sometimes hurts us to see that norms destroyed in front of our very eyes, and in front of our children. As Mr. Pandey said when we see such movies, along with our children, we are greatly embarrassed. Therefore, some kind of censorship is necessary. I would only make an appeal to the Hon. Minister that let him not be carried away by the concept of art or that kind of thing. You have to guide the nation and tell the people what types of films and T. Vs. are going to be shown to the masses in this country. You have to produce films for the generation of young men and women of tomorrow who are going to be first-class decent human beings given the proper conditions.

I think you can do it. But, for that, you will need the help of the psychiatrists, teachers, doctors, writers, philosophers, thinkers etc. on censorship boards. I hope you will utilise their talent that is available in the country.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I must congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing forward this Bill. Although I do feel that this is a half-hearted measure, yet I feel that something is better than nothing. This will be an improvement over the present censorship system. That is why I am congratulating him.

But, I feel that we have to go to the very root of this problem. In the name of freedom, we say that films too should be given complete freedom to produce whatever they want. What is it that we are trying to encourage in this country? What is it that the younger people want? Some people say that it is the younger people who want to see this type of films. Only the other day or rather only yesterday or day before, on TV they had carried a sample survey. And that was shown. A question was asked: 'Young men, why is it that you see the films?' To this they replied 'we see that because nothing better is available.' Even a young man does not want to see any films other than the sex films in the most lurid form. I took my son with me to see the film. He later told me that he would not like to see such films. I would ask Mr. Daga, would you like this thing to be done by your own sister or daughter? Or would you like a thing to be done by your own son? The immoral thing is one which when done or spoken either hurts yourself or the society.

For, you are living in a society. If you were alone in a jungle, you can do what you like. If my friend Mr. Naik was alone in a jungle and there was no other person at all . . .

SHRI B. V. NAIK (Kanara) : I am in a political jungle.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I agree he is. SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : Unsuccessfully.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY : Why does he suppose ? Suppose he is in a jungle, then what happens ? Suppose a *sher* comes ? SHRI VASANT SATHE : What are they trying to show to the young men ?

It was something unnatural.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : If he were in a jungle he can do whatever he likes. The 'Sher' would refuse to touch him.

The other day, I saw a film much publicised; *Bikini on the Beach* is understandable. But why have *Bikini* on the road from Bangalore to Bombay midway on a rock ? What is this sense of proportion or propriety ?

Unfortunately, even from the point of view of art, I say that the censors have totally failed in doing their duty. Even from the art point of view, sexual relationship or intimacy can be depicted in a very artistic, civilised and aesthetic manner. You do not have to depict two human beings, a young man and a girl as you would depict an animal, a dog and bitch. Aesthetically there is something ennobling in a man and a woman. I have seen the film 'Bobby' and I do not agree with my friend Shri N. K. P. Salve has said. I do not know if he has really seen that film. It is a very refreshing film. A young boy and a girl come together. I do not think there is anything to object to except the loving of the key and that song. Otherwise, what does the film try to depict ? I am not talking of the young man and girl coming together, but they are trying to show that they elope and run away and their parents cannot help; they run away against society and against their parents.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : That is by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : What is the whole object of this medium ? This medium in this country must encourage young men or those who see them, apart from entertaining them, to be creative young men. It must encourage them for some higher values to build this nation. But does it do that ? What is being shown is only escapism. What the young men cannot have in real life they like to see for two hours in the film or on the silvery screen. This is why they see films. Are we not going to have some basic objectives ? Otherwise, we shall be getting into a vicious circle and producers would come forward and say 'What can we do ? Only such types of films are asked for by the people; therefore, we must produce them and make money'. Then, you more of that type of taste and more and more of such things are asked for by the people and so there is more and more vulgarity and lewdness and violence and so on.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : Two minors.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : If a young boy and girl at the age of 16 or 17 come together, there would be nothing unnatural in it. If it were shown instead of this that the parents had such an influence that the boy could have had patience and the girl could go for higher education and read and then they could come together, that would have been something ennobling. But what does the film show ? It tries to encourage them by saying that the best thing that should be done is to elope with his girl and then try to commit suicide . . .

Again, what an amount of violence is shown in our films; I had fortunately something to do in my college days with the gentleman's art of self-defence, known as boxing. I really do not understand the type of violence that is being shown in these films. A man is going on boxing and bashing for five minutes at the other man, jumping, kicking and doing all sorts of things, but there is no harm at all.

[Shri Vasant Sathe]

With one blow you can knock out the other man and he will never get up. But here you can go on giving blows after blows to the other man.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : Will he demonstrate it to the Minister ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : What is the reaction ? In colleges, I have seen young boys doing this. Just to impress the girls they pick up a fight and they go hitting. What are you trying to encourage ? Why do you allow such type of violence to be shown, scenes steeped in violence and glorifying violence too ?

There is another aspect. This is about the blackmarketeers and smugglers. Do you know that in most of the films the smugglers are shown as fellows, living a most luxurious and nappy and rich life. Will this not tempt the young mind to emulate them ? You may say that for the sake of the story it is necessary. A man wants to make a film and wants to make easy money. But what is its impact on the young mind ?

Government must lay down some guidelines. Of course, there is an examining committee. There is a revision committee. There is an appellate board, tribunal and then Government. In between, there is a reviewing authority. Why this duplication and multiplicity of organisations ? Why should Government not have a committee of public men to give clear guidelines ? Of course, these guidelines have been there. Only they have never been implemented. If this is done and if you are strict on some films, I am sure it will give better results.

I wish you godspeed. The only thing is, try to see that we create and use this medium for the good of the country, for the good of the people. In the name of freedom, let us not spread depravity in this country. Let us not erode the values and moral fibre of the youth of our country.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : The contents of this Bill very clearly reveal that our Government is the saddest victim of the generation gap. The object of the Bill is to streamline the machinery so that examination of films, provision of certificates for films for exhibition outside India and all other related problems can be tackled quite effectively. Therefore, an amendment is sought to be made through this Bill to see that the entire structure of this machinery and organisation is totally changed, in a way it is streamlined. But I am afraid if the machinery as proposed in this Bill is accepted and implemented, elements extraneous to art will be introduced into the film industry in this particular process of censorship, and there is nothing more dangerous to the content of art than elements extraneous to art being superimposed as a superstructure on the structure of art itself.

A piece of art must be judged solely by its inner sovereign values. To my mind, these inner sovereign values of art can be nothing else but the sensitivity of art, the transparency of art, the intensity of art, the highest significance of art from the point of view of expressing life as it exists. If the life is ugly, even the depiction of ugly life can be the most beautiful piece of art. Let us not go into this debate whether nudity is vulgar or something else is vulgar. In a piece of art even an aristocrat who has been clothed right from top to bottom can be an expression of the most vulgar thing in life and the nudity of an Adivasi woman who is hunted in our present-day society, when she is seminated and raped by an aristocrat, can be the most beautiful depiction of a piece of art. Such elements of rape and violence introduced into the film might, if taken in isolation, appear as something crude, something very obscene. But in the context of a piece of art, if it is properly fitted in, probably even that piece of rape or the action of rape might itself reveal the pity of the audience for that victim and probably the noblest and the sublimest feelings of the audience can

be roused. Therefore, mere nudity is not something that can be considered as obscene and as extraneous to art.

Someone has rightly said that an artist expresses only the mode in which he can conceive life at all. To him what is dumb is deaf and therefore expression is the soul of art. The sense of art is in the sensitivity of its being in close relationship with truth and beauty. If that is the soul and the spirit of art, the expression of art is not to be curbed; the expression of art is not to be stunted. I am afraid the type of bureaucratic machinery that you are proposing, the various types of liaison and duplication of machinery that you are suggesting, will not enhance the prestige and the content of art. I am sorry to say that it will bring about the stunting and stifling of that particular piece of art.

The moralists talk so much of obscenity, of nudity, of the display of sex, of violence and eroticism. I must candidly admit in the context of the entire structure of a beautiful art, all these things, even a cabaret dance, even a rape scene, even violence, even nudity and even the so-called obscenity in that context of the proper liaising and perspective of that art, particular piece of art, can be the most beautiful thing.

I am giving one simple illustration. Many of you must have seen the classic piece of art, *Sahib Bibi Ghulam*, both in Bengali and Hindi. It has depicted the habit of an aristocratic Bengali of one particular age and he is shown with all his vices. There is adultery there; there is violence there, there are all forms of violence and display of eroticism there. Adultery is displayed there; but it is displayed in such a beautiful manner that when you see adultery there, and when you see all the vices there,—when you see drinking there and when you see the zamindar forcing his wife to drink so that he can get the vicarious satisfaction that even his pious wife has been forced to drink,—probably all these things may appear to some of the moralists as obscene, but in

the context of the film, what is the impression that is created in the audience? It only creates a sense of hatred for the aristocratic zamindar class of that type, and it creates a sense of pity for the victim of that aristocrat. All these things are indicated there.

Therefore, things are ugly or beautiful. Oscar Wilde once said that there is nothing vulgar or there is nothing obscene. All art is either good art or bad art. I think even the most so-called vulgarity, if depicted in a manner, in the context of a particular situation, may be all right. In isolation they might appear to be very bad. People may say anything about a cabaret dance. But even the most vulgar cabaret dance shown in a particular context, shows what type of aristocratic life one side is leading, and probably if the other side of the picture is put in the proper context, in fact, even on the young mind there cannot be any bad effect.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: What do you say about the cabaret dance for money-making?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I am coming to that. I have been weighing my words very carefully, (*Interruptions*) I have been saying that all these so-called obscene things, weighed in the perspective of art—all these things shown in the perspective of the art—actually enhance the situation. If there is vulgarity in life, even by showing the vulgarity in life in the films, you can create some sort of hatred for that type of life. There are *dramas* and there are films, in which people are shown as addicts to drugs. But after seeing the piece of art, one is not driven to that particular vice, but one is driven to a feeling that something that was shown is a bad thing.

From that point of view, my contention is that it is better that in the perspective of art, a particular event has to be judged, and therefore, I would leave the judgment and the assessment, whether they have been put in the proper artistic perspective

or not, not to the bureaucrat but to the artists, and on that I do not think there can be any difference of opinion as far as this House is concerned.

In that context, I should like to come to the last point and there I shall refer to the objection raised. If cabaret is shown, if smugglers' activities are shown and the ferocity is displayed only in order to play to the gallery it might appear to be a vulgar thing and it will be a vulgar thing. All that is happening as my friend Mr. Nahata has rightly pointed out. It is only because a few private financiers, who control the production of films produce films for profits, but they do not produce beautiful pieces of art. The remedy lies in removing a mal-adjustment in the film industry. They should be completely removed and a balance should be struck and proper guidance should be given even for financial motivations. Then the moralist will not have to draw wrong lessons; they may not have to strengthen the censor machinery. They have to strengthen the machinery of art. Art has to become a pivotal point of the entire machinery and not a few Government bureaucrats, in which case, possibly all this controversy arising out of the Bill will end. My second point, therefore, is that since the machinery provided for the Bill will not be able to fulfil this basic task, this House should throw out this Bill lock stock and barrel.

SHRI N. K. SANGHI (Jalore) This Bill has given us a chance to discuss the film industry. Much of my work, has been lightened by what Prof. Mukherjee and Shri Nahata said regarding the background of the film industry. So much has been said about censorship in India that I do not want to go into that aspect. This matter was discussed by the committee consisting of knowledge people under the Chairmanship of Mr. Khosla who took marathon evidence in this matter and that committee has come to certain conclusions. There were also certain Members and I think their opinion has to be considered.

It has been stated that in film industry there is glamour, dazzling lights, showmanship and everything. On the other side the industry has poverty, qualor and hunger as also the pitiable life of the workers in the film industry. Unless we achieved some cohesion between these two—the glamour on one side and pitiable conditions on the other side. I do not think any rapport can be there. Shri Gujral is heading the Ministry and he has understanding and involvement in the industry. We expected a somewhat response from him. In 1969 when I discussed the matter of formation of the film council Shri Gujral was good enough to give an assurance on the floor of the House that this council would come very soon. Unfortunately five years have passed, but nothing has been done. Two years ago, on a private Member's resolution we discussed labour relations in the film industry and the Labour Minister gave us an assurance that legislation was coming. Again nothing has been done. We do not know in which way the industry is being tackled.

In the context of this Bill it is better to go into the history of censorship in this country. The original Act was passed in 1898 in this country. In 1952 an Act was passed and a board of censors was set up. In 1958 they provided two categories of films (U) and (A).

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may continue your speech on the next occasion. We shall now take up Private Members Business.

15.29 hrs.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[AMENDMENT OF SECTIONS 2, 3 ETC.]

SHRI P. M. MEHTA (Bhavnagar): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

*Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 22-2-74.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1973".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: I introduce the Bill.

15.30 hrs.

PAYMENT OF WAGLS (AMENDMENT BILL

[AMENDMENT OF SECTIONS 1, 2 etc.]

SHRI P. M. MEHTA (Bhavnagar): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Payment of Wages Act, 1936.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Payment of Wages Act, 1936".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: I introduce the Bill.

15.30½ hrs.

FACTORIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

[AMENDMENT OF SECTIONS 8, 9 ETC.]

SHRI P. M. MEHTA (Bhavnagar): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1948.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1948".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: I introduce the Bill.

15.31 hrs.

PAYMENT OF BONUS (AMENDMENT BILL)

[AMENDMENT OF SECTIONS 1, 2 ETC.]

SHRI P. M. MEHTA (Bhavnagar): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: I introduce the Bill.

15.32 hrs.

REMOVAL OF DISPARITIES AND CONCENTRATION OF WEALTH BILL

by Shri K. Lakkappa—contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We now take up further consideration of the Bill of Shri Lakkappa on removal of disparities and concentration of wealth. Out of the two hours allotted 45 minutes were taken and the balance is one hour and forty-five minutes.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad): Sir, I strongly support the Bill moved by Shri K. Lakkappa for the reduction of disparities in this country. As somebody has rightly said, disparities in India cannot be bridged even though the distance between the moon and the earth can be bridged. This is the state of affairs in this country.

After assuming full control of the organisation and administration in this country, Shrimati Indira Gandhi wanted to do a lot of things. She promised to banish poverty from this country and she took very many good steps. She also enunciated the percolation theory that the wealth should flow not to the highest but to the lowest in this country. Unfortunately, the political parties in this country are putting hurdles in the way. Their only objective seems to be to obstruct the implementation of the progressive policies of this government. From the day they lost the elections they have started this agitation in this country. In other countries when a party is elected to power because it has got the majority, it is allowed to pursue its policies for the next four and a half years. Only during the remaining six months they start criticising the government because the election is fast approaching. In this country, on the other hand, the moment the government was in office the opposition started agitations on all conceivable grounds. They started indulging in gherao and violence. In order to indulge in violence we do not need a large number of people. One per cent or even half per cent of the population can create disturbance in this country.

We have witnessed disturbances in Andhra Pradesh and then in Gujarat recently. If the Congress Party failed in discharging their responsibilities, they take full responsibility for it. But the other parties should allow the majority party to function effectively and implement its policies. If there is any failure in the implementation of progressive policies in this country, it is on account of the obstructionist policies of the opposition parties.

Take, for instance, land reforms. Government wanted to take away the surplus lands from the zamindars and redistribute it to the landless. Unfortunately, in Andhra Pradesh there were agitations in which all the land records were destroyed. Now Government are taking fresh steps to redistribute land.

Then, when we have invested huge amounts in industries we naturally want to get reasonable returns from the investment. But the opposition parties day in and day out call the workers to go on strike which hampers production.

In this poor country, we are paying a very decent amount to the worker. On an average, every worker in this country is getting Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 per month, including bonus, provident fund, gratuity, sick leave, medical leave, etc. These well-placed workers are playing havoc in the country. In the Railways, in the L.I.C. in the Indian Airlines, the employees are well-paid. Their wage amounts can be compared with those of America and other places. But still these people are not satisfied and they go on strike. The Government wants to deal with these people firmly. There also, in the matter of removing disparities, these people are coming in the way.

As regards the foodgrains distribution, the Government wants to give cheap grains to the poor people in every part of the country. But it is the Opposition parties which are creating trouble and they are creating trouble on the transport side also. There are a handful persons who are going on strike and coming in the way. That is why there are disparities...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is a disparity between what you say and what the Bill says.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: There are disparities and we want to do away with them. Nobody has got any quarrel with spirit behind the Bill. But

it is the implementation side of it which is more important I am speaking about that. Unless and until the Opposition behaves in a constructive and responsible manner, there will be little implementation. For that, the Government need not be blamed. That is why the Government has programmed that every family in this country should have at least one person employed in a Government Department, in a factory or somewhere. In that way, we can reduce disparity.

Moreover, huge amounts are concentrated in a few people and these people are playing havoc with the black money. The Government is doing its best to unearth the black money. The black money, as you know, is a child of the Second World War when there was scarcity and the people were hoarding articles and selling them at double the price. That is still going on . . .

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There should be a limit to the disparity between what you say and what the Bill says.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : One more disparity is that there is a disparity between one type of worker and another type of worker. That disparity has to go. The Government employees now-a-days are threatening the Government now and then to go on strike. Out of a total Budget, the Government employees are getting about 70 per cent of it and hardly 30 per cent is left over. That is why I appeal to the Government that they should decide once and for all that there will be no increase in the pay of Government servants. The difference between one wage earner and the other wage earner should not be more than 10 times.

DR. RANEN SEN (Barasat) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am in agreement with the spirit of the Bill moved by Mr. Lakkappa though I have some objection to the words used by him, namely, that he wants conversion of big industrial and business concerns into cooperatives managed by all for all. That is why I say I do

not agree with certain words, the language, used by him though I support the spirit behind the Bill.

In the last few years, both in this House and outside in the country as a whole, much has been talked about the disparities in wages, the growth of monopolies, the concentration of wealth in a few hands and all that. As far as I am concerned, I think, I have heard several speeches made in this House and also outside. But what has been the result? During the last 25 or 26 years of our freedom, it has been admitted by the Government, there has been a huge concentration of wealth in the hands of a few, a huge concentration of black money in the hands of a few and that the disparity in our country between different sections of the people, between different strata of the people, between different classes of the people, has grown enormously. Take, for example, the question of wages. If we compare the wages or salaries of the lower scale employees working in a factory or an establishment and the wages or salaries or remuneration and perquisites enjoyed by a Managing Director or a specialist or General Manager, we will find that the difference is 100 times or even 150 times. Even in the Central Government or State Government, if we compare the salaries of the highest paid, the ICS or its tribe IAS, and of the chaprasi, the Class IV, we will find that the disparity is ten times or 15 times or 20 times. This has been the legacy of the British days and Government has not made any serious attempts to do away with this disparity in wages between different categories of employees. In the labour movement we have all pleaded for a differential wage system so that there is a category-wise difference in wages but at the same time not a vast disparity between different scales of pay; that is why we call it a differential system of wages—keeping in view the egalitarian outlook. This is the first point.

Secondly, it is not denying the fact—in fact, in this House this has been discussed—that in spite of the pious declara-

[Dr. Ranen Sen]

tion made in the First Five-Year Plan and the Second Five-Year Plan, there has been a serious growth of concentration of wealth in a few hands. The Mahalanobis Committee, the Sarkar Committee and the other Committees have found out that quite a huge percentage of the total wealth of the country is now concentrated in a few hands, in a few houses. The Government has admitted and that is why the Government have introduced the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act. Even then this disparity grows. Does it grow due to strikes or gheraos? No. This grows due to the wrong policy of the Government being pursued for the last 25 or 26 years. Therefore, the country has to seriously consider how to get rid of this concentration of wealth. I know, Mr. Ganesh will get up and say, 'These are the measures that are being taken, these are the measures that are being taken, these are the measures that are being taken'. I know of such arguments because we have been hearing each other for a pretty long time. Therefore, I am not going into those things. But what I want to say is this that a definite plan has to be adopted by the Government to take over and nationalise the large number of industries in our country, starting from big monopoly capital of the foreigners to the Indian capital that is growing, that has grown, and that is likely to become a huge menace to the country. That step has to be taken. Otherwise, what happens? . . .

SHRI P. M. MEHTA (Bhavnagar) : It is beyond their capacity.

DR. RANEN SEN : Mr. Mehta says that it is beyond their capacity. But if there is proper pressure inside the country and the House, the Government will have to do it. Or, the Government has to quit. There is no other way.

Therefore, I say that this is the first step that the Government should adopt—nationalise the foreign investments. There was a discussion in this House to take over the foreign oil interests in the country

on a resolution moved by Mr. Hiren Mukherjee but that was defeated. But even then, starting from such a position, you should take over some of the industries which have a commanding height in our economy. Otherwise, what will happen? However much we talk about the concentration of wealth and other things, nothing will happen in the country unless that first step is taken.

Secondly, the Government should take special measures to really curb or control the big business that is ruling to-day in our country. It is an admitted fact. That the Government will admit and Mr. Ganesh will also admit that to-day one of the main reasons for these high prices and artificial scarcity is the existence and operation of big business in our country. Take the mill-owners, the monopolists who are controlling production, who are controlling the distribution and who are dictating the prices to the country and dictating the prices to the Government and the Government is unable to or does not want to interfere in such a position.

Therefore, instead of converting big industrial and business concerns into co-operatives managed by all for all, I suggest that it should be that the Government should socialise and nationalise these concerns leaving only the smaller and middle industrialists and thereby this concentration of wealth in a few hands will be curbed. No. 2—the Government as a model employer should try to see that this disparity in the wages of Government employees should be done away with.

I do not want to make a long speech on this. I have just indicated the line the Government should adopt. I have not taken a very negative or critical attitude of the Government because there is no use in doing that. I think this is the line that the Parliament and the Government should adopt. With these words, I support the Bill moved by Shri Lakkappa.

श्री लालजी भाई (उदुपूर) : उत्पादक महोदय, सबन में गणपूर्ति नहीं है ।

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let the bell be rung.

There is quorum now. The hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : I am thankful to the hon. Members who have briefly participated in this Bill.

Our friend Mr. Lakkappa has moved his Bill with the best of intentions. There is no difference between him and the Government as far as the spirit of the Bill is concerned and as far as the objectives which he wants to achieve. He is a very militant member of this House and he has lot of experience, he has been working among the people of this country, and naturally this question of disparities which are there has disturbed him and he has come up with this Bill.

Having said this I would like to point out that there are certain features of the Bill which we have to consider. For the benefit of the House, I may point out that the major point in his Bill is that industrial units and business concerns with a capital of Rs. 5 lakhs or above should be converted into cooperative societies, and the owners and partners and labours and staff should become the owners and members of such a society and the other connected matters therewith. I may say that this particular approach of him, of converting the business concerns into cooperatives or cooperative societies will not achieve the desired objective which he has in his mind. There are also certain constitutional safeguards as far as this Bill is concerned. I may just indicate what these are.

Firstly, Parliament is not competent to enact saying that all industrial units and business concerns should be converted into cooperative societies because Entry 33 of the Concurrent List is there. Trade and commerce is within the States' jurisdiction. Production, supply and distribution of goods

fall within the State list. Even Cooperative Societies is a State subject. Taking over these under the management of co-operative societies without deciding the question of compensation may also involve certain constitutional problems. By saying all these things it is not at all my intention to belittle the objective of the Bill which he has moved.

There is also another point and it is this, that cooperative societies may not be the correct organisational forms for the development of industrial and for industrial growth in a vast country like ours.

It is now accepted by the largest body of opinion in our country that the large scale industrialisation based on heavy industrial growth is the basic foundation on which industrialisation and development can take place. In a vast country like India, we have certain commitments to our people. We have certain national objectives. We have an international attitude and policy. Therefore, it is very necessary that this country stands on its own legs and becomes self-reliant. This is absolutely essential. Industrialisation based on heavy industry or based on core sector is fully justified. It does not make a difference between the public sector undertakings and the private sector undertakings. The hon. Member wants that all concerns with a capital outlay of Rs. 5 lakhs are to be converted into cooperatives. In the course of his eloquent speech he gave certain figures with regard to disparities, concentration of economic power, wage difference between the minimum and the maximum and various other factors. Since he quoted from the governmental record itself, there is no difference of opinion or dispute about it. This is a reality in which we are to-day and it has been recognised by Government itself. Government has set up the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission. It has taken various other steps. In respect of planned development certain distortions in our economy have taken place resulting in disparities. They are still continuing.

[Shri K. R. Ganesh]

Concentration of economic power in a few hands is also continuing. There is no difference of opinion in that. My only point is : what is the strategy that we have to follow? Should we be self-reliant by industrialisation alone? Simultaneously, we have also to bring about reduction in disparities in income to the extent possible in our own conditions. The bill suffers from one grave infirmity. He speaks about industry; he does not speak about land. Land is a very large sector in which wealth is there. As a Parliamentarian of repute, he should know that the basic problem of the Indian economy to-day is land reform. Without land reforms it will not be possible to solve many of the problems that our economy to-day is faced with. Some of the great difficulties with which we are faced are not only in industries but also in land. A large part of wealth is in urban property. As far as this Bill is concerned, there is a large body of acceptance in this country that these disparities have to go

15.39 hrs.

[SHRI VASANT SATHE *in the Chair*]

There has to be a levelling up of the wages and salaries and concentration of economic power. It has to be reduced to the extent possible. The point I was trying to make was this. What is the strategy we will have to follow. The strategy that the hon. Member has given is the conversion of companies into co-operatives. This strategy, I must submit with all humility, is an utopian strategy and it does not take into consideration the relative economic situation that exists in this country to-day.

Though his intentions are good, the strategy of having a cooperative organisation in a large country like India will not reduce the disparities that exist to-day.

16.00 hrs.

Then, what should the strategy be? One strategy which Dr. Ranen Sen had indicated was nationalisation of all big industries, foreign as well as Indian, as a

means of reducing the concentration of economic power. I heard an hon. Member who is not here at the moment saying that this was beyond the capacity of the present Government. In reply to him I may say that this Government has shown the necessary political courage to nationalise many industries. This is a reality. We may not be in a position to go the whole hog as the hon. Member Dr. Ranen Sen wants us to go, in the present economic situation in which we are, having accepted some role for the private sector in the economic development of the country; and within the framework of parliamentary democracy which we have accepted we may not be able to go the whole hog with it. But I do not think that it is a true or correct assessment to say that it is beyond the capacity of this Government, because from the very day this Government has come into power, its primary objective has been to put the public sector into commanding heights and to have planned development of the country. We are now on the threshold of the Fifth Plan. It may run into difficulties, but that is a separate aspect of the matter. But a Rs. 53,000 crores plan has been prepared and various other elements which are part of the Fifth Plan have also been gone into. As regards the core sector being provided with necessary resources, foreign resources as well as capital equipment and all that, a serious discussion has taken place, as everybody knows, and we have entered into an economic agreement with the Soviet Union, according to which it looks as if this part of the core sector of the Plan will be taken care of and we may not have to go round the world abegging as far as this aspect is concerned.

It was not correct for the hon. Member to say that it was beyond the capacity of this Government to nationalise. For, nationalisation has taken place in this country. Very recently, nationalisation of banks was there and that brought about a churning in this country and it brought about new political attitudes and a new political thinking. Again, general insurance has been nationalised; coal mines have

been nationalised, and various other things have been nationalised. This will show that there is no hesitation and there is no lack of political courage as far as this Government is concerned to nationalise any industry if it is necessary in the interests of the national economy to do so.

I may say that the strategy which Government has been following, which is open to correction and which is also open to change is that through planned development, we try to bring about industrialisation and industrial growth, increase production and simultaneously reduce disparities in income. Then, we have been using fiscal measures. The taxation system being what it is—as everybody knows, a section of the House as well as a section of opinion or thinking in this country says that it is a very confiscatory system of taxation—it has been devised to mop up the surplus that is generated in the hands of the affluent sections and if it is fully implemented, it will bring about a tremendous amount of reduction in disparities. I am quite conscious of the fact that we have not been able to reorient the entire taxation machinery to achieve this objective. As you are aware, Sir, the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill is before a Select Committee, and linked with it is the question of the reorientation of the entire machinery of taxation to achieve this objective not only of collection of taxes but also of achieving the desired social purpose and national objective, namely of reduction in disparities which can be achieved if the present taxation system is fully implemented, and tax avoidance and tax evasion and black money is attacked frontally and an assault is made on that.

The taxation system itself has been devised to achieve these desired objectives. I have figures to show—I do not want to take up the time of the House this subject has been discussed many times—how at a particular level income becomes counterproductive, how at a particular level of wealth and property, it becomes counterproductive. But I concede that unless the taxation machinery is oriented to this task of achiev-

ing these objectives, not only the collection of revenue but also at tacking the disparity in income, probably the full impact of the taxation laws will not be felt.

Then there has been a continuous emphasis since the budget of 1971-72 when the Prime Minister as Finance Minister initiated it and it has been followed up in subsequent budgets—on what is known as social investments. There have been various social investment programmes like nutrition for children, rural water supply, social security for industrial workers, schemes for rural employment, special employment programmes for both the educated and uneducated, extension of primary education, rural house sites and so on. These were started in 1971-72. A budget provision of Rs. 125 crores was made in 1972-73. These have been carried forward in the last year's budget. There is a special programme for generating employment among educated youth. The nationalised banks have been there. In spite of the criticism of the banks, the fact is that they have been geared to the achievement of the desired objectives. More credit is now available to the priority sectors, the agricultural sector, self-employed youth, small scale industries and various other things. While making this statement, I am also conscious of the fact that the banks have also to vigorously pursue these objectives to achieve the targets set.

Then there is the role of the MRTP Act. The licensing system has been used to see that industries are taken to areas indicated by Government, areas necessary to be developed in the interest of the national economy. There has been a continuous expansion of the public sector.

Recently, there was the takeover of the wholesale trade in wheat. There is now a question before State Governments of having a ceiling on urban property for which a draft Bill is being considered at the highest level.

[Shri K. R. Ganesh]

These are the various steps Government have taken in the direction of achieving economic growth and self-reliance.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He may also deal with a point raised in some of the speeches about co-operation of all for all—I think that was the term used in Shri Lakkappa's Bill. He may deal with the aspect of taking the workers' co-operation in management.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : I will endeavour to do that. I was trying to indicate that these various steps have been taken and the impact of these steps is also there. Yet the problem remains. The problem is of very considerable dimensions. Much more vigorous steps and much more political courage as well as organisational and administrative machinery will be required to achieve the targets we have set.

There are two more questions. You asked about workers' participation in management. As far as the functioning of industry is concerned, there is an infirmity here. The hon. Mover wants these industries to be co-operativised and the management placed in the hands of the same owners. According to his scheme—I do not know how he has worked it out—he will have the same people as the managers of these industries. But it just does not work out in reality. Then he also says that the salaries will be fixed by the Government. I do not know how Government can fix the salaries of such a vast sector, because the salaries and other conditions and emoluments have got to grow depending on the conditions that evolve in our country.

As far as the workers' participation is concerned, you know and you are aware that this is the declared policy of the Government. I am conscious of the fact, having been in the movement myself, that its full implementation will involve many things; it would involve the full co-operation of the trade unions and the elimination of a multiplicity of unions; it will

involve the workers' movement itself taking a stride and becoming the defender of the public sector as the conscientious workers in their movement are feeling today. It will involve a change in the thinking of the management, and it will involve a change in the thinking of what is known as the bureaucracy. Therefore, it is a total change that will have to take place before the full impact of the workers' participation is realised. Workers' participation will not only have to be at what is known as the works committee level but it will also have to be at the decision-making level. Then only participation will become effective and it will have meaning. Therefore, it is a continuous struggle that is there, because it involves the involvement of the trade unions. The trade union movement will also have to be relieved of its present tensions that are there. There is a multiplicity of unions; some norms will have to be fixed for having a recognised union for every industry. The Labour Ministry is applying its mind to this, and I think the veteran trade unionists who have devoted their entire life to the cause of the workers like Dr. Ranen Sen, who also believe in the expansion of the public sector and who believe in the public sector becoming the dominant sector will realise that all the various assets in the trade unions and the industries will have to be used for achieving this objective.

There is only one more thing. We in this country are developing in a particular world picture, a world situation, whatever it may be called. It is well known that the western countries developed in the era of industrialisation, in the 18th and 19th centuries with no trade union rights and with very little democratic rights, with no article 311 as we have here. They also developed on the basis of exploitation of the colonies. The socialist countries developed under an organisation of complete take-over of all productive apparatus and means of production as well as under a system, what they called the democratic dictatorship of one party. They developed like that. But we are trying to develop in the sixties and the seventies under a

very democratic Constitution, and under very advanced labour laws, and under a judiciary and with a free press and various other things. We have accepted parliamentary democracy as an instrument of social change. We have no precedents. We cannot follow the capitalist countries who developed in a particular epoch of the world development. We cannot whole hog follow the socialist countries, because we have accepted parliamentary democracy and a multi-party system, free press, and all that. Therefore, the mechanics of a social transformation has still to be worked out and it is for men like Dr. Ranen Sen and others who have to say what kind of mechanism we are to have, what role the working class has to play and the various forces have to play. These are the aspects.

In the end, I would like to congratulate Shri Lakkappa for bringing this issue and raising once again this question which is being debated throughout the country today, particularly in the economic situation which is grim and which is difficult. I would only appeal to him that the objective that he wants to achieve can be achieved by a further expansion of the policies that the Government have been following, by a better implementation and by a consensus developing in the country to take over all industries and the system of workers' role in managements and various other things.

Finally, I would appeal to the hon. Member to withdraw his Bill, since his objective of focussing the attention of this august House has been achieved.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur) : I am very happy that hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance has gone into the various aspects of the Bill and he has also commended the spirit with which the Bill has been brought forward. This Bill aims at the removal of disparities in wages and also the removal of concentration of wealth. I have focussed the attention of the Government on the concentration of

wealth by the larger houses and incidentally on concentration of land also. The Ministers of Industrial Development and Company Affairs should have given a reply to the debate. 220 millions of our people live below the poverty level. We have given unfettered sovereign powers even to those who are below the poverty level and they participate in massive election programmes. Because of that we are in power. We have promised them too much, but nothing has come out by way of proposals. The situation is explosive. My friend Mr. Ganesh is very industrious and progressive and is doing a very good work in the Ministry. With the best of intentions our Government has been unable to establish a classless society among our people. Various measures have been taken but by legal battles inside and outside the House, certain reactionaries and vested interests are opposing progressive measures of the Government. The will of the people to establish a democratic socialist society will ultimately prevail, because sovereignty is vested in the people.

The hon. Minister has said that many measures had been taken. That is true. Unfortunately those measures are not enough to meet the situation. As stated by me earlier larger houses have accumulated 1400 crores of black money, according to the report of the Wanchoo Committee. This money is in the hands of a few people who are establishing a society for themselves. There is a great disparity in the wages earned by different people.

Take, for example, the Managing Director of a Birla concern. He would be drawing more than Rs. 40,000, and that is allowed under the Companies Act. Because, the new Companies Act is still to come into force, which will plug all the evil practices of the big business houses which are operating in this country. These Managing Directors are enjoying all the facilities at the cost of the employees of those undertakings who are producing wealth, a share of which has been denied to them. Why should we allow this disparity? Take the Mangalore Fertilizers

[Shri K. Lakappa]

and Chemicals, owned by both the Central and State Governments. The salary of the Managing Director is Rs. 7,000 plus other perquisites. This was opposed by the shareholders, who held a *dharna* before the general body meeting. Why should the Company Law Department permit such fabulous salaries to the Managing Director of a fertilizer factory? I can quote many number of instances of this kind. This has caused an explosive situation in this country.

I will refer to another adverse effect of the concentration of wealth. The manufacture of car is concentrated in the hands of a few industrialists. The manufacture of spare parts and ancillaries is controlled by their close relatives, sons-in-law or brothers-in-law. They produce sub-standard material and the result is that the entire machinery of the car is deteriorating day by day.

Even to introduce a change in the Constitution we have to wage a battle because of the opposition of these reactionaries. Whenever we try to bring in progressive measures by amending the Constitution, they oppose it.

That is why I suggest that at least 30 per cent of the concentration of wealth should be minimised until radical measures are brought in. I am not suggesting that everything should be converted into co-operative societies. For that we shall have to fight a legal battle and pass a legislation in this country by democratic methods. I am suggesting an easy solution. My friend says that there are defects in my Bill. I agree that it is not perfect. He has questioned the legislative competence of this Bill. This Bill only says that industrial units with a capital of Rs. 5 lakhs and more should be converted into cooperatives of the owners, labour and staff.

60. At the same time, the Managing Director of a concern gets a fabulous salary. That is why I suggest that such units should be converted into cooperatives and they should be run by governmental machinery. This is the first step towards the establishment of a welfare society.

The object of the Bill is to remove the disparities in wages. This Bill is on a question of economic policy and planning which is covered under Entry 20 of the Concurrent List—Economic and social planning. We have got a federal character. We have also got the Concurrent List. There are ample powers with the Central Government to direct the State Governments to establish such a society, to transform the system that has been prevailing in this country, and remove the disparities. Therefore, there is nothing wrong in it. There is no legal defect so far as this Bill is concerned. This Bill can be improved by the Government and accepted by the Government. The subject-matter of the Bill is covered under Entry 20 of the Concurrent List.

The Bill also embodies one of the Directive Principles of State Policy, article 39 (b) of the Constitution which states that both the Union Government and the State Governments should direct their policy towards securing that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good. This is the Directive Principle which adorns our Constitution. If it is not implemented, what is to be done? It is the responsibility of the Central Government to see that it is implemented. The material resources of the community should be distributed so that the weaker sections of the community get economic and social justice in this country.

Let us remember that 40 per cent of the people of this country are agricultural labourers who are getting only Rs. 1 to 3 a day. Similarly, a class IV employee in an industrial concern gets only Rs. 50 to 353 of the Constitution to legislative on

This is a socialistic measure of welfare and it is within the legislative competence of Parliament itself. In an Emergency, the Parliament is empowered under article 353 of the Constitution to legislative on

these matters. They can take up these issues which are very necessary and essential to establish such a society. There is no question of any defect in the Bill so far as the legal aspects are concerned.

Sir, for every legal battle, you must have observed, as a very active Member in the House, you have to face the reactionaries who come in the way of progressive legislation. Even in the case of Bank nationalisation, you know what happened. The nationalisation of Banks is only in name. We have nationalised the Banks. Whose photographs have been put in the Banks? Still the photographs of owners of Banks are put there, not of the Prime Minister who has changed the system of our society. This is the first time, she has changed the system of our society. She has said that there is to be eradication of poverty. But what do we find? We find the photographs of the owners, the proprietors, of the Banks there. Most of their relatives are working in the Banks. I want to know whether after the nationalisation of Banks, the Government has changed the feudal character of the Banks. The same people are running the Banks even after the nationalisation of Banks.

All these industrial units should be converted into a cooperative society without giving any compensation because all the wealth belongs to the nation, the society. The people who produce wealth should get into the ownership, the collective ownership. This is the first step to be taken.

There are many obstacles which come in the way. After the taking the over of the wholesale trade in wheat, the vested interests are creating difficulties. Same is the case with the taking over of rice trade. The administrative machinery that we are having is a coterie of IAS and ICS officers. Unless article 311 is removed, it will be very difficult to implement anything in the country. So much protection has been given to the very people who have got feudal character and who are opposing socialistic measures and socialistic ideas.

This Bill does not attract article 117 of the Constitution which requires the recommendation of the President for introduction of the Bill in the Lok Sabha. This is a very simple measure. It may take some time to achieve the ultimate object that we want to achieve. Do you think that a hungry nation can wait till that time comes, till all the legal battles are fought? Let us establish a socialistic society immediately and see that the control of the economy by a few hands is removed, as a first step. We have to go further also. I agree with Mr. Ganesh that this is not a permanent solution. What I am asking is this: as a first step, we may have this...

MR. CHAIRMAN: On that agreement, I think, the hon. Member may conclude.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Unless the Minister for Company Affairs also replies to this debate, it will be incomplete, because my Bill attracts the attention of the Minister for Company Affairs also. The debate that has taken place concerns the Minister for Company Affairs also, and unless he replies to the debate, it will be incomplete. You have got ample power, Mr. Chairman. Anyway, I will leave it to your discretion. Most of the hon. members who participated in the debate have agreed with the principle of the Bill. Hon. Minister, Mr. Ganesh, has also agreed with the principle of the Bill and has promised on the floor of the House that he would do something better, he would take a serious note of this. In view of the assurance given by Mr. Ganesh, I would like to withdraw my Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to Shri K. Lakkappa to withdraw the Removal of Disparities and Concentration of Wealth Bill."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Sir, I withdraw the Bill.

16.33 hrs.

RAILWAYS (ABOLITION OF CASUAL LABOUR) BILL

MR CHAIRMAN: We now take up the next Bill, the Railways (Abolition of Casual Labour) Bill.

Mr. Hukam Chand Kachwai

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (मुरोना) : सभापति जी, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि रेलवे में आकस्मिक श्रमिकों के नियोजन की प्रथा समाप्त करने का उपबंध करने वाले विधेयक पर विचार किया जाए।

श्रीमती टी. लक्ष्मीकान्तमा (खम्मम) : हाउस में कार्रम नहीं है।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मुझे कोई आपत्ति नहीं है लेकिन फिर आप देख लीजिये।

MR CHAIRMAN It is a convention that during Private Members' Business the point of quorum should not be raised

SHRIMATI T LAKSHMIKANTHAM-MA He has raised in the past

MR CHAIRMAN You should not do the same mistake

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : हमारे देश में रेलवे एक बहुत बड़ा उद्योग है और इसमें काम करने वाले बहुत बड़ी संख्या में लोग हैं। इस में जो कैंज्यूअल नाम से पुकारे जाते हैं उनकी संख्या लगभग साढ़े पांच लाख है। आप रेलवे के कर्मचारियों की स्थिति से भली भांति परिचित हैं और इसलिए आप मुझे काफी सहयोग देंगे। रेलवे में सबसे अधिक संख्या गैंगमैनों की है जो लगभग चार लाख हैं। फिर कंटीन में काम करने वाले हैं। रेलवे में ट्रेनिंग स्कूल हैं उनमें काम करने वाले हैं। भोजनालयों में काम करने वाले, ट्राली चलाने वाले, हाईनिंग कार में काम करने वाले, क्ली पोटर्स आदि सब मिला कर लगभग साढ़े पांच लाख लोग ऐसे हैं जो कैंज्यूअल हैं। उन्हें कब निकाला जाएगा, कब रखा जाएगा इसका कोई भरोसा नहीं होता।

मैं गैंगमैनों से शुरु करता हूँ। इनकी दशा बहुत खराब है। ये जिनके मातहत काम करते हैं वे हैं पी डब्ल्यू आई, डब्ल्यू आई, डब्ल्यू टी आई एस आर। 180 दिन इनका काम करते हो जाते हैं इनका पक्का कर देना चाहिए। लेकिन आपके रेलवे के गांभीय आदेश हैं कि 180 दिन पूरे किसी के न होने पायें, उनकी सर्विस को ब्रेक करो और चार पांच दिन बाद फिर काम पर लो। सारी रेलों में इस प्रकार की प्रैक्टिस है और यदि किसी को पक्का करना है तो उसका रेट बढ़ा हुआ है। जो इनके ऊपर के अधिकारी हैं वे पांच सौ रुपये ले कर उनको पक्का करते हैं। सारे देश में यह रेट बढ़ा हुआ है। इस राशि के दिये बिना वे पक्के नहीं हो सकते। इतना भ्रष्टाचार इतनी घूसखोरी इतने बड़े पैमाने पर इसमें होती है। एक गैंग मैन बीस व्यक्ति होते हैं। टैम्पोरेरी एक महीने की भर्ती की जाती है। अफसर जो इन्हें रखता है वह प्रत्येक से दस रुपये लेता है। इस तरह एक महीने में दो सौ रुपये वह कमाता है। एक महीने के बाद बैठाल देता है फिर काम पर लेगा तो दस रुपये लेगा। इस प्रकार की दशा इसके अन्दर है। कंटीनो में देखें। जो बरे लोग हैं वे एक हजार से पंद्रह सौ रुपये देते हैं। ऊपर के आफिसर को तब परमानेंट होते हैं। आखिर ऐसी स्थिति क्यों है? गैंगमैनो का वेतन देखें क्या है? वह जिस जिले में काम करते हैं उस जिले का जिलाधीश तय करता है कि इनका रोजाना क्या देना है? ये ढाई रुपये से लेकर 5 रुपये रोज का वेतन पाते हैं जिलाधीश के आदेश पर। क्या कभी आपने सोचा है कि जिलाधीश के आदेश पर उनका वेतन तय करते हैं तो उससे पूछ कर गरीबों का रेल का किराया भी तय किया करें? वह बाल बच्चों वाले होते हैं, परिवार वाले होते हैं। आज के युग में ढाई रुपये और पांच रुपये में अपना पेट भर पाएंगे यह असंभव है। वह शारीरिक श्रम करते हैं और शारीरिक श्रम करते हैं तो खराब भी ज्यादा खाएंगे और बच्चे भी ज्यादा पेंदा करेंगे। तो इस ढाई रुपये के अंदर उनका गुजारा कैसे हो सकता है? इस-लिए मेरा निवेदन है कि इनके वेतन में सुधार कीजिए। यह वेतन इनका बहुत रज्जाजनक

हैं। अभी रेल के एक्सीडेंट में मरने वाले व्यक्ति को 50 हजार रुपये देने का नियम आपने किया है। यह संसद ने पास किया है, हमने पास किया है, बहुत अच्छी बात है। लेकिन जो बीस-बीस साल तक आपके यहां गैंगमैन के रूप में काम करके अपनी सारी जकनी गंवा देता है, अपना जीवन खपा देता है उसको आप क्या देते हैं? इसलिए मेरा कहना है कि इनके बतन स्तर ठीक कीजिए और इनको स्थायी कीजिए। आपको इन्हें स्थायी करने में कौन सी तकलीफ है? स्थायी काफी लम्बे समय के बाद होते हैं। बहुत से काम आपके चल रहे हैं। चाहे वर्कशाप का काम हो चाहे और कोई काम हो, बहुत से काम आपके चलते रहते हैं। गैंगमैन का काम यहाँ चलता है। आपको पता है कि पांच छः साल में वह पूरा होने वाला नहीं है, लेकिन यह पता होने के बाद भी आप उसकी सर्विस को बूक करते हैं जिसमें वह स्थायी न हो सके। जब आपको पता है कि काम लम्बा चलने वाला है। तो उसमें इस प्रकार का गड़बड़ मत कीजिए। उसको पक्का कीजिए। इसके साथ-साथ मेरा एक और कहना है कि आज जो लो काम करते हैं 40 दिन पक्का होने पर जो पैसा लिया जाता है वह उधार लेकर आते हैं लोगों से। कर्जा लेता है और उसका काफी ब्याज देता है, बड़ी मुश्किल से धीरे-धीरे उस कर्ज को पाटता है, बड़ी मुश्किल से अपने बाल-बच्चों का पेट पालता है। आप उसको इस कर्ज से मुक्ति दीजिये। यदि आप ऐसा नहीं कर सकते हैं तो ऐसा कीजिए—रेलवे की पट्टी के आस-पास बहुत जमीन पड़ी हुई है, आप उसको खेती के लिए दे दीजिये। वह उससे अनाज पैदा करेगा, खुद खाएगा और देश को भी खिलायेगा। आप इस पर गम्भीरता से विचार करें—आपके सामने चार लाख लोगों की समस्या है। इस जमीन को खेती के लिए देने से उनका भी लाभ होगा और सभ्य ही वंश की जनता का भी भला होगा।

आपके स्टेशनों पर जो ठेले चलते हैं, खोमचे लगाते हैं, इनकी हालत बड़ी दुःखनीय है। ठेका एक व्यक्ति को मिलता है, वह उससे पैसा कमाता है, 6 साल के बाद जब उसकी टर्न

समाप्त होती है, फिर आप के अफसरों से मिल कर उसका स्थान कराता है। लेकिन जो व्यक्ति उसके यहां काम करते हैं उनको 30 या 40 रुपये माहवार बतन मिलता है। अगर मंहगाई की मांग करते हैं तो वह उनको अपने यहां नहीं रखता, भगा देता है। कहता है कि जो कम पैसा लेगा उसको रखूंगा। ऐसे लोगों को बीस-बीस और तीस-तीस साल काम करते हुए हो गये हैं, आप उनके नाम में लाइसेंस क्यों नहीं देते हैं, आप इनको लाइसेंस दें, वे स्वयं माल बँचें।

आपने नियम बनाया है कि एक प्लेटफार्म पर एक व्यक्ति 6 ठेले चला सकता है—आप इसको बाँट कर दीजिये। आपने एक सर्कुलर निकाला है कि हरिजनों को लाइसेंस दिए जाएंगे लेकिन कितने हरिजनों को मिला। बहुत से गैंगमैन हैं जिनके बच्चे पढ़-लिखे हैं, उनके बच्चों को यह काम दिया जा सकता है, लेकिन आप देते नहीं हैं, हरिजनों का तो नाम-मात्र का हवा बना रखा है। हरिजनों के लिए आप के यहां कोई रिजर्वेशन नहीं है, पता नहीं क्यों रिजर्वेशन नहीं है। भारत सरकार ने संविधान में उनके लिए रिजर्वेशन रखा है, उनमें योग्य व्यक्ति भी हैं, लेकिन आपको नहीं मिलते, सिफारिश के बाद भी नहीं मिलते। किसको देंगे—जो खिलाता-पिलाता है, अफसरों को खुश रखता है। सारे रेलवे विभाग में घोर भ्रष्टाचार फैला हुआ है, घूसखोरी है—जिसका कोई हिसाब नहीं है। मैंने अभी बताया था पक्का होने के लिये 500 रुपये देना पड़ता है। इस तरह के कई कंस आपके यहां विजिलेंस में चल रहे हैं, लेकिन अब तक किसी को निकाला नहीं गया है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप इस पर गम्भीरता से विचार करें।

मैंने जो बातें बिल में कही हैं, वे बहुत आवश्यक हैं। ये लोग बहुत यहाँ से काम कर रहे हैं, उनको पक्का करने का आदेशन दीजिये और इस बिल को पास कीजिये। मैं जम्मा हूँ आप मजदूरों के प्रति बहुत हमदर्द हैं, दयालु हैं, मजदूरों की खराब दशा देख कर आप का हृदय पसीज जाता है। चूँकि आप इस समय यहां बैठे हुए हैं, इस लिए मैं अज्ञात कर रहा हूँ कि आप इस प्रकार का

[श्री कृष्ण चन्द कच्छवाल]

आश्वासन देंगे। आपके वॉलेंट मंत्री जी से मैं ऐसा नहीं कह सकता था, क्योंकि उनकी वृत्ति और प्रकार की है। मैंने पी. डब्ल्यू. आर्द्ध. बरौर से बात की, उनसे कहा कि आप 500 हजार लेते हैं। उन्होंने जवाब दिया—क्या कर, हमारे मंत्री जी जब पैसा लेते हैं, आप उनको नहीं कहते, वे तो लाखों इकार जाते हैं। आम रेलवे कर्मचारियों में यह चर्चा है, लेकिन आप से लोग खुश हैं और इस बिल की तरफ आसा लगाये बैठे हैं। उम्मीद है आप इसको अवश्य पास करेंगे।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the abolition of the practice of employing casual labour in the Railways be taken into consideration".

SHRI S. P. BHATTACHARYYA (Ulu-beria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I fully support this Bill brought forward by Shri Kachwal. Casual labour are suffering for a long time. And the issue has been before the Government. Repeatedly it has been brought to the notice of the Government. It seems no solution has been found till today. In Shri Kachwal's tone, the suffering such as cheating and exploitation of the casual labour throughout India is almost similar. Money is taken by gang men or head of the group. And the P.W.I. also shares the money because the casual labour are repeatedly to be appointed and dismissed; because they are casual, the money is reaching the hands of these people. I find that the casual labour are in extreme difficulty and they are working for years together without being made permanent. There was a memorandum given to government as also by our friend, Shri Samar Mukherjee to the Prime Minister about the difficulties caused to the casual labour. In Berwada, for example, thousands of women labourers are working for more than 10 years and their wage is less than the minimum wage prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act. They are paid Rs. 2.70 per day instead of Rs. 3 per day under the Minimum Wages Act prevailing in Berwada (Andhra Pradesh). How long are you going to allow

these things? When you call this Government as a democratic socialist Government, do you seriously and sincerely mean it? You cannot keep so many lakhs of workers in Government on contract basis and in such a suffering condition. What you say really is nothing. If you sincerely want your policy to be executed, then these casual labourers must be made permanent as soon as possible. Otherwise they will compel you to do it. You do not want to end their sufferings. That is why I say they have given repeated representations to the highest officers. I do not know what is the internal circular issued by the Railway Board or the Minister but their appeals are not granted. That is the situation. They will be compelled to follow the locomotive if you do not do this now. You think that the casual labourers are distributed throughout India and so you are unable to hear their grievances. If you go on allowing them to be casual labourers for ever, I am sure their capacity of tolerance is bound to come to an end. This you must understand.

Before such a situation comes about, with his rationality and reasonableness and his proposed and declared policy, the hon. Minister must give permanency of service to the casual labourers and thereby set an example to the other industries. Otherwise, how can we stop this system in other industries, such as the jute industry, for example? There are about 2.50 lakhs of jute workers in West Bengal, and about 50,000 in UP, Bihar and Andhra, making a total of about three lakhs. The jute millowners are utilising badiwalas and not permanent workers. If the railways keep badiwalas or casual labourers, how can we compel the jute millowners to give them permanency of service? So, Government must set an example and give these casual labourers permanent service after they have worked for some specified time, if they are found capable. I hope Government would take this up seriously. Otherwise, it will only prove the insincerity on the part of the Government in regard to their declared policy.

With these words, I support this Bill.

DR. RANEN SEN (Barasat): I support this Bill which has been moved by Shri Kachwai. He has very eloquently and sometimes irrelevantly spoken on this Bill, but I accept the underlying spirit and principle behind the Bill.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Is he supporting him relevantly or irrelevantly?

DR. RANEN SEN: Both the relevant and irrelevant things.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Irrelevance will be out of order. Let him stick only to relevant things.

DR. RANEN SEN: Irrelevancy was not out of order when he was speaking.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It would not be unparliamentary but out of order. So, let him stick to relevance.

DR. RANEN SEN: The railways employ nearly 15 lakhs of workers, and out of them, as far as I am aware, four lakhs, and not five lakhs as the hon. Mover has said, are casual labourers. In 1968 there was a Bill in this House called the Contract Labour (Abolition and Regulation) Bill, and it was referred to a Joint Committee. As a member of the Joint Committee I had the opportunity to visit several places including several railway centres. Along with contract labour we found employment of a large number of casual labourers also, throughout the railways. The abolition of casual labour has been debated upon in this House already and all the railway trade unions have appealed since a long time to the Railway Ministry to abolish this casual labour system.

The casual labour system has several facets, one of which is that their salaries or wages are guided by the Minimum Wages Act. The Minimum wages differs from place to place, and even inside a State it differs from area to area. As the hon. Mover has said, it

is left to the district administration to determine what the minimum wage in a particular area should be. The salary of these hapless workers, the casual labourers, is guided or determined by the Minimum wages that prevails in a particular area.

We find in the railways a uniformity of wage scales. I am not discussing the question whether it is good, bad or indifferent, but there is uniformity of grade and scale whether a worker is working in the Western Railway, Eastern Railway, Southern Railway or NEF Railway. But in regard to casual labour, there is no uniformity of wages which is apprehensible thing. The Railways have not considered it fit to see that the casual labourers are paid uniformly throughout the country.

The second facet of it, as Shri Kachwai has told us—and the Minister himself knows probably much better than many of us about it—is that this casual labour system is a breeding ground for corruption. Absolutely, corruption in two senses. Just a day or two before the six-month period is over, they are sacked, and then after a few days again admitted. This is a sort of corruption. The Ministry evidently encourages it among the officers.

Secondly, it is also known to the Minister that while appointing them afresh, a certain amount of bribe is taken by the concerned officers who recruit them. This goes on. I met some casual labourers in Bombay who claimed that they have been working as casual labourers for the last 20 years. One of them had become a little old. He said that probably he would never become a permanent labour in the railways. After death, I do not know what is the permanency left. So he would die as a man without a permanent employment though he has served over 20 years in the railways as a casual labourer.

There is another aspect. We have seen that casual labourers are employed in certain jobs which are of a perennial nature. I would not have pleaded for certain types of workers who are doing a job which

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can be finished in 15 days or six months or a year. As an MP and a member of the PAC, I had the advantage of going and inspecting the DBK Railway line, beginning from Waltair, going through Bailadilla through one of the most difficult tracks, through mountains, crossing rivers, going through ravines, through jungles infested with wild animals. The whole railway line was built for years together. A major portion of the workers employed were casual labour. Sometime after the line was constructed, many of these casual labourers were transferred from the DBK railway line to somewhere else and for a pretty longer time.

That is why I say they are doing a job which is more or less of a permanent or perennial nature. So from the point of natural and social justice, the system of casual labour must go. If the railways spend a few more lakhs and employ these workers who have acquired some experience, specially when the railways are expanding, these workers can be fruitfully utilised in the service of the railways.

Therefore, I would plead with the Minister; Shri Qureshi, to have a little human approach and look into these cases with an attitude of social justice.

17.00 hrs.

Sir, once, when I was a Member here of the Railway Consultative Committee, this question was raised and before that, this question was raised in the Labour Consultative Committee. I think the Labour Minister—I forget the name of the then Labour Minister—had in principle agreed that this system of casual labour should go, but then he said that since this casual labour system is prevalent in the railways, he must consult the Railway Minister and then make some recommendation. What consultation took place between the two Ministers, we are not aware of. But it so transpired that nothing happened in regard to this question of casual labour. Therefore, I would plead again with the Minister to take into consideration this

question of casual labour in a humane way and with a sense of natural justice to these poor people.

With these words, I support Mr. Kachwai's Bill.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, let me at the outset congratulate my friend, Shri Hukam Chand Kachwai, for bringing this Bill—The Railways (Abolition of Casual Labour) Bill, 1972. I am glad that he has got the opportunity to move this Bill and speak today, and I am equally sorry that such a Bill though brought in 1972, is still being discussed in 1974, and still it may not find a place in the Statute-Book, and the Government may not accept this proposal as part of the Government Act in an appreciable or foreseeable future.

Sir, one of the interesting sidelights of this debate today has been the fact that the Bill brought forward by a Member of the Jansangh Party has been supported by two leftist parties, the CPM and CPI, rightly because they find in this particular Bill some of the basic socialist stance for which obviously these two parties and some of us, although Independents, also stand.

This debate incidentally also gives us an insight into the valuable Friday that we enjoy in terms of the Private Members' Bills and Resolutions, in the sense that although hon. Members of this House belong to different parties—and some of them may not belong to any party—and they hold different views, yet, in the midst of those differences, there are areas of agreement, and this Bill is one such example for an area of broad agreement. I am glad that Shri Hukam Chand Kachwai is finding support from different sections of the House.

I do hope that my esteemed and knowledgeable friend, the Deputy Minister of Railways, will not take this debate as one more such debate on a 'Private Members' day wherein in a thinly attended House,

Members who are interested speak with knowledge and with competence and with concern for the subject on which they are talking, and then leave it at that. I hope he will see to it that these ideas expressed in this august House, which carry weight behind those ideas of millions of people whom we have the honour and responsibility to represent here, are implemented. Simply because some of these views and some of these opinions and comments are reflected on the floor of the House on a day like this, it should not make the Government treat these views and comments in a light manner or in a not serious manner. I hope the Government will look into this question as well.

While I say, so, I am speaking not only with regard to this Bill but in regard to many such Bills which inevitably spotlight some of the pressing issues affecting our public life and to which pointed attention is drawn on the floor of the House, so that the Government may sooner or later—and we hope sometimes sooner than later—put those ideas into legislative enactments.

This Bill is simple enough. It is short and clear and it brings out in a pointed way one unfortunate phenomenon that we see in our country, especially since Independence. So many ideas have been put into the Preamble and Directive Principles of our Constitution. We say we are loyal and faithful to the Constitution, but when it comes to implementing them we do not seem to go into the direction of implementation with the speed and sincerity with which we ought to go. When you want to do a certain thing which involves a lot of financial expenditure by Government, even the most progressive Government would think twice or three times or even four times, because it means finding more revenue. A developing country is bound to have a limited revenues. So there is always a question of choosing among the different alternatives, and there is always the possibility of saying that one should do this first and that afterwards. Can the hon. Minister say that all the projects,

prestigious and non-prestigious, useful and the not so useful, in the railways, are so necessary and worthwhile and that they bring welfare to the people? In other words, my point is that it is no use saying that, because of financial implications we will not do something which is good. Unfortunately, this idea does bother not only the Minister of Railways but many other Ministries of the Government. They want to have prestigious projects. For instance, why should they have so many five-star hotels in the country in the name of development of Tourism? A developing country must use its resources in a judicious way and there should be some kind of priority. This is one such area which should get priority and the casual labour in the Railways must get his legitimate dues.

When one looks at the condition of these casual labourers and the manner in which they are employed and the kind of corruption that goes into it to which a reference was made by Shri Kachwal and Dr. Ranen Sen, we should really call it condemned labour instead of casual labour. They are condemned in more than one sense. You are asking them to do work which you know is of a permanent nature, while you still call them casual labour. This is a travesty of the situation. You deny them their legitimate due of gratuity, Provident Fund, security of service and other benefits to which confirmed employees are entitled. This is an example of the subtle and open form of exploitation by a Government which talks in terms of socialism. I am one of those who support the Government when it goes in the socialist way, the progressive way. Why should they tolerate this kind of exploitation? This is a very bad and ugly form of exploitation. You call them casual with the full knowledge that they are not casual.

But you call them casual labour merely because you want to avoid certain responsibility which will arise, which you ought to fulfil. Therefore, I would suggest that the practice of employing casual labour for years together with the full

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knowledge that they are going to be continuously there, till they retire or die, is a system which is hundred per cent out of tune with the idea of a welfare state.

I am not suggesting the welfare state idea of the good old days, of the pre-second world war days, when Lord Beveridge in England talked about a welfare state in the famous Beveridge Report of every Briton being looked after from "the cradle to the grave". I realise that we in this country, at this stage of our development, cannot afford such a security being given from the cradle to the grave. But people who are employed for years together in the same job should at least get permanency, as they are getting permanency in other employments.

I feel that we must not look at this problem only from the human angle and the humanitarian angle, which are of course important. But I want to ask: is it morally justifiable, politically pardonable for a government which says in one election manifesto after another that it is striving for the removal of poverty and inequality to continue this practice? Therefore, if you want to do what you talk, this is one area where you can really exemplify it. To begin with, you can say that those who have put in ten years of service and more would be made permanent, because it would be difficult to make all of them permanent at the same time.

Moreover, this practice of casual labour is bad because government becomes responsible for providing a bad example to others. We find in so many schools, colleges, universities, even in textile mills and other factories, etc., a tendency to employ people casually to avoid and escape giving benefits to them. Should government give a good lead or a bad lead by themselves indulging in this kind of unfair practice and exploitation which will be followed by the industries in the private sector?

Finally, if we want fair play and social justice to be the hallmark of our legislation, of our thinking and our doing, then such a Bill should not be the effort on the part of a private Member, a non-governmental member, but should be the endeavour of Government themselves. They should come forward and say that they are going to do away with some of these practices.

With these words, I wish to congratulate once again Shri Kachwai. I hope that this House will pass this Bill unanimously if only to show that all sections of the House consider such practice as both unfair and unjust. Finally, I am thankful to the Chair for not ringing the bell.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He can have all the time he wants.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Then, Sir, with sincere thanks for allowing me to continue, may I say one or two more things before I sit down.

I am very grateful to you for giving me some more time.

In the Financial Memorandum, it has been estimated that a recurring expenditure of about Rs. 50 lakhs annually is likely to be involved for this purpose. I would like to ask: Is this a big amount? When the Railways are spending crores of rupees . .

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): According to him, there are about 5 lakh casual labourers and the yearly expenditure on them will be about Rs. 50 lakhs. That means, he will pay them Rs. 10 each. If this is the scale he has in his mind, then it is all right.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: What is the total amount involved?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: If it is 5 lakh casual labourers, it will be about Rs. 50 crores.

DR. RANEN SEN: The Railways are paying some amount of money to the workers. Why does he not take that into account? He simply says, Rs. 50 crores.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He means, additional to what they are already getting.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: If these persons are permanently absorbed in the Railways, they will be governed by different sets of rules under which Dearness Allowance and other allowances will be payable to them. We have to provide them medical facilities, etc.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If they were to be made regular employees, what will be the financial implications? That is what they want to know.

SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI: I think about Rs. 40 crores.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: I am not asking him to reply immediately. Let him give the facts when he replies to the debate later on.

How much money are the Railways spending every year on all kinds of projects? Why can't you at least start reducing the number of casual labourers in a phased manner? You start with taking those who have put in 10 years' service or more and later on you do it in a progressive manner.

With the railways growing and coming into shape, each time, I am afraid, the number of casual labourers will grow ultimately and your argument today that there are no funds will become a more weighty argument five years later, 10 years later. Therefore, my fear is that this casual labour will be condemned for all their life time, for all time to come. Do you want that? We do not want that surely. While the problem is still somewhat manageable, while the casual labour is still not that big in number, while you can have a phased programme, taking first those who have been casual labour for

more than a stipulated period and those who are doing the type of work which is not of a casual nature—that is more important—you can do something now. When you know that the type of work is of a permanent nature, why do you not take such people first and start giving them the benefits?

How do you expect these poor people with a sword of insecurity hanging on them to do work in a dedicated manner?

MR. CHAIRMAN: They circumvent the industrial law provision by not allowing these people to complete 240 days.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: I am glad, you have mentioned this. This is exactly my point. They are taking advantage of that; they are resorting to legal points so that they escape the responsibility involved. My point is that if you expect these poor people to work in a dedicated manner, then it is not enough that you give them good salary but what is equally important, what is more important, is that you give them a sense of security and that sense of security will come only when they are given all the benefits. Then, you can expect an involvement of these lakhs of workers with the administration and the working of the railways.

The Railways are a national organisation. We do not look at this organisation as one additional department of the Government. Therefore, I want the national organisation of Railways to do certain things which will be a good example to others. Unfortunately, instead of giving a good example to others, they are giving a bad example to others. It is from this angle that the Deputy Minister of Railways should be good enough to reply to the points made by us and give us some assurance.

Each Minister tells us every time whenever we ask for something which involves expenditure that he has no money. They are hopefully and prayerfully looking to the Finance Minister. And these last few

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days of this month are difficult days because nobody knows what is going to happen and what will be the government allotments. But certainly a socialist government, a government which talks in terms of socialism, which has before it the Constitution of India where we have, in the Directive principles of State policy, a clear directive that there should not be exploitation, that people must be given fair treatment and justice, must do this. I suggest that the Railway Ministry should, before long, start with this phased programme so that they will not only earn the blessings and gratitude of the unfortunate but devoted workers in the Railways and their families but it will also mean indirectly showing the way to other areas also where employers are having the same kind of employment, on the basis of casual labour.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, once again for giving me more time. I hope the House will support this Bill put forwarded House will support this Bill put forward by Shri Hukam Chand Kachwai.

SHRI B. V. NAIK (Kanara): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I have gone through this brief Bill. Some of the interruptions which I had to make when hon. Member, Shri Mavalankar, was speaking were motivated by the fact that neither this House nor the hon. members there have been in a position, whether during the course of discussion of Private Members' Bills or even during the course of more intense discussion of Railway Budget or the Railways,—I consider myself as a part and parcel of that guilt—to give to those in authority clear and unambiguous decisions ourselves. And one such case is this. I have repeatedly asked this question; it is on record; I wanted the Railway Ministry to define whether the Railways are run in this country as a public utility concern or they are run in this country as a commercial enterprise. And I must, regretfully, admit that I have not been able to get a categorical reply. Because, as was stated, I suppose, the calculations in re-

gard to the additional burden on the railway administration will be asked, whether it is Rs. 40 crores or Rs. 50 crores; and then it comes to the question of Railway Budget. We again take the Ministry as well as the people involved therein to task and ask, 'Why have you been incurring a loss?'. Is it our clear direction in which we say, 'Loss or no loss, go ahead with this and see to it that the socialistic pattern is enforced first and foremost in the public sector? One of the oldest public sector undertakings in this country is the Railways. Are we going to tell them, 'We do not mind whether you incur a loss or profit; go ahead with it; we do not mind whether you increase the freight or increase the cost of ticket'? We have been told by the hon. Deputy Minister himself that the Indian Railways—I am sure he will include China also—are one of the cheapest railway transportation systems in the entire world.

But when there is a slight price hike in regard to the ticket price, we again say that the common man is being fleeced. When they incur a loss because of their socialist measures, we say, 'Well, here is an inefficient railway administration. It is not able to make a profit.' Now, I put all of us to blame for this. I would categorically request the Railway Ministry and the Railway administration, for heaven's sake, at least in the 120th year of the railways, consider the railways in our country as a public utility concern and have no bones about it thereafter, come out with a definite decision and say it so and be answerable to some of the charges that will be levelled.

I am saying that this system of ambivalence we want to have is no good. You want profits and you want utility. In this case I have also an opportunity to ask Prof. Mavalankar whether we are interested that as a country we shall pursue and the pursuit shall be on excellence or shall there be a pursuit of beauty in this country? Then somebody criticised, 'Why should we have these five star hotels and

such other things? But if it is our intention—whether it is a five-star hotel or whether it be the Rajdhani Express against which certain criticisms have been levelled and which is running between Delhi and Bombay and Delhi and Calcutta—or whether it be the jumbo jets against which also we have been hearing some criticisms, can you say that we do not want an excellent hotel in our country, can any one say that we do not want a fast-running train and can any one say, 'I do not want a jumbo jet in the country? When we take a look at the foremost socialist countries of the world—China or USSR, leave aside the rotten capitalist societies about which we have no ambivalence, why do they invest so much in their atomic experiments? Why do they try to put their cosmonauts or spacemen into space? Why do they try to develop their Aeroflot? Can this money not be utilised in the socialist society to put one more chicken into the pot of the comrade who is working in the mines or the comrade who is working in the steel plants? Why do they pursue these things, these extravaganzas which are typical and the characteristic of the capitalist society? Because they want to lay down certain norms. Even the socialist society wants to lay down certain norms to which one would like a common citizen to reach for a better opportunity. I think it is possible even in a socialist society to take an interest not only in regard to consumer's satisfaction but also in regard to performance and in regard to achievements and in regard to excellence and in regard to doing something purely outside the material existence. In that way, the socialist society is more idealistic than a half-socialist or a capitalist society. I hope Prof. Mavalankar...

SHRI P.G. MAVALANKAR: I did not suggest that prestigious and important projects in various fields of public activity should not be taken up. All I was saying was: why do we do it at a time when more urgent things needed to be done first? I am talking more in terms of priorities than in terms of not having any prestige-

ous or important projects. Certainly you can have them, you can have the five-star hotels but not at a time when people are dying and starving and at the cost of basic things. My point was that a right order of priorities needs to be followed.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: I see there is a greater amount of agreement than disagreement between the hon. Member and myself. I may inform the hon. member that five-star hotels have been banned now. Then, leave aside the five-star hotels...

MR CHAIRMAN: While putting a man in the space, the socialist countries also ensure minimum wage to their working people. Please do not forget that.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: I was still on the pursuit of goals of the society as a whole. It is a sort of macro-socialist concept that I was trying to submit to the Chair.

Sir, I will now come from the 'macro' to the 'micro' socialistic decisions which we will have to take. Sir, it is possible to put a curb on the consumption of Indian nationals; we know, black millionaires go to these places of luxury; stop Indians; keep it only and exclusively for the foreigners as it is being done in some other countries. There will be no harm. But there again you might come up against a sort of old British and racial prejudice or a certain complex. Then we will say: Look, in our own country we are not permitting our own nationals to enter. But, that is a matter which would amount to a deviation.

I now come back to the essential content of the Bill. The Bill presented by my hon. friend Shri Kachwai ji is plainly acceptable.

AN HON. MEMBER: By Whom?

SHRI B. V. NAIK: By the Government of India, in the Ministry of Railways, by our own Government who are running the whole Railway system in this country. There should be no objection in principle

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I would say this with one qualification. Casual labour is not only there in the Railways. Today casual labour is there in almost every plantation work. It is there in almost every construction work. It is there in every building contractor's work. It is there in road construction. It is there in irrigation projects; it is there in abundance accounting for some 6-1/2 crores in the field of agricultural labour. Why should we pick up only the Railways for the purpose of making them permanent? Is it because it is a handy instrument which we can debate, and at the cost of Government, which has to subsidise many things including our food prices, agricultural commodities, movement, distribution, etc? At this time you are asking the Railway Administration to take up another big burden like this. I would seek the indulgence of the hon Member, Prof. Mavalankar: let him fix up the priorities; let us have priorities for the areas where tonnes of rupees, tonnes of money are being paid. For example, there is the case which I want to mention. I have nothing against it as such. In the case of an industry like the paper industry, in which case, as much as 40 per cent of them have been on casual labour since the inception of it, just nothing can be done about it. It was in this spirit that many times we have asked the Minister of Labour why he cannot have a comprehensive legislation, what are the difficulties of implementing it, etc. What I have to say is this: If you have to bring in a Bill, for Heaven's sake, please don't make it applicable to half a million people only in this country. Make it applicable to 65 million people in this country. Today casual labourers do not have security, they do not have permanency, they do not have even fair wage being given to them.

SHRI S. P. BHATTACHARYYA: Where the work is not permanent then you may not have permanent worker as for example the agricultural labourers. There may be cases where the work is temporary for a period of time. But, in places where the work is permanent, from

one place to another the worker can be shifted. Why do you think job will not be found? That is the main thing.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: What I want to say is this. The need of progressive legislation is going to be felt most by the least-privileged labourer-classes of this country. Who are the people today who are the most organised in the matter of organising themselves and agitating for the purpose of the improvement of their living conditions? You see the LIC, you see the Indian Airlines, you see the Power Engineers, the Junior Doctors, etc. But, what have you done?

Sir, I think something will have to be done against the emergence of the very powerful organised labour aristocracy in this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you putting the railway casual labour on par with the Labour that you have just now said?

SHRI B. V. NAIK: Exactly contrary I am saying. The railway administration today has to pay greater attention to the casual labour. This is one of the sectors of the economy. Thereafter comes the loco staff; hereafter comes the A.S.Ms and thereafter comes the higher and higher hierarchy either in the Railways or in any other organised sector. Who catches the imagination in this House or in the Press or Radio? It is this privileged organised union which catches the imagination of everybody. I must submit that if Karl Marx were to be born in this country, he would not have started his revolution with the industrial labour in this country. He would have gone to the agricultural masses; he would have gone to the agricultural labour and he would have called them as proletariat of this country. Unfortunately, we just take the ideas from the West. I do not know whether the Marxist's jargon—Marxists' philosophy, is understood correctly or not. It started at the wrong end of the labour field. I would therefore say that if we want to have a socialist society or if we have to follow the Garibi Hatao programme we

have to begin at the right end in our society. In fact, even before unionisation, socialisation should precede. Unionisation will succeed and not precede the socialisation. The first and foremost is: why should it not be possible to organise the casual labour in almost every field? You should make them collectively accountable and you should make them organised into bodies. I think in all these things, the question of priorities is not only to be decided by the Ministry of Railways but also by the Ministry of Labour. We have to be less backward looking when it comes to dealing with the less privileged sections of the society. I therefore submit through you to the Ministry that labour is the poorer section of the society in this country. It amounts to this thing. Today, we are talking in terms of public distribution system. If you cannot give them adequate commodities at a fair price, at least establish the purchasing power. Now, the entire public distribution system is built up even in the well organised sector on the basis of rations which are being distributed once a fortnight or once a month. I would like to know in the weaker sections of our society, how many people earn enough to buy their provisions in a month? Particularly, the agricultural labourer is so poor. The people earn their daily wages. They have to come and make their purchases from the fair price shops. If they have no buying power how can they do this? In these circumstances, I would request you to do one thing. The moot point is whether the public sector will give the lead/or somebody else in the matter of labour legislation or labour welfare? In all progressive societies of the welfare State, as Prof. Mavalankar said, it would be the responsibility of the public sector to give a lead in the matter of labour welfare. To the weaker sections of the labour, that is the duty cast upon us by the population of this country. This is the commitment to the political ideology which we have taken up. I request the hon. Minister at least to accede to this and to examine it in its totality by way of bringing in a comprehensive legislation, if the present

Bill, for the reasons best known to him, is not acceptable.

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA (Amritsar): As we all know, the railways are the biggest employing agency in India. Every industry including agriculture has to have casual labour for jobs which are not of a regular nature. Suppose a new railway line is to be laid; after the work is over, naturally the casual labour has to go, because the work is of a temporary nature.

SHRI S. P. BHATTACHARYYA: That is so for project works. But even for permanent works, casual labour is there.

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Similarly, in summer casual labour is employed for supplying drinking water at the railway stations, but when the summer comes to an end, their job is over and they have to go. Similarly at the time of harvesting, casual labour is employed in agriculture; their job is temporary and when the job is over, they have to go. But we have to see whether in the railways there are some people who work regularly but who are treated as casual labour and are not being made permanent. I am in favour of the suggestion that those who work in jobs of a permanent nature should be absorbed if they can be absorbed. There is no question of their being treated as casual labour on such jobs. I do not know whether the total number of casual labour on the railways is four or five or six lakhs; it is for the hon. Minister to tell us the exact figure; out of them, whatever proportion can be absorbed permanently must be absorbed. I am all in favour of that suggestion. There is no question of our denying to them the benefits which the workers in other industries are having, when they have been working for so long in the railways. So, we must provide them with permanent service. But if it is said that we should abolish casual labour totally and we should not employ these people at all, then it raises a very important question, namely the question of employment.

[Shri Raghunandan Lal Bhatia]

We are very keen that more and more people should be employed, and if we cannot absorb them permanently at least we should employ them casually so that we may be able to perform our normal functions better wherever they are of a casual nature. I am not against the object of the Bill. The object is good namely that casual labour should be made permanent and more and more people should be absorbed in the regular employment of Government. But it is not possible to absorb all the people, because casual work will always be there. When a project is started, or even for normal functioning sometimes, there will be some jobs which will require additional hands. Suppose a coal rake comes we have to employ casual labour in order to unload it, and the labour has to be casual because the rake does not come every day. In the railway workshops also sometimes we find that additional jobs have to be done for which more people are called for such as turners, weight-lifters, and so on.

If the demand is that we should make them all permanent even when they are employed for small jobs only for a temporary period, it would be very difficult, because apart from the railways being a service organisation, we have also to see whether it functions economically. If we go on loading them with more and more jobs like this, the result would be that they will not be able to function properly and a day may come when we shall have to consider how to make it function economically or we may have to stop new lines which are not working economically and dispense with the services of those employees who are working there on a permanent basis or whether we should take casual labour only for that purpose. I feel that casual labour should be accommodated in casual jobs, so that we have more and more people under employment. I think the object is very clear. I would like the hon. Minister to assure us that the maximum number of casual labour who could be accommodated on permanent works in new vacancies which a rise are

so accommodated and they are given first preference when new vacancies arise.

Secondly, out of the present number, if it is possible to accommodate the maximum number of people, it should be done.

SHRIINDER J. MALHOTRA (Jammu): I am glad my good and old friend, Shri Kachwai, has for a change tried to focus the attention of this House on a very important and basic issue which is before the nation. This problem of casual labour, either to be made permanent or given better wages or other amenities available to other permanent government employees, is not a new one. It is as old as this country. In the past also, we have made efforts to solve this problem of casual labour, whether it is in the field of railways, agriculture or any other.

As far as casual labour in the Indian Railways is concerned, I would request the Ministry of Railways to categorise the jobs which are available to be handled by casual labour. From my personal experience, I have seen casual labourers working as peons in offices. If a casual labourer is to do the work of a peon, I think there is no justification for keeping him casual. If a particular job is purely of a casual nature, let us say that a person is required to do a particular job for a month or two in a year, I can understand the plea that there is no justification for paying him for the rest of the 10 months for working two months a year. But as I said, it is very necessary for the Railways to categorise the jobs and say that such and such jobs will be on a casual basis for which only casual labour will be employed. By this means, it will be possible for the railways to eliminate certain jobs which even today are done on the basis of daily wages and put them in the category of permanent jobs and engage permanent labour for doing them.

Then it also happens that labour is employed for two or three months, but his services are required for a further two months for which sanction is not immediately available. Thus he is laid off for

a week or ten days. This creates a great hardship for that poor labourer. If a labourer has been engaged for two or three months and if his services are again required after a gap of ten days when the regular sanction for the further employment is available from the concerned authorities, for these ten days Ministry should consider compensating him. He should not suffer on that account.

There is no quarrel as far as the objective is concerned. There is no quarrel over the nobility of the principle of making the conditions of casual labour better. As my hon. friend Shri Naik was saying, this is not a problem confined to the Indian Railways. Casual labour is working in other sectors of our economy and is in a worse condition compared to the Indian Railways. Therefore, as some other friends have suggested, I would also like that Government should bring forward a comprehensive labour Bill to take care of all the problems which all kinds of casual labour has been suffering from for a number of years in this country. Whatever limited resources are available with us today, we should try to give priority to solving these problems, one by one. We should gradually proceed towards that aim and goal which we want to achieve, to give better working conditions and better wages to all kinds of labourers working in this country.

In the end, I would, however, make another suggestion to the hon. Minister. As far as possible, the employment of casual labour should be limited to the local people. If casual labour is to be imported from one State to another, and if the poor fellow is to be given work just for 15 days after which he is no longer required, he is again on the streets. This should not be encouraged. Therefore, I would very humbly request the hon. Minister that he may kindly give his attention to the immediate problems and solve those problems by which immediate relief and benefit can be given to the casual labourers who are working in the Indian Railways.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mr. Kachwai is always conservative and now he thought that inevitably his mind has to be changed towards a human aspect of this problem. Of course, everyone is accepting the human aspect of the stand taken by him. The problem that he is posing today is very human, because he has brought forward a Bill which, even though it is not comprehensive and does not touch all sections of casual labour who are working in the various public undertakings in the country, the railway is the biggest public utility service wherein several casual labourers are involved. At the same time, this aspect of the matter has to be seen from a humane point of view, and the human labour has to be respected. Whether it is skilled or unskilled, wherever this human power is involved in a public undertakings, it has to be disciplined in such a way that no casualty occurs and the system of living is improved and not impaired.

Even today, the tremendous manpower is not respected by the public undertakings because of the fact that the casual labourers who are working in the various spheres of the railways have not been recognised, whether they are skilled or unskilled, and they have not been consolidated by the Ministry, and that is why there is a tremendous unrest and also there is no co-ordination and co-operation in respect of the human power involved in this great organisation.

Therefore, the tremendous task done by the casual labourers is another great contribution to the railways and so it has to be respected ultimately. I know that difficulties of the Government because of the embarrassing situation. I do not want to mention it. If in a particular railway or in the railways as a whole, the casual labourers are recognised, again there will be the casual labourers and others in the public undertakings who will agitate in the matter. I do not say that they should not agitate, but it has to be taken at a national level, and it has to be consolidated, and the labour laws have to be enacted in a consolidated way.

Iran-

[Shri K. Lakkappa]

Therefore, before taking any steps, let the Railway Ministry appoint a commission of inquiry to go into the question of casual labourers who are working in various categories and see what the financial involvement will be, so that they can ease the situation in this respect.

I would cite the Southern Railways as an example. There the tremendous manpower has not been respected, because many of the contractors who are directly involved in the construction and other activities of the railways have engaged many unskilled labourers.

In Karnataka they are working in stone-quarries, and undertaking various activities for the Railways but they are thrown out of employment without any respect being shown to them; their family life is disturbed and many persons move from one place to another like nomadic tribes. They are employed for a few days and then thrown out of employment. A public undertaking like the Railways should make an effort to see that the jobs are categorised and they should be made permanent. There should not be retrenchment of labour after the work is over, because you know that they will be re-employed. This should be the proper approach. The labour laws have not been implemented because the Railway Board thinks that the employees are not the backbone of the Railway Administration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Lakkappa may continue his speech next time. This debate also will continue next time. Now, the hon. Minister of External Affairs wants to make a statement.

17.56 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. FOURTH MEETING OF THE INDO-IRAN JOINT COMMISSION

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): I was

in Tehran from 20th to 22nd February for the Fourth Meeting of the Indo-Iran Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperation. Our meeting concluded in the early hours of this morning and I am taking this opportunity on my return to convey to this House the results of these discussions which I had conducted with my counterpart on the Joint Commission, H.E. Dr. Hushang Ansari, the Minister of Economy in the Government of Iran.

Iran is the most important supplier of crude oil to India and I am glad to inform Honourable Members that agreement has been reached to enable the Madras Refinery to expand its capacity from 2.8 million tons to 3.5 million tons per annum, an increase of approximately 25 per cent. The crude for this expansion will be supplied by Iran.

In addition to the expansion of the Madras Refinery, Iran has also agreed to provide on a fairly long term basis additional crude to help supplement present availability to us.

It gives me great satisfaction to inform the House that Iran has also agreed to extend financial facilities which would cover existing supplies to Madras Refinery as also the additional supplies of crude.

It has become necessary to step up our exports in order to meet the much heavier foreign exchange bill to enable us to import crude. It has been agreed that India will supply Iran Pellet-feed to the extent of 2.5 million tons per annum. To achieve this target, it will be necessary to develop the mining facilities at Kudremukh Iron ore deposits. The project envisages the construction of a Pipeline to carry the slurry; development of the Port of Mangalore is proposed to be undertaken to handle bigger vessels. Pelletization facilities will have to be set up. Iran will receive supplies for a period of about 20 years and has agreed to extend a credit of upto U.S. \$ 300 million for this project. The repayment would be spread over a period

and the expectation is that the foreign exchange thus earned will enable India not only to repay the credit but the export will yield additional foreign exchange.

Another project for which Iran has agreed to provide credit is for the production of Alumina based on Bauxite. Iran has indicated that her requirement of Alumina would be about 100,000 tons per year over a period of 10 to 15 years. Preliminary estimates indicate that this credit may come to US \$ 70 million.

An understanding has been reached for cooperation in the field of fisheries. It is contemplated that these arrangements would include the supply of fishing boats from India and the training of Iranian personnel as required. Details of this scheme are being worked out by an expert team from India which is at present in Iran.

In order that industrial capacity in India may be further expanded to meet the rapidly growing needs of Iran for various Commodities, it has been decided to set up a Joint Committee of experts with the object of identifying industries in India which are of interest to Iran and determine the best manner in which Iran can assist to expand production so that additional quantities could be made available to that country.

We have agreed to supply to Iran 3 lakh tons of cement and 65,000 tons of steel products including rails. Other items of interest to Iran, the availability of which from India will be determined shortly, include machinery and equipment, railway wagons and other engineering goods.

During my stay in Tehran, I was received in audience by His Imperial Majesty the Shahenshah and had also held discussions

with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance. In particular I would like to bring to the attention of the House the deep interest and understanding that the Shahenshah has shown towards the current problems being faced by India. But for his constant guidance, the deliberations of the Joint Commission would not have yielded the mutually beneficial and successful results. These decisions provide opportunities to both the countries to strengthen their mutual relations.

18.04 hrs.

RE. RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH BY PAKISTAN

SHRI S. A. KADER (Bombay—Central-South): Sir, on a point of information. Information has just now been received that Bangladesh has been recognised by Pakistan. Is the hon. Minister in a position to make a statement on that?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): Sir, I have also heard this report that Pakistan has accorded recognition to Bangladesh. If this news is correct, we welcome this, because from the very beginning we have been urging that recognition of Bangladesh by Pakistan is recognition of a reality. This recognition should now open up ways of further implementation of the Simla and Delhi agreements. We welcome this development.

18.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, February 25, 1974/Phalguna 6, 1895 (Saka).