

Lok Sabha Debates

(Seventeenth Session)



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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, August 20, 1976/Sravana 29, 1898
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Fire Fighting Services at Airports

*141. SHRI R.S. PANDEY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Civil Aviation Review Committee has suggested some steps for improving fire fighting services at airports; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Government have appointed an Empowered Committee to process the recommendations made by the Civil Aviation Review Committee, with a view to finalise Government decisions thereon.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: May I know whether the Civil Aviation Review Committee which was headed by Mr. J. R. D. Tata has submitted its report and, if so, what are the details?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: As regards details, I will be able to place a summary of the main recommendations. I think, that has already been done. I do not

[know. There is a detailed report. There are many recommendations. I hope, I will not be asked to read out the whole thing.

SHRI R.S. PANDEY: May I know how many airports are in the country where the arrangement made is fully equipped to fight fire accidents?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The D.G.C.A. has got as many as 85 airports under his control out of which 37 airports are being used by the Indian Airlines. The arrangements for fighting fire accidents, etc. have been provided in some measure or other at all of them.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: May I know whether it is a fact that some time ago, in order to improve the fire fighting services at the airports, some orders had been placed for imported fire fighting crash tenders about which in this House many Members had raised certain questions alleging that this type of crash tenders were not suitable for us and that the foreign suppliers were also demanding exorbitant prices for them and whether it is also a fact that now, after further consideration and enquiry, the Government has also come to a conclusion that this particular type of fire fighting crash tenders are unsuitable and too expensive for us?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: It is true that tenders were floated for the procurement of as many as 20 crash fire tenders and they were released in 1974. A technical committee was set up. The tenders were floated on the basis of specifications given by the technical committee. When the tenders came, they were again examined by the technical committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary. Then, finally, an order was

placed on M/s. Kronen berg in 1974. I know, we took full note of the objections that were raised in the House and outside and, ultimately, we also drew up the contract so as to satisfy all our requirements. The tender that was accepted was found by the Technical committee to be satisfactory. But the negotiations on the contract took a very long time because M/s. Kronen berg raised many objections. Because of that, it took as much as about 12 months to finalise the contract, after which they demanded an escalation of 17-1/2 per cent which was not acceptable to us. Therefore, we have floated tenders again. The tenders have been received and they are under scrutiny now.

Export of Tobacco

*143. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to export tobacco this year; and

(b) if so, the names of the countries and the quantum proposed to be exported?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year 1975-76, a total quantity of 74.3 million Kgs. of unmanufactured tobacco valued at Rs. 93.10 crores was exported to more than 40 Countries in the world. Our major buyers last year were U.K., U.S.S.R., Bangladesh, Japan, Italy, Irish Republic, Netherlands, Hungary, Bulgaria, Somalia, Belgium and France. The same level of exports is expected to be maintained during this year also. The major directions of Export are likely to be the same as last year.

श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र : मंत्री महोदय ने जवाब दिया है कि 1975-76 में 93.10 करोड़ रुपये की धार और 74.3 मिलियन केजी का निर्यात हुआ, यह बड़ा उत्साहजनक है, इस के लिए मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद। लेकिन मैं उन से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि जब 1975-76 में टैबैको के कितने ही कारखानों में हड़ताल हुई तब तो हमारी धारवनी और निर्यात इतना हुआ और जब हम वर्य कोई ऐसी जुबतना नहीं है जब भी धार और निर्यात एक ही स्थान क्यों रह गया? उसमें बृद्धि क्यों नहीं हुई, मंत्री महोदय इस का स्पष्टीकरण करेंगे ?

मैं उनसे यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि नेशनल टैबैको लिमिटेड के तीन यूनिट्स में क्या 1975-76 में हड़ताल ई और उस के कारण एक्सपोर्ट को प्रभाव लगा ? यदि हां तो उस स्थिति को नियंत्रण में लाने के लिए उन्होंने क्या कार्रवाई की या करने का विचार है ताकि एक्सपोर्ट होता रहे और फारेन एक्सचेंज में हम छविमान गति से धारवनी करते रहे ।

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : The two years have been of short crop of tobacco and the level of exports is expected to be the same. About the particular company, I would require separate notice.

श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि तम्बाकू के उत्पाद तम्बाकू से बना और कीम कीम सी चीजें कहाँ कहाँ हुए बाहर बेचते हैं और उन से हमारे छलम छलम धार क्या है ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I have got information in respect of tobacco and tobacco manufactures. About the other items, I would require separate notice.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : The hon. Minister, while stating the names of the countries to which unmanufactured tobacco was exported, mentioned also Bangladesh. The people of Bangladesh are very much fond of Dinhat tobacco which is grown in the Cooch-Bihar district of West Bengal. In view of that fact, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any special cell or proper coordination to collect this particular variety of tobacco which is liked by the people of Bangladesh, and if not, whether, through the Tobacco Development Board, he is going to make certain special arrangements for the bulk purchase of tobacco from the growers at a reasonable price.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Government make all efforts for increasing the export of all varieties of tobacco including that in which Bangladesh is interested. For that purpose the Tobacco Board has been set up and particularly for Virginia tobacco and flue-cured tobacco various measures have been taken for increasing the export. Various incentives are also given for purposes of dry-curing, for purchase of machines, laboratory equipments, packages and so on, and we are trying to have this according to the demands of the external markets. There has been an BEC team which suggested certain agricultural practices regarding various things which we are attempting to follow.

SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI : I would like to know whether this figure includes cigarettes. Whether it includes or not, can you give a break-up of the quantities exported by different firms

because manufactured tobacco is a monopoly of three or four big firms? Has he got the figure now?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I am sorry. I do not have the break-up figures now.

SHRI P VENKATASUBBAIAH : Andhra Pradesh is the greatest producer of Virginia tobacco. Since the Tobacco Board has been formed, does the Government propose to canalise export of tobacco through the Tobacco Board or whether another alternative arrangements are being made. Instead of many firms exporting the same thing are the thinking of canalising export through STC or any other Government of India undertaking?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Government has no intention to canalise the export of tobacco. Tobacco Board will advise Government on the minimum price of export of tobacco; it will have an eye on the markets and advise the Government in the context of increase of exports.

Import of Copper and Zinc

*145. **SHRI M.C. DAGA :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to stop imports of Copper and Zinc in view of tremendous indigenous production of these metals; and

(b) how much quantity of Copper and Zinc is lying at present in godowns of Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) MMFC has in stock sufficient quantities of these metals to service known requirements of the industry. The position is kept constantly under review and corrective steps are taken as and when necessary.

श्री मूच खर डागा: अध्यक्ष जी, बड़ा संतोषजनक जवाब आया है इसलिए प्रश्न पैदा होता है कि हमारे देश में कितने जिंक और कितने कापर की मांग या 1974-75 में जरूरत थी? इसका आपने कितना इमपोर्ट किया और कितनी कीमत दी?

PROF. D.P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : Domestic demand projection for copper for 1976-77 is of the order of 55,000 metric tonnes.

Production is of the order of 42,000 M.T. So far as zinc is concerned, the estimated requirement is 80,000 M.T. and indigenous production is 35,000 M.T.

So far as the price part is concerned, the C.I.A. price of copper wire bar is 14,120 and of the copper cathodes is 13,740 per M.T. For the zinc high grade, the C.I.A. price is 7,255 and the price of special high grade is 7,355. The release price is higher for the actual users. The copper release price is 27,450 per M.T. and for the copper cathodes it is 26,750 per M.T. As regards zinc, for the actual users, the price of per M.T. high grade zinc is Rs. 13,935 and it is Rs. 14,085 for the special grade. The difference between the C.I.A. price and the actual price is different to a great extent. It is because our domestic production and our imported goods price are kept at par and also because of the high tax incidence on the imported non-ferrous metals like copper and zinc.

श्री मूच खर डागा : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि एन एम टी सी के गोडाउन

में माज की तारीख में कितना जिंक है और कितने कापर है और वह वहाँ कब से रखा हुआ है तथा आपने उनको किस भाव खरीदा था और माज किस भाव दे रहे हैं?

MR. SPEAKER : I think this is part (b) of the question.

PROF. D.P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I think I have already answered this part of the question, that is, at what price—C.I.A. price—we have purchased and the price at which we are selling and why is there a difference. I have already answered that question.

I have already answered second part of the question. For first part, I have the figures. But, I shall submit for your consideration that the declaration of our stock position will not be in the commercial interest of the nation because it is susceptible to speculation.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramsahay Pandey.

SHRI M.C. DAGA : I want to know one thing.

MR. SPEAKER : No more question.

SHRI R.S. PANDEY : How many industries in our country in the public and private sectors are producing zinc? May I know whether there is any application pending for the expansion of the zinc industry?

PROF. D.P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I have indicated the units and quantity of zinc produced. Expansion is not with our Ministry. It goes to the Industries Development Ministry.

Export of Tea to PakiJtan

*146. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the MINISTER OF COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the leading tea companies in Calcutta have received inquiries

from traders in Pakistan for supply of tea ; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) : (a) and (b). While Government have no information on the subject, it is expected that tea interests in Calcutta and Pakistan would be establishing contacts to explore trading possibilities. However no exporter has yet approached the Tea Board for issue of shipment licences for Pakistan.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, during these years, when normal trade channels between India and Pakistan were closed, is it a fact that Pakistan was obtaining her requirements of tea mainly from Sri Lanka and Kenya ? And if so, now that the trade channels have been opened up, has our Government made any projection or estimate of the quantity of tea which it might be possible to supply to Pakistan in order to meet her normal requirements and thereby enter this market and not leave it entirely in the hands of Kenyas and Sri Lanka producers ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : As to the first part of the question whether Pakistan had been obtaining its tea requirements from Sri Lanka and Kenya my answer is : Yes, Sir. But before the dismemberment of Pakistan, Pakistan used to import tea from Bangladesh and the residue from abroad. After the resumption of trade between these two countries—rather in anticipation of the resumption of trade—an Indian trade delegation visited Pakistan in January. In that delegation the Managing Director of TICI was included. He explored the possibility and the Pakistani importers have evinced interest in the matter. We are exploring the possibility and are hopeful of the outcome.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Now, that the trade channels are opened by the land route, I think, it is not necessary for the Indian tea to be shipped. It can go very well over-land. May I know whether the Tea Trading Corporation or the Tea Board has any idea in mind to encourage the opening of new tea auctions in North Bengal and Siliguri so that teas from these tea auctions without having to come to Calcutta could move over-land direct to Pakistan and this could help smaller and less economic tea gardens also.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : Obviously, while resuming our trade with Pakistan—particularly in the matter of exporting commodities like tea—we will be using optimally our land route. As regards the opening of an auction centre at Siliguri, I would like to say that it will take sometime. It is under consideration and no final decision has been taken.

SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI : May I know whether the Ministry of Commerce has got information through its market intelligence wing as to what is the total quantity of tea imported by Pakistan from different countries ? Secondly, in his reply the Minister said that tea interests in Pakistan and Calcutta will keep contact. What are the reasons for restricting the tea interests to Calcutta alone ? There are tea auction centres at Cochin, Calcutta and Gauhati. Why those tea interests are excluded ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : There is no question of exclusion. It was a pointed question about Calcutta which I answered. Other auction centres are as functional as Calcutta. As regards Pakistan's requirements of tea—which they are all importing from abroad—in 1974 it was 44.72 million kg. whereas in 1975 Pakistan imported 52.03 million kg. These imports were mainly from Sri Lanka and Kenya.

Tax Evasion by Shri R.N. Goenka

*148. SHRI D.K. PANDA :

SHRI S.A. MURUGANANTHAM :

Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Income Tax Department has detected a tax evasion on income of over Rs. 2 crores by Shri R.N. Goenka; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and action being taken against him ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) . A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Income-tax authorities have detected tax evasion on income of over Rs. 2 crores by concerns/firms with which Shri R.N. Goenka is closely connected.

(i) Express Newspapers (P) Ltd. are found to have resorted to fabrication of evidence in the form of books of account, vouchers etc. to conceal the real nature of the undisclosed income of about Rs. 1-10 crores brought into the books in the form of unexplained cash credits. In this attempt, there was a conspiracy among Express Newspapers (P) Ltd. and Ark Investments (P) Ltd. and the directors.

A complaint has been filed before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Madras, under sections 120-B, 193 and 196 of the Indian Penal Code and Section 277 of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The accused are Shri Ramnath Goenka, Shri Bhagwandas Goenka, son of Shri R.N. Goenka, Smt. Sarojkumari Goenka, wife of Shri Bhagwandas Goenka, Shri A.N. Sivaraman, Director of M/s. Express Newspapers (P) Ltd., Shri Hari Ram Agarwala, brother's son of Shri Ram Nath Goenka, Shri V. Kuppaswami, Chief Accounts Officer of M/s. Express Newspapers (P) Ltd., Madras, and M/s. Ark Investments (P) Ltd., Madras.

(ii) Faced with losses running into about Rs. 85 lakhs due to fall in value of shares of M/s. Indian Iron and steel Co., Ltd., Indian Express Newspaper (Bombay) (P) Ltd., Express Newspapers (P) Ltd., Madras, Indian Express (Madurai) (P) Ltd., Andhra Prabha (P) Ltd., Vijayawada and their directors and others formed a bogus firm in the name of 'Express Traders' in order to pass off the above loss incurred on 'capital account' as a trading loss. Although the firm was formed after April, 1971, it was made to appear that it had in fact been formed with effect from 1-10-1970 with the four accused companies as partners of the said firm.

In this connection a complaint has been filed under sections 277 and 278 of the Income Tax Act, 1961 in the Court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, 19th Court, Esplanade, Bombay. The following are the accused in this complaint :

- (1) Shri Ram Nath Goenka.
- (2) Shri Bhagwandas Goenka, son of Shri R.N. Goenka.
- (3) Smt. Sarojkumari Goenka, wife of Shri Bhagwandass Goenka.
- (4) Shri G.M. Laud.
- (5) Shri A.N. Sivaraman.
- (6) Shri Ashok S. Dalmia.
- (7) Shri K.L. Shah.
- (8) Shri R.S. Jhaveri.
- (9) Indian Express Newspaper (Bombay) (P) Ltd.
- (10) Express Newspapers (P) Ltd Madras.
- (11) Indian Express (Madurai) (P) Ltd., and
- (12) Andhra Prabha (P) Ltd., Vijayawada.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : As per the statement, there are two charges made against Mr. Goenka, the biggest man of the biggest monopoly house. The action taken as per these two charges is that two complaints were filed by Government against Mr. Goenka, though there have been charges against him since 1955, long long ago. The charges were of cheating, forgery, breach of trust, conspiracy to tamper with records and tax evasion. Almost all the papers have referred to this, if I may quote, 'maha gulmal of Maha Goenka'. This is dated July 31, 1976. I am not taking much of the time, but I would seek your permission to read out only one portion. "He was charged with conspiracy relating to the company affairs regarding the Express Newspapers. With regard to this company, Government also refused to approve R.N. Goenka as the director. Thereafter, Mr. Goenka referred the matter to court. Then our Government also filed a counter against it. Then the Government resiled. It has been reported that there was an unannounced mutual settlement.

My point is this. From 1965 the charges were made against him. It was relating to a jute company—false vouchers (1970), case of conspiracy (May 1973), non-existent. A paper stock (March 1976)—Shri Bhogendra Jha, an hon. member of this House also raised this question. In spite of all these charges against him for the most nefarious and criminal acts committed by this Maha Goenka, are Government satisfied by merely filing two complaints? I am not referring to the sections under which the complaints were filed....

MR. SPEAKER : It is all right. You can put your question.

SHRI D.K. PANDA : So my question is : In view of the precedent followed by Government in a case where there was some unannounced mutual settlement, is the same principle and the same method going to be followed in hotchpotching

and scrapping all these complaints? Or whether there are any provisions under which he can be proceeded against?

Are Government going to take stringent action against Goenka immediately to put him behind the bars, and secondly....

MR. SPEAKER : No 'secondly'.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : I am not aware of any settlement which the hon. member mentioned. In fact, I have tried to give an exhaustive reply in the statement I have laid on the Table, including the charges framed therein. From the income tax side, two complaints have been filed in Madras and Bombay. There we have completed our investigations. But a case of this nature has naturally very wide ramifications. CBI and Company Affairs are also involved therein and they are bringing their cases separately. So far as income tax is concerned, we have filed the complaints and we are taking action against them. There is no question of making any hotchpotch or settlement.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Panda, be brief this time.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : Perhaps all the references I made to the facts and the statements in papers could not catch the imagination of the hon. Minister. Therefore he has....

MR. SPEAKER : No innuendo. Put your question straight.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : My straight question is : In spite of the most revealing criminal acts committed by Goenka for the last several years, are Government going to immediately put him behind the bars and also take over this monopoly house?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : So far as income-tax is concerned, I have no authority to put any people behind the bar.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM : You want what authority also ?

MR. SPEAKER : Then, Mr. Muruganatham—not here. SHRI GOSWAMI

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GO-SWAMI : From the reply of the hon. Minister it becomes apparent that the Government is contemplating cases in other directions also and he is already answering the charges regarding income tax and there too, complaints have been made.

May I know whether already some cases have been filed against Shri R.N. Goenka regarding some of the anomalies and if so, at what stage these cases are pending and some of the cases have been stayed by the High Courts and if so what is the present position of those cases ?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : So far as the two income-tax cases are concerned one is in the Presidency Magistrate's Court at Madras and the other is in the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Bombay. In Madras the CBI has also filed a case and in respect of other companies, particularly, the Indian Express Pvt. Ltd., Bombay the CBI is investigating. Another case is being looked after by the Department of Company Affairs.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : In the statement I do not find any reference to the affairs of the National Jute Mill Company. Is it not a fact that in 1965 there was a complaint about false vouchers having been concocted to show much larger payments having been made for big quantities of raw jute purchased whereas the actual price paid by the company was much less and thereby naturally tax evasion was also carried out. There seem to be no proceedings against them for tax evasion in this particular case.

Secondly, the same company were able to get a very large quantity of loans from the State Bank of India by hypothecating their stocks of raw jute and later it was

found that those stocks were non-existent. I would like to know whether in this respect also any proceedings of any type are being undertaken. So many years are passing and nothing is happening at all.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : So far as the National Jute Mill is concerned the CBI is investigating into that affair.....

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Still investigating ?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : ... and they have not yet completed and as a result, no case from the taxation point of view has been instituted.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR : May I understand from the hon. Minister's reply that Mr. Goenka & his companies are capable of committing almost all kinds of offences under the Indian Penal Code and most of the provisions are being violated on the income-tax side so on and so forth and all offences are being committed. Even their newspapers in Tamil Nadu like the *Indian Express*, *Dinamani* and the periodical *Dinamani Kodur* are writing against the 20-Point Programme even to this day. Is there no programme to take severe action against these papers and applying MISA against Mr. Goenka and his companies ? They are writing against the 20-Point programme itself.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : So far as newspaper items are concerned, I have nothing to do from the taxation point of view.

MR. SPEAKER : Next question—
Shri Lalji Bhat—absent.

Shri Gangadeb—also not here.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Mr. Speaker, please allow me one question.

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed five questions. The questions are all in the nature of suggestions and the Minister is not giving any more answer. I am sorry I cannot allow any more questions.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : I got up many times to catch your eye and you are not allowing me. As a protest, I walk out.

Shri Bhogendra Jha, then left the house.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM : This may be registered as a walk-out. This is the first walk-out after the Emergency.

This is the first lone walk-out by a loan member.

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry. Next question.

Loans outstanding Against the Bihar Government

*151. SHRI N. E. HORO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total loan outstanding against Bihar Government on account of relief advances; and

(b) the amount of interest Bihar Government have paid to the Central Government during 1974-75 and 1975-76 on this account?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) : Following the recommendations of the Sixth Finance Commission, all loans outstanding against the State Governments at the end of 1973-74 have been consolidated. The State Governments are paying interest and repaying the principal in respect of such consolidated loans. The loans given to the State Governments for natural calamities prior to the 31st March, 1974 have become a part of these consolidated loans.

As from the 1st April, 1974, there has been a change in the policy of Central assistance to States for natural calamities in pursuance of recommendations of the Finance Commission. No non-Plan Central assistance is given to States now for meeting expenditures necessitated by natural calamities. Where considered essential, advance Plan assistance is made available to the States for accelerating Plan programmes, but such advance assistance is liable to be adjusted within the Central assistance to States in the Fifth Plan period as a whole.

In view of what has been stated above, it is not possible to isolate the amount of interests paid by the Bihar Government on Central loans for natural calamities during 1974-75 and 1975-76.

SHRI N. E. HORO : As per the statement since the policy has been changed and now all the outstanding loans are consolidated, the Government are not able to give a separate figure as to what is the relief loan outstanding from the Bihar Government. I should like to know from the government, at the time the different loans were consolidated, what was the figure and how much has been realised as principal and interests and what is the outstanding?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI : It is true that the loans were being consolidated and the hon. Member wants to know the figure at the time it was consolidated. In the case of Bihar at the end of 1973-74 the consolidated amount stood at Rs 42.79 crores.

MR. SPEAKER : Is it against relief?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI : That is the consolidated total for natural calamities.

tion from the various State Governments we hope to review the whole scheme and we will see in what manner it can be further improved if any improvement is called for.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: This lengthy answer shows that Government is not actually very clear about the impact of this scheme on industrial relations in our country. One year has passed since the scheme has come into force. Will the Government agree to undertake a total review of the scheme and will they discuss this with the Central Trade Union Organisations? Will Government indicate by what time this will be done?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: As I have said, it has got tremendous impact and the figures clearly indicate that production and productivity has increased in some of the public sector undertakings particularly and this has got its reflection in the mandays lost, etc. This scheme was announced on the 30th of October and it is not yet one year. We will naturally go in for a review when the time for the review comes. At that time we will consider whether certain trade union organisations could be consulted. This is certainly a scheme for the benefit of the working class and the working class would definitely have a role to play.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: The Prime Minister's Twenty-point Economic Programme mentions about workers' participation in industry. Immediately after the proclamation of emergency certain recognised trade unions in West Bengal conferred with likeminded trade unions and announced that they did not like the movement of J. P. Narayan and anti-national activities and so on. In regard to management in various units like Farakka Barrage, Gresham and Craven and Jessops, the management is trying to disrupt the arrangement and they do not recognise the proposal. Have such complaints come to Government's notice? Will Government see to it that these

schemes are implemented as announced by the Prime Minister in her 20-point programme? Will the Government review the entire matter so that there is a healthy development along these lines especially in regard to the Central Government units in West Bengal?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: Sir, in the very first or second meeting of the National Apex Body and also in the meetings of Consultative Committee of Members of Parliament, I have made it very clear that the trade union organisations, which do not support the emergency or which do not also support the 20-Point Economic Programme of the Prime Minister, will have no place in any one of the bodies which are recognised by Government.

Also I have made it very clear that they would not be given any place at all. As regards participation of the workers at the shop floor as well as plant levels, no outsider is allowed to become a member of the shop level committee. It is only those who are working in the plant itself who are allowed to do so.

Naturally, the management judges the situation and adopts the scheme in a manner that it is getting the fullest cooperation of the workers. If any suggestion is to be made by the hon. Member, he is most welcome to do so and I shall have the benefit of it.

श्री राम सिंह : आपने कहा कि उद्योग के प्रबन्ध में श्रमिकों की भागीदारी को ले कर उत्पादन बढ़ा है, प्रोडक्टिविटी बढ़ी है। जहां तक श्रमिकों का सवाल है उन्होंने उत्पादन भी बढ़ाया है और प्रोडक्टिविटी भी बढ़ी है, लेकिन इस भागीदारी योजना के अन्तर्गत जो प्रबन्धकों को करना चाहिए था जैसे वकिंग कंडीशन्स को अच्छा बनाना और मैटेरियल आदि की सुविधा प्रदान करना वैसा न करने के कारण मजदूरों में इस योजना के प्रति मायूसी आ रही है। यह आपके ध्यान में आया है कि नहीं ?

उस में से जो कुछ खर्च हुआ उस का ब्यौरा आप को मिला कि नहीं ? और क्या इन सम्बन्ध में और भी बिहार सरकार ने कुछ राशि मांगी है जो सरकार देने जा रही है ?

श्रीमती सुशीला रोहतगी : इन बीच में नान्यवर मैंने फिगर मंगाने का प्रयास किया है और थोड़ा सी फिगर मेरे पास हैं। एक तो नैचुरल कैलिफिटी का 1973-74 का आउटस्टैंडिंग जैसा मैंने पहले बताया बिहार का 42.79 करोड़ था। दूसरे टोटल लोन आउटस्टैंडिंग, जिस को कि माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा था।

Total amount outstanding from Bihar at the end of 1973-74 was about Rs. 700 crores.

तीसरी बात जैसा मैं ने कहा, क्यों कि इस के लिये अलग से प्रोजेक्शन नहीं है पर वह ऐडवांस प्लान असिस्टेंस के रूप में आया है कि वह पार्ट ऑफ दी प्रोग्राम बन जाय डेवलपमेंट के लिये, इसलिये 1974-75 में बिहार में 4 करोड़ 0 का इंजाम किया गया है और 1975-76 में 975 लाख का प्रोजेक्शन है।

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA:
In the second para of her statement, the minister has said :

"No non-plan central assistance is given to the States now for meeting the expenditure necessitated by natural calamities."

Should we take it that whatever be the nature of the calamity, the Centre does not come forward with any assistance to the States?

SHRIMATI SHUSHILA ROHATGI:
For non-plan expenditure, the Centre does not give anything. It is expected that the State Government can do it with its own resources. In case there is any need, the Central Government gives it through the central plan assistance.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI : May I know whether it is a fact that because of the changed policy of the sixth Finance Commission, the economically backward States and States which suffer from natural calamities, too often are finding it very difficult to meet the expenditure on natural calamities?

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot ask generally about all States. This question is with reference to Bihar.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:
Is it a fact that in States like Bihar, the development programmes are going to be affected in view of this policy and if so, has the government any re-thinking on it?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI :
At the time the recommendations of the sixth Finance Commission were accepted they were unanimous recommendations. Afterwards some States raised it and this was again reviewed by the government. So far this formula stillstands.

MR. SPEAKER : Next question.

Relief in Excise Duty

*152. **SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI:**

SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR:

Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced their Scheme of excise duty relief on 43 items, recently;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether Government expect higher production in vital sectors of the industry as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No LT 11161/76.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: SOKHI
It has been mentioned in the statement that this scheme shall remain in force only upto 31st March 1979. Why? Secondly, why is it not possible to indicate the extent of higher production?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: As I have already said, the scheme has just come into force. That is why it is not possible to indicate to what extent extra production will be available. Regarding the period upto 1979, while the Finance Minister introduced the scheme in the budget speech, he made it quite clear. We would like to see how the scheme works. If it works well, it can be extended.

SHRI CHAPALENDU BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Government re-examine the impost of excise duty in those cases where the cost of collection exceeds the actual revenue income?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: It is a hypothetical question. How can I answer it?

Steps to Check Smuggling and Economic Offences

*153. **SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM:**
SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU:

Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are evolving a new scheme in consultation with the State Governments to prevent smuggling and other economic offences; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Although no new scheme as such has been evolved by the Government, arrangements have been made for consultation between senior officers of the Central and State Governments to coordinate the

efforts of the Central and State agencies to check smuggling and other economic offences.

श्रीमती सावित्री श्याम: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री जी ने मेरे प्रश्न के उत्तर में कुछ विशेष बात नहीं बतायी इसलिये मैं उन से जाना चाहती हूँ कि क्या उनकी नोटिस में इस प्रकार की सूचनाएँ आयी हैं कि राज्य सरकारें लोकल इंटेलीजेंस और लोकल प्रयोरेटिज की जानकारी पर ऐसे आर्थिक अपराधियों को, स्मगलर्स को छोड़ रही हैं, जब वह रिष्य करते हैं उन के बेसेज हर चौथे महीने, कि जिन को नहीं छोड़ना चाहिये, और कुछ को फंसा भी रही हैं। तो क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार पूरी तरह से राज्य सरकारों पर निर्भर है या उस की अपनी भी प्रलग से कोई मशीनरी है जो उन की यथा स्थिति की जानकारी दे सके ?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Anti-smuggling operations is the responsibility of the Department of Revenue of the Government of India. We have clear guidelines under the provisions of the COFEPOSA Act. Both the Central and State Governments are the detaining authorities. Whenever any information is received, there is consultation between the various authorities like the Director of Revenue Intelligence, Director of Enforcement, customs intelligence, customs authorities, State Home Ministry and police officials and a joint decision is taken. So far as release is concerned, the State Governments have no authority to release anybody *suo motu*, on their own part. We have issued guidelines and they have to act according to those guidelines. We have received reports that in some cases they have temporarily released some detainees on parole, for which the State Governments have jurisdiction, and they were wrong paroles. This has happened in two or three cases not many. We have drawn the attention of the State Governments to this.

श्रीमती सावित्री श्याम : मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि स्मगलिंग विदेशी वस्तुओं की क्रेज पर आधारित है तो इस को स्थाई रूप से रोकने का सरकार क्या उपाय कर रही है ?

MR SPEAKER: Have you got any permanent solution for prevention of smuggling?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Only yesterday we have a long discussion on the Bill itself.

SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU: The problem of smuggling is so enormous that Government alone cannot tackle the problem. So, peoples' co-operation is necessary.

Therefore, I would like to know from the hon Minister whether Government will consider forming committees of the public and giving certain powers and directions to these committees and enlisting their cooperation?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: I would welcome any suggestions of the hon. Member to create strong public opinion against economic offences including smuggling, but I do not think that the formation of any committee would help in any way.

श्री नरसिंह नारायण पांडे : क्या मंत्री महोदय इस बात पर विचार करने के लिए तैयार हैं कि चूंकि जितनी स्मगलिंग होती है, चाहे वह अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर हो और चाहे देश के भीतर हो, वह बिना सरकारी अधिकारियों के सहयोग के नहीं हो सकती है, इसलिए सरकारी अधिकारियों पर कुछ नियंत्रण रखने के लिए कोई व्यवस्था की जाये, जिस से उन की एक्टिविटीज की जांच-पड़ताल की जा सके और यह पता लगाया जा सके कि वे लोग किस प्रकार इन कामों में मदद कर रहे हैं ?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Some cases of involvement and con-

nivance of the officers have come to our notice and yesterday, while replying to the debate, I pointed out that COFEPOSA has been applied not only to the smugglers but to some of the Government officers also. We have taken action such as premature retirement, suspension and dismissal in a number of cases, and I have given the figures in reply to various questions.

Payment of First Instalment of Impounded D.A.

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*157. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN :
SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have paid the first instalment of the impounded dearness allowance under the compulsory deposit scheme to the employees and workers ;

(b) if so, the amount paid so far ; and

(c) the total amount of impounded dearness allowance?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-MATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) Repayment of the first instalment of additional dearness allowance deposited by employees and workers under the Additional Emoluments (Compulsory Deposit) Act, 1974 which fell due on 6th July, 1976 has started.

(b) Till 6th August, 1976, an amount of Rs. 13.11 crores has been repaid.

(c) Till 6th August, 1976, the total additional dearness allowance deposits work out to Rs. 1047.34 cror-s.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : What is not said by the hon. Minister is more important than what is said by her.

At the time of the enactment, itself a doubt was expressed here that the big companies might not deposit the amount collected from the workers. I would like

to know from the hon. Minister today whether that fear has come true, whether there are many cases of big companies who, after having collected the money from the workers, have not deposited it with Government. In fact, I would like to know from Government what will happen to these workers. Have you returned the first instalment in these cases where the companies have not deposited the money with Government? Will these workers get back the money which they have already paid? I would like to know the amount of arrears from those companies which have not deposited the money with Government and whether Government has got any account of it.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI : A certain doubt was expressed by some hon. Members at that time, and some cases have come to the knowledge of Government. We find that some of them are in the public sector too, besides the private sector. We find that Coal (India) Ltd., and its subsidiaries are also figuring in this. The names of these defaulting units have been brought to the notice of the Department of Coal, Ministry of Energy, and instructions have also been issued that without any further delay action should be taken in these cases. We also find that notices of proceedings have been lodged against some of them. As a matter of fact, criminal proceedings have been authorised against 59 of these. Either action can be taken by the District Collector for recovering the amount as arrears of land revenue or there is an option to launch criminal proceedings against them. The Government would like to assure that no delay or anything like that will be tolerated or allowed.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA : The assurance is good. But before she gave this assurance, certain things had happened. In Calcutta, for example, in the month of July, the Government should have returned Rs. 185 lakhs to the employees. But

what is returned is only Rs. 5.4 lakhs. This is on account of wages. On account of D.A., the amount that the Government should have returned is Rs. 14.1 crores and the interest on it comes to Rs. 6 crores. What is returned is a paltry sum of Rs. 40 lakhs.

Who are the victims of this? Naturally, the workers who earned this money by the sweat of their labour and kept it with the companies. Now, some sharks have made a profit out of it. I would like to have a categorical answer from the Government, in cases where the payments have not been made by big companies, whether the Government will make the payments and the companies will be taken to task later or immediately. The workers should not suffer. Will the Government give an assurance on the floor of the House that they are going to do that and, in cases of non-payment, what action has the Government taken so far?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI : I would like to assure the hon. Member that none of these sharks, big or small, will be allowed to make a profit out of it. Apart from that, the workers' interests will not be allowed to suffer. So far as the interest on this impounded money is concerned, even if they do not receive the money within this month, they will not lose interest. They shall receive interest till the end of the last month. In the meantime, the Government does not take up the responsibility of re-payment. It is really the responsibility of those companies. Therefore, every action is being initiated in that direction. As a matter of fact, a meeting of all these various Ministries of the Government has taken place. Instructions have been issued that the work should be expedited. In the meantime, a close vigilance is being kept over other companies. In addition, in the Act itself, a provision has been made for penal rate of interest. All these matters are under the consideration of the Government.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA : It

was the Government who made the workers to pay the money. Now, here the Minister comes and says, she will not take the responsibility of re-payment. Who is responsible for that ? Who will take the responsibility ? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : It is you who impounded the money of the workers. Now, you hold the companies responsible for re-payment. It is a stinking scandal. The Government should be ashamed of it. You are shedding crocodile tears for the workers every day.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA : Who is responsible ? The Government is responsible. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI : The Government is already seized of the matter. As far as the workers are concerned it has been made categorically clear that the workers are not going to lose...

MR. SPEAKER : Is there any time-limit fixed for making payment to workers ?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI : It is being expedited. The time factor is of the greatest importance. We are trying our best.

MR. SPEAKER : You must consider that. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI : May I complete it ? The amount involved is a very huge amount. There is no scandal... (*Interruptions*). Let us not create any wrong impression. We have impounded it and it has done well to the economy of the country. There has been no scandal.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the hon. Minister should first collect all the figures and lay them on the Table of the House as to which are the companies which have not made payments and then must fix as short a time-limit as possible within which all these things are to be paid.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA :

From the hon. Minister's statement in this House, it is very clear that, for the money which has been impounded but which has not been deposited, Government is not responsible. If this news reaches the workers, you can yourself judge what will be the reaction of the workers. I will repeat the question which has been put to you by the Speaker himself, namely, what is the time-limit. On the 6th of this month, the money was due to be returned to the workers. What is the time-limit by which it will be paid ? If it is not paid by the company or the management or the Government, what will be the fate of the employees ?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI : He does not have to inject anything into it. Government stands by its commitment, and at the shortest time, we will see these are cleared. There is no scandal involved and it will be very unfair to say that

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA : Since this is a very important matter... (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : You write to me; we shall consider.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS :

कालीनों तथा दरियों का निर्यात

* 142. श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार कालीनों तथा दरियों का निर्यात करती है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो जिन देशों के साथ हमारा इन वस्तुओं का निर्यात व्यापार होता है, उनके नाम क्या हैं ;

(ग) सरकार ने गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान, अलग-अलग, कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित की है ; और

AY (घ) इस व्यापार को बढ़ाने के लिये सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह) : (क) कालीनों तथा दरियों का निर्यात भारतीय हस्तशिल्प तथा हथकरघा निर्यात निगम लि० द्वारा किया जाता है जो भारतीय राज्य व्यापार निगम लि० का अनुसंगी निगम है ।

(ख) हस्तशिल्प तथा हथकरघा निर्यात निगम का इन मदों का निर्यात व्यापार मुख्यतः पश्चिम जर्मनी, स्विटजरलैंड, आस्ट्रिया, नीदरलैंड, ब्रिटेन, इटली, फ्रांस, सं० रा० अमरीका तथा जापान के साथ होता है ।

(ग) हस्तशिल्प तथा हथकरघा निर्यात निगम द्वारा पिछले तीन वर्षों में किये गये इन मदों के निर्यात निम्नलिखित हैं :

(करोड़ रु० में)

वर्ष	कालीन तथा दरियां
1973-74 . . .	174
1974-75 . . .	330
1975-76 . . .	668

(घ) हस्तशिल्प तथा हथकरघा निर्यात निगम पिछले दो वर्षों से देश से हाथ द्वारा गांठे डालकर बनाए गए ऊनी कालीनों का अंकुश सबसे बड़ा निर्यातक है । हैम्बर्ग के मुक्त पत्तन में निगम द्वारा कालीन भांडागार डिपो खोला गया है । डिपो की सेवाएं भारत के समस्त कालीन निर्यातक समुदाय को उपलब्ध हैं ।

निगम नए डिजाइनों तथा रंग-योजनाओं के विकास का काम भी करता है । यह निरन्तर बाजार आसूचना तथा अनुसंधान में लगा रहता है ताकि भारतीय कालीन की

मांग बनी रहे तथा उसका विस्तार हो । उत्पाद विकास निगम के कार्यकलापों का अभिन्न अंग है । निगम विनिर्माताओं को तकनीकी सलाह भी देता है ।

सरकार ने निगम से जम्मू तथा कश्मीर में 23 कालीन बुनाई प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र खोलने के लिये कहा है । इनमें से 16 केन्द्र खोले जा चुके हैं शेष केन्द्र चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान खोल दिए जाएंगे । यथासमय ये प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र उत्पादन केन्द्र बन जाएंगे ।

जहां तक दरियों का सम्बन्ध है, निगम अपने डिजाइन परामर्शदाताओं से परामर्श करके रंग योजनाएं प्राप्त करता है और डिजाइन प्लेटें बनवाता है ताकि अपरम्परागत डिजाइन विकसित किये जा सकें ।

प्राइवेट निर्यातकों की तरह निगम को भी कई प्रकार के सामान्य प्रोत्साहन सरकार से उपलब्ध हैं । व्यापक प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम द्वारा उत्पादन का आधार मजबूत बनाया जा रहा है । आशा है कि इनके अन्तर्गत अगले तीन वर्षों में 30,000 बुनकर प्रशिक्षित हो जाएंगे ।

On-The-Spot Study teams to suggest Steps to make Rural Banks More Effective

*144. SHRI D. D. DESAI : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to constitute on-the-spot study teams to suggest steps to make rural banks more effective;

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

(c) whether primary credit societies will be involved in working out credit needs of rural areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) :
(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. This is proposed to be done by constituting a spearhead team consisting of three to five members for each of the Regional Rural Banks. These teams will make survey of the areas with growth potential for promotion of Farmers' Service Societies and prepare bankable projects for consideration.

(c) Primary Cooperative Credit Societies properly strengthened and re-organised into viable multi-purpose cooperative societies or Farmers' Service Societies are expected to be the main agencies for meeting the credit needs of rural areas. They may be financed either by a co-operative bank or commercial/Regional Rural Bank.

Balance of Trade

*147. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL :
SHRI VEKARIA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) The balance of trade position till date; and

(b) the extent of improvement registered, if any, during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) :
(a) and (b). The deficit in India's balance of trade increased marginally to Rs. 1216 crores in 1975-76 as compared with Rs. 1190 crores in 1974-75. However, there was a surplus balance of Rs. 88.5 crores during the first quarter (April-June) of 1976-77 as against an adverse balance of Rs. 311.4 crores during the corresponding period of last year.

150 6 LS--2

राजस्थान से ऊन का निर्यात

*149. श्री लालजी भाई : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि गत तीन वर्षों में राजस्थान से विदेशों को कितनी ऊन का निर्यात किया गया ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह) : ऊन निर्यातों के आंकड़े राज्यवार अथवा क्षेत्रवार नहीं रखे जाते बल्कि अखिल भारत के आधार पर रखे जाते हैं ।

Implementation of recommendation of Banking Commission Regarding Discretionary Powers of Managers of Nationalised Banks

*150. SHRI P. GANGADEB : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Banking Commission's recommendation regarding giving of discretionary powers to the nationalised banks' managers has been implemented; and

(b) The steps being taken to tighten the loose-ends of the administration in the banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Public sector banks have taken several steps to tighten the loose ends of administration, prominent among these are :

- (i) decentralisation of decision making authority and effective delegation of powers, improved loan appraisal machinery, and accelerated disposal of work through special arrear clearance drives;
- (ii) ensuring of punctuality, cleanliness, discipline, activation of vigilance

procedures, better staff relations and reduction in overtime; and

- (iii) ensuring definite improvements in the content and quality of customer service.

Chinese Ship Found Involved in Smuggling Activities

*154. SHRI K. MALLANNA : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Customs Authorities had impounded a Chinese Ship 'Waglan Island', at Cochin for indulging in smuggling activities; and

(b) if so, the particulars regarding the persons found guilty of the charges of smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) :

(a) M. V. Waglan Island, belonging to M/s. Hongkong Island Shipping Co., Hongkong was seized by Cochin Customs on 21-5-1975 for indulging in smuggling activities.

(b) So far Mr. Li Chi Wing, master of the vessel, Waglan Island and Mr. Sze Wan Cheng, Second Bosuncum-Steward have been found guilty smuggling. The case against other suspects is under examination.

Steps to Boost Export of Coffee

*155. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the steps Government have taken to boost the export of Indian Coffee to other countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : The steps taken to boost export of Indian Coffee include :

- (i) Participation in Trade Fairs and Exhibitions abroad to popularise Indian Coffee.

- (ii) Release of advertisements in Foreign Trade Journals about Indian Coffee in potential coffee consuming countries of the World.

- (iii) Increased direct exports of coffee by Coffee Board both to traditional and non-traditional markets.

- (iv) Export of Coffee in the form of instant coffee.

देश में सोने का लाया जाना

*156. श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या राजस्व और बैंकिंग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या हाल ही में देश में सोने के लाये जाने पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाने के लिये कोई कदम उठाये गये हैं ; और

(ख) क्या सरकार सोने के प्रति लोगों के सहज आकर्षण को कम करने के लिये कोई योजना बना रही है ?

राजस्व और बैंकिंग विभाग के प्रभारी राज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रगब कुमार मुखर्जी) :

(क) तस्करी के माल एवं सोने के चोरी छिपे लाने को रोकने के लिये, सारे समुद्र तट और स्थल सीमाओं के साथ साथ पूर्ण रूप से निवारक जांच पड़ताल तेज कर दी गयी है। निवारक और भ्रामूचना कर्मचारियों को, विशेष रूप से भारत-पाक सीमा पर सावधान कर दिया गया है और देश में सोने को चोरी छिपे लाने की सम्भावना के विरुद्ध अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डों पर जांच तेज कर दी गयी है।

(ख) स्वर्ण नियंत्रण अधिनियम के अन्तर्गत, किसी व्यक्ति द्वारा शुद्ध सोना रखने पर पूर्णरूप से रोक लगी हुई है। स्वर्ण की वस्तुएं और स्वर्ण मुद्राएं, बिना घोषणा-पत्र दाखिल किये, 50 ग्राम की निर्धारित सीमा से अधिक नहीं रखी जा सकती। इन पाबन्दियों और साथ ही आय

कर प्राधिकारियों के छापा का यह प्रभाव पड़ता है कि लोग स्वर्ण के रूप में काले धन को रखने के लिये निरन्तराहित होते हैं।

Ceiling on Gold Ornaments

*158. SHRI VASANT SATHE : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to impose ceiling on holding of gold ornaments by an individual/family;

(b) if so, the main features of the proposal; and

(c) what other steps are taken/proposed to be taken to curb the lure for holding the 'yellow metal'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE-IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) :

(a) No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under the Gold Control Act possession of primary gold by any person is completely banned. Gold articles including coins can not be possessed beyond the prescribed limit of 50 gms. without filing a declaration. These restrictions together with raids by Income Tax authorities act as a factor discouraging people to keep black money in the form of gold. Inflation has been contained and the rates of interest paid by the banks to depositors have gone up considerably in the recent years.

Domestic Tourism

*159. SHRI DHAMANKAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) What steps are being taken to promote domestic tourism in the country;

(b) What are the proposals to make home tourism broad-based to achieve

national integration by folk culture and art ;

(c) how many spots and complexes and in which States are proposed to be developed as holiday resorts and tourist centres; and

(d) the facilities that would be provided to the home tourists, so as to attract lower and middle income group people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) to (d). According to the broad division of responsibilities as outlined in the draft Fifth Plan document on Tourism, it is envisaged that the Centre would invest in projects which are intended primarily to stimulate international tourism with a view to earning foreign exchange, while the State Governments would concentrate on the development of facilities for domestic tourism. Therefore, the promotion of domestic tourism and development of allied facilities in the country would fall within the purview of State Governments. Nevertheless, to cater to the needs of middle and low income group tourists the Department of Tourism is putting up supplementary accommodation at a number of places of tourist importance in the country, in the form of youth hostels, tourist bungalows, forest lodges and camping sites which can be used by domestic tourists as well.

The emphasis in the Fifth Five Year Plan of the India Tourism Development Corporation, a public-sector undertaking, is also on expanding the infrastructure for middle income tourists.

The private sector is also encouraged to set up more hotels including those of the 3-star category and below which can cater to middle and low income group people, by means of various incentives offered in the form of fiscal reliefs, financial assistance in the form of institutional loans, priority consideration for essential requirements, etc.

Smuggling Activities

*160. SHRI H. N. MUKHERJEE :
Will the Minister of REVENUE AND
BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether smuggling activities have
shifted from West Coast to East Coast;
and

(b) if so, what steps Government have
taken to stop it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-
CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI
PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) :
(a) and (b). There is no definite evidence
of smuggling activities having shifted
yet from the West Coast to the East Coast.
However, as a consequence of the intensive
preventive measures on the West Coast,
possibility of such a shift being attempted
cannot be ruled out. The preventive
and intelligence activities on the East
Coast have, therefore, been stepped up to
guard against any possible diversion.

पर्यटन वाहनों का अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय आवागमन

1062. श्री मोहन स्वल्प : क्या
पर्यटन और नागर बिमानन मंत्री यह बताने
की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या जम्मू और काश्मीर, मिक्किम
तथा दादरा और नागर हवेली के अनतिरिक्त
सभी राज्यों ने इस केन्द्रीय योजना को अपनाने
की सहमति दी है जिसके अन्तर्गत पर्यटक
वाहन एक राज्य से दूसरे राज्य में निर्बाध रूप
से आ जा सकेंगे तथा केवल एक ही स्थान
पर कर अदा करना होगा; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो योजना की संक्षिप्त
रूपरेखा क्या है तथा उपर्युक्त राज्यों की
असहमति के क्या कारण हैं ?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में
राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुरेन्द्र कल सिंह) : (क)
और (ख). एक ही स्थान पर टैक्स अदा

करने की प्रणाली (सिंगल प्वायंट टैक्सेशन)
के आधार पर पर्यटक वाहनों के अधिकृत
भारतीय संचालन की योजना को जम्मू व
काश्मीर तथा मिक्किम को छोड़कर समस्त
राज्यों ने स्वीकार कर लिया है। इस
योजना में परमिटों पर अन्य राज्य सरकारों
द्वारा प्रतिहस्ताक्षर करने तथा अन्य औप-
चारिकताओं की पूर्ति की आवश्यकता के
बिना ही एक ही स्थान पर टैक्स अदा करने
के आधार पर पर्यटक वाहनों के बेरोक-टोक
संचालन की व्यवस्था है। हम जम्मू व
काश्मीर सरकार के साथ यह पता लगाने
के लिये कि उनके इस योजना को स्वीकार
न करने के क्या कारण हैं पत्र-व्यवहार कर
रहे हैं। जहाँ तक मिक्किम का संबंध है,
उनके साथ इस मामले को मोटर व्हीकल
एक्ट, 1939 के उस राज्य में भी लागू होने
के पश्चात् ही उठाया जाएगा।

मध्य प्रदेश में पिछड़ी जातियों को दिये गये
बैंक ऋण

1063. श्री गंगा चरण बोझित : क्या
राजस्व और बैंकिंग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा
करेंगे कि मध्य प्रदेश में उन जिलों के नाम
क्या हैं जहाँ बीस सूत्री आर्थिक कार्यक्रम के
अन्तर्गत अब तक राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों ने पिछड़ी
जातियों को ऋण दिये हैं और उक्त ऋण
किस प्रकार के दिये गये हैं।

राजस्व और बैंकिंग विभाग के प्रभारी
राज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रगव कुमार मल्लो) :
सरकारी क्षेत्र के बैंकों द्वारा 20-सूत्री आर्थिक
कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत दिये गये अप्रिप्तों की
जिलेवार सूचना नहीं रखी जाती। फिर भी,
बैंकों को सलाह दी गई है कि 20-सूत्री आर्थिक
कार्यक्रम के कार्यक्रमन में किये गये कार्य का
गुणात्मक मूल्यांकन करें।

बैंकों ने भूमिहीन मजदूरों विशेष रूप
से बन्धन मुक्त मजदूरों, भूमि विकास के लिए

कालतृ भूमि पाने वालों, छोटे सिंचाई कार्यों और राज्य सरकारों से भूदान के लिए भूमि पाने वालों को और डेरी विकास, मुर्गी तथा मुद्गर पालन आदि जैसे कृषि सहायक कार्यों को करने के लिए ऋण देने की योजनायें बनाई हैं ।

Re-organisation of Central Silk Board

1064. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government have decided to re-organise Central Silk Board; and
- (b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER (IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) :

(a) No such decision has been taken.

(b) Does not arise.

कपास के घागे के मूल्य में वृद्धि

1065. श्री राम हेडारु : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कपास के घागे के मूल्य में गत तीन महीनों के दौरान 50 से 60 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी तथ्य क्या हैं और इस वृद्धि के कारण क्या हैं ;

(ग) क्या इससे हथकरघा उद्योग पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ा है ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में कौन से कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उपस्थित (श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) और (ग). घागे की कीमत में कुछ वृद्धि हुई है लेकिन हथकरघा उद्योग पर

इसका कोई महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव दृष्टिगोचर नहीं हुआ है ।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Production of Crape cloth

1066. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the question of reserving the production of Crape varieties of cloth exclusively to Handloom Sector is under re-consideration of Government ;

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

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) :

(a) to (c). The question of reserving production of crape cloth exclusively for the handloom sector is under consideration and a decision is expected as soon as matter is fully examined.

Rates of interest charged by Financing Agencies

1067. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH GILL: Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that different rates of interest are being charged by different financing agencies in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to undertake a study of the interest rate structure; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this direction so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE & BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) Government are aware of the different rates of interest charged by different financing agencies.

The rates of interest charged by term lending institutions are lower than those charged by commercial banks. By and large banks advance short term loans for working capital and therefore they charge higher rates of interest. Rates of interest charged by different commercial banks also vary depending upon the purpose and amount of advance, the period of loan, cost of raising resources etc.

(b) No, Sir,

(c) Question does not arise.

मध्य प्रदेश में चिट फंड कम्पनियों के विरुद्ध
जांच

1068. श्री कृष्ण चन्द कश्यप : क्या राजस्व और बैंकिंग मंत्री मध्य प्रदेश में चिट फंड कम्पनियों के कार्यकरण के बारे में 7 मई, 1976 के अनुरांकित प्रश्न संख्या 3599 के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश में कार्य कर रही 27 चिट फंड कम्पनियों के नाम क्या क्या हैं ;

(ख) उनमें से पंजीकृत कम्पनियों की संख्या क्या है और प्रत्येक ने इस समय कितना-कितना पूंजी निवेश कर रखा है ;

(ग) क्या मुनीता चिट फंड एण्ड फाइनेंस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, इन्दौर तथा ट्राय-फेस्ट चिटफंड, जबलपुर द्वारा कारोबार बन्द किये जाने के बारे में प्राप्त शिकायतों की जांच इस बीच पूरी कर ली गई है ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या परिणाम निकले हैं और इस बारे में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है और कितनी धनराशि के गबन का अनुमान है ?

राजस्व और बैंकिंग विभाग के प्रभारी राज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रणव कुमार प्लशी) : (क) और (ख). मध्य प्रदेश राज्य में कारोबार करने वाली 27 चिट फंड कम्पनियों की चुकता शेयर पूंजी के बारे में कम्पनी कार्य विभाग के पास यथा उपलब्ध आंकड़े विवरण में दिये गये हैं जो सभा पटल पर रखा गया है । [बैलिए संख्या LT-11162/76] ।

(ग) और (घ). भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने सूचित किया है कि ट्रायफेस्ट चिट फंड प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, जबलपुर की उसके द्वारा की जाने वाली जांच तथा मुनीता चिट फंड एण्ड फाइनेंस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, इंदौर की राज्य सरकार द्वारा की जाने वाली जांच अभी पूरी नहीं हुई है । रिजर्व बैंक ने यह भी सूचित किया है कि उक्त कम्पनियों द्वारा किये गए तथाकथित गबन का कोई अन्दाजा अभी उसके पास उपलब्ध नहीं है ।

लाइटर्स के पत्थरों (फिल्टर स्टोन) का
आयात

1070. श्री भागीरथ भंडार : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या लाइटर्स के पत्थरों का भारत द्वारा आयात किया जाता है और यदि हां, तो किन-किन देशों से और किन्ती मात्रा में आयात किया जाता है ;

(ख) भारत में इनका उत्पादन कहाँ-कहाँ पर और किन्ती मात्रा में होता है और क्या भविष्य में देशीय संसाधनों से इसकी आवश्यकता की पूर्ति करने की कोई योजना है ;

(ग) क्या गत वर्षों की तुलना में इनके आयात की मात्रा घटी है अथवा बढ़ी है और इसका प्रतिशत क्या है ; और

(घ) इनमें कमी या बढ़ोतरी के कारण क्या हैं ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह) : (क) जी हाँ। सिगरेट लाइटों के पत्थरों के आयात की मात्रा (जिसके सम्बन्ध में अलग आंकड़े उपलब्ध हैं) निम्नलिखित है :

वर्ष	देश	मात्रा
	(कि० ग्रा०)	
1974-75	जर्मन संघीय गणराज्य	109
1975-76	वही-	22

(अप्रैल, 1976 और उसके बाद के आंकड़े उपलब्ध नहीं हैं)।

(ख) भावनगर (गुजरात) में लघु पैमाने के क्षेत्र में एक ही ऐसा एकक है जो लाइटों के पत्थरों का निर्माण करता है। वह बिल्कुल हाल ही में चालू हुआ है और उस एकक को कच्चे माल के आयात के लिए आवश्यक सहायता प्रदान की गई है। इस एकक की क्षमता लगभग 80 मे० टन पत्थर प्रति वर्ष है।

(ग) और (घ). 1974-75 की अपेक्षा 1975-76 में सिगरेट लाइटों के पत्थरों के आयातों की मात्रा में 79.82 प्रतिशत की कमी हुई है।

Trivandrum-Bombay Flights of Indian Airlines

1072. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the heavy rush of passengers in Trivandrum-Bombay flights of Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to meet this increased demand?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b). The Boeing 737

capacity presently provided by Indian Airlines on Bombay/Goa/Trivandrum Sector is sufficient to meet the traffic demand. The Corporation is, however, aware of the growing demand on this route and is planning a direct Bombay-Trivandrum-Bombay flight in the schedule to be brought into force from December, 1976.

रुई के आयात और विस्कोज स्टेपल फाइबर, और पोलिनोमिक स्टेपल फाइबर से सीमा शुल्क हटाना

1073. डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पाण्डेय : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने रुई के आयात से सीमा शुल्क और विस्कोज स्टेपल फाइबर तथा पोलिनोमिक स्टेपल फाइबर से अतिरिक्त सीमा शुल्क हटा लिया है ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो वर्ष 1974-75 में इन वस्तुओं का आयात कितना था ;

(ग) क्या उपर्युक्त शुल्क को हटाने के परिणामस्वरूप कपड़ा उद्योग को होने वाले लाभ के कारण कपड़े के मूल्य कम होने की संभावना है ; और

(घ) इस समय इन वस्तुओं का वार्षिक आयात कितना होता है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह) : (क) जी हाँ !

(ख) 1974-75 के रुई के मौसम के दौरान आयात निम्नोक्त प्रकार थे :

देश	गांठों की संख्या (180 कि०ग्रा० की एक गांठ)
सूडान	17,313
पाकिस्तान	2,00,000

(ग) शुल्कों की समाप्ति आयातित कीमतों तथा घरेलू कीमतों के बीच अन्तर को कम करने के लिये की गई है और इस लिये ऐसी आशा है कि कपड़े की कीमतों पर इसका केवल मामूली प्रभाव ही पड़ेगा।

(घ) सालाना आयातों के लिये कोई मात्रा निर्धारित नहीं की गई है।

New Security Paper Mill near village Kotali (Gujarat)

1074. SHRI FATESINGHRAO GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government had decided to locate a new Security Paper Mill near village Kotali about 8 km. from Baroda; and -

(b) if so, is there any move to shift the proposed location ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SHUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

Import of vegetable oil

1075. SHRI B. R. SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any vegetable oil has been imported into India during the current year; and

(b) if so, its quantity and the countries from which it has been imported ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). According to the provisional statistics available, about 24,000 tonnes of vegetable oils have been imported from Indonesia and Brazil during the current financial year to date.

Procurement of jute through Government agency

1076. SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to boosting up the production of jute in the country Government have thought it desirable to reflex the procurement price and galvanise its machinery to ensure that the entire crop is procured through Government agency and the cultivators are not forced to make distress sale to private procurers; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the steps taken to boost up production of jute ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). Statutory minimum price for 1976-77 jute season has been fixed by the Government at Rs. 135/- per quintal for Assam bottom variety in the up-country markets. The Government have requested the Jute Corporation of India to ensure by price support operations that the prices do not go down below the statutory level. Availability of funds will not be a constraint this year in respect of price support operation of the Jute Corporation of India. Intensive Jute District Programme has been introduced by the Government for boosting up production of jute.

Formation of Company in the field of non-essential items

1077. DR. RANEN SEN:
SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed formation of a new company in the field of consumers non-essential items on the basis of 40:60 foreign equity formula; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
(SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b). In the absence of the name of the company which the Hon'ble Members have in view, it is difficult to give a specific reply. However, Government's policy towards allowing private foreign investment in new Indian companies is highly selective. Foreign equity participation is not permitted in a new company to be established for the production of non-priority consumer items. If there is any substantial export orientation in the proposal, such a case is considered on merits. Also, in terms of the Guidelines on Section 29 of the FERA 1973 a branch of a foreign company engaged in non-essential consumer products would be required to convert itself into an Indian company with non-resident interest of 40 per cent.'

Reduction in foreign equity by multi-national companies

1078. SHRI B. S. BHAURA:

SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the multi-national companies operating in India which have reduced their equity share capital to 40 per cent;

(b) the particulars of the companies which are yet to do that; and

(c) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
(SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) to (c). As on 31st July, 1976, 55 foreign companies, as per statement A laid on the Table of the House, [Placed in Library. See No. LT-11163/76], have reduced their non-resident interest to 40%. In respect of 138 foreign companies, as per Statement B, laid on the Table of the House, [Placed in Library. See No. LT-11163/76], the Reserve Bank of India has given approval to continue their activity subject to dilution to 40 per cent. Besides, in a number of cases, letters of intent have been issued to foreign companies requiring them to dilute their non-resident interest to 40 per cent within a specified period. The question of

taking any action against the companies does not therefore arise at this stage.

Foreign Investment in India

1079. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether leading industrialists, bankers and businessmen in West Germany, the USA and Britain believe that under the stability, national discipline and drive created by the emergency, India can become not only a strong but one of the economically strongest countries in the world;

(b) if so, whether they are ready and eager to go on large scale investment in India on a mutually beneficial basis; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
(SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) to (c). Government have taken note of the favourable response and appreciative references made in certain business circles abroad to the economic situation in the country after the Emergency. Investment proposals, as and when received, will be considered in terms of the present policy governing foreign investment.

Dry Port in Delhi

1080. SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up dry port in Delhi;

(b) whether Government have taken a decision on the location thereof; and

(c) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) It has been decided in principle to set up a Dry Port.

(b) The location of the Dry Port is yet to be decided.

(c) Does not arise.

Resumption of Economic Aid from Canada

1081. SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether the Government

of Canada are likely to resume economic aid to India which was suspended about two years ago?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : Following India's peaceful nuclear experiment on 18th May, 1974, the Government of Canada suspended aid to India in the field of nuclear energy development, but continued aid under agreements already signed in respect of other fields. Since then, fresh Canadian aid authorisations have been limited to food, fertilizers and agricultural sectors. Government has received no information indicating that Canada will resume aid in other fields.

Hotels Run by I. T. D. C.

1082. **SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA :** Will the Minister of TOURISM

AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the hotels run by India Tourism Development Corporation, State-wise; and

(b) the names of the hotels which have shown profits during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION : (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) :

(a) A statement giving the requisite information is attached.

(b) Ashoka Hotel, Akbar Hotel, Janpath Hotel, Lodhi Hotel and Qutab Hotel all in New Delhi earned profits during both the years, 1974-75 and 1975-76. In addition, Ashoka Hotel, Bangalore earned profit during 1974-75 and Ranjit Hotel, New Delhi earned profit during 1975-76.

Statement

State-wise distribution of the hotels run by India Tourism Development Corporation.

State/Union Territory	Name of the hotel
Delhi	Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi
Delhi	Akbar Hotel, New Delhi.
Delhi	Hotel Janpath, New Delhi.
Delhi	Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi
Delhi	Hotel Ranjit, New Delhi
Delhi	Qutab Hotel, New Delhi
Karnataka	Hotel Ashoka, Bangalore
Karnataka	Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel, Mysore
Maharashtra	Aurangabad Hotel, Aurangabad
Madhya Pradesh	Khajuraho Hotel, Khajuraho
Rajasthan	Laxmi Vilas Palace Hotel, Udaipur
Uttar Pradesh	Varanasi Hotel, Varanasi
West Bengal	Airport Hotel, Calcutta
Kerala	Kovalam Hotel, Kovalam
Bihar	Hotel Patliputra, Patna

Review of Development Programmes by I.D.B.I.

1083. **SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA :** Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India is having a second look at its industrial finance and development programmes;

(b) whether several new schemes have already been formulated by the Bank in this context; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c). The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has been actively exploring areas and manner in which it can contribute more effectively to the rapid industrial growth of the country. Some of the steps taken in this connection briefly are—

(i) The refinance scheme of IDBI has been liberalised to provide for waiver, where necessary, of the requirement regarding promoters' contribution in the case of transport operators receiving

national permits and projects sponsored under the Half a Million Job Scheme.

- (ii) In order to encourage quality consciousness in small scale industry the IDBI has decided to grant 1/2 per cent rebate in the interest rate to small scale units receiving ISI mark and to provide 100 per cent refinance for the purchase of testing and quality control equipment.
- (iii) The IDBI has announced a scheme for concessional finance to the cement, sugar and certain engineering industries. A separate announcement in respect of cotton textile and jute industry will follow. This scheme is expected to take care of the modernisation/replacement requirements of these industries on soft terms.
- (iv) The IDBI has issued guidelines to State Financial Corporations for providing seed capital assistance from their special class of share for assistance by way of equity or soft loan towards meeting the gap between the normal expected level of the promoter's contribution and actual amount that the promoter can contribute on his own.
- (v) With effect from 1st July, 1976 the limit of assistance under the Bills Rediscounting Scheme has been increased from Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 100 lakhs.

Agreements with foreign countries for import of raw cashewnuts

1084. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any fresh agreements have been entered into by the Cashew Corporation of India with African or other foreign countries for import of raw cashewnuts; and
- (b) the steps Government have taken to speed up the negotiations and ensure early agreements?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. After initial

difficulties arising out of short crops in Tanzania and Mozambique and a wide disparity in the price demanded by these countries and the prices considered economic by the Cashew Corporation of India agreements have now been concluded both with Tanzania and Mozambique for imports out of the last crop. The supplies for 1976-77 crop are expected to be timely this year in view of an understanding reached in this regard with Tanzania which is the main supplier.

Indo-Polish Air Agreement

1085. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an air agreement between Indian and Polish Governments was signed recently; and
- (b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. According to the agreement reached, Air India will be entitled to operate two services per week to through Warsaw or Gdansk in Poland. Reciprocally, the Polish airline, LOT will be entitled to operate two services per week to through India, out of which at least one service will be operated to through Calcutta, and the other to through Bombay or Delhi.

Handloom Industry Plan for Tamil Nadu

1086. SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE: SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the main characteristics of six crore rupees handloom industry plan for Central Government for Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the measures taken to complete export-oriented projects at Erode and Kancheepuram (Tamil Nadu) and when will these projects begin work; and
- (c) the number of weavers to be employed in these projects and the benefits they will get when the plan begins to be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a)

and (b). As part of the Special Central Plan Schemes for handloom development, one intensive development project and one export production project have been approved by the Central Government for being set up in Tamil Nadu. The intensive development project is in Erode and Kancheepuram, and the export production project in Karur. The total outlay on these projects, including institutional finance, is estimated at Rs. 6 crores over a period of five years—Rs. 5 crores for the intensive development project and Rs. 1 crore for export production project. Work on these projects has been started.

(c) The intensive development project will cover 10,000 looms and the export production project will cover 1000 looms. The weavers are expected to be ensured continuous employment and their earnings are expected to go up by about 25% by the end of the project period.

Opening of Branches of Banks in Rural Areas

1087. SHRI R. K. SINHA:

SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of REVENUE & BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of branches of rural banks so far opened in the country along with the names of places where these branches of rural banks are located;

(b) the measures taken by Government to train high ranking officers of the banks in regard to implementation of 20-Point Economic Programme so that they could serve in rural areas of the country;

(c) the steps taken to ensure that the benefits of rural banking are given to a maximum number of persons; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken against those officers of the banks who hesitate or refuse to serve in rural areas when they are paid a high salary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE & BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) As at the end of March 1976 (latest available), the number of rural branches of scheduled commercial banks (excluding Regional

Rural Banks) were 7416. Besides, the Regional Rural Banks have opened 111 branches by July 1976. The names of places are not given as it is a large number and may not be commensurate to the results.

(b) The training programme drawn up by the Reserve Bank of India and approved by the Government of India on the recommendations of the Steering Committee on Regional Rural Banks has laid special emphasis on the implementation of the 20-Point Economic Programme in so far as these banks are concerned.

(c) To meet the credit requirements of the maximum number of poor rural people in the shortest possible time, it has been decided to channelise credit through multi-purpose credit societies/Farmers' Service Societies, in addition to purveying direct credit to these people by Regional Rural Banks. To ensure that maximum number of rural people become members of such societies, the State Governments have been advised to introduce universal membership by legislative action.

(d) The officers and staff of Regional Rural Banks are initially drawn from the sponsor banks and no cases of hesitation or refusal referred to in the Question have been reported.

Scheme to Attract Tourists to Betla National Park

1088. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme under the consideration of Government to popularise Betla National Park and Tiger Project nationally and internationally to attract more tourists, especially from abroad; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) There is no scheme

at this stage under the consideration of Government to popularise Betla National Park to attract more tourists.

As far as Project Tiger is concerned, it is a Conservation Scheme which is rehabilitating the disturbed habitat and dwindled population of Tigers and other wild animals. The Betla National Park which is a part of the Tiger Reserve Palamau could be popularised after the habitat is improved and the Tiger population is substantially increased.

Institute of Tourism and Travel Management

1089. SHRI VARKEY GEORGE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there is a scheme to set up an Institute of Tourism and Travel Management;

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

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(b) The Institute is planned to offer, to begin with, in-service Executive Development Programmes for personnel already employed at different managerial levels in the Tourism Industry; it will also offer consultancy and research facilities; and develop a documentation centre. The Institute will also offer a two-year post-graduate programme for meeting the future requirements of trained personnel for servicing the different segments of the Tourism Industry.

(c) The in-service Executive Development Programmes will be started as soon as necessary clearance has been given to the scheme, and subject to the availability of funds.

Export of Finished leather

1090. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL: Will the MINISTER OF COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been big increase in the export of finished leather in recent months; and

(b) if so, the quantity of finished leather exported and target fixed for the current financial year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a)

Yes, Sir.

(b) Export of Finished Leather during 1975-76 amounted to Rs. 54.83 crores as against Rs. 30.56 crores during 1974-75. A tentative target of Rs. 100 crores has been fixed for the current financial year.

Findings of the study about the Working of controlled cloth scheme

1091. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study was made of the working of the controlled cloth scheme and its distribution system;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) whether Textile mill-owners have deliberately sabotaged the scheme for distribution of controlled cloth; and

(d) whether the office of the Textile Commissioner carried out any checks about the production and distribution of controlled cloth?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (d). The operation of the controlled cloth scheme has been kept under constant review both on production and distribution aspects. Wherever necessary, changes in the varietal production obligations and in the mechanics of distribution are made. Surprise and intensive checks are made by the Textile Commissioner to ensure quality of production and smooth and purposeful distribution of controlled cloth. There has been no sabotaging of the controlled cloth scheme.

Voluntary Disclosure of wealth in Karnataka

1092. SHRI S. B. PATIL: Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state the number of persons in Karnataka who have voluntarily disclosed their wealth under the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme and the amount of wealth-tax realised from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): According to information presently available, in the charges of Commissioners of Income-tax, Karnataka, 583 declarations in respect of voluntarily disclosed wealth were made under section 15(1) of the Voluntary Disclosure of Income and Wealth Act, 1976; wealth-tax collected being over Rs. 25 lakhs upto 31st July, 1976.

Setting up of a Central Flying School

1093. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a central flying school in the country; and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Raids by Customs Department to Apprehend Smugglers

1094. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of raids carried out by the Customs Department to apprehend smugglers during 1975-76;

(b) the particulars of items seized and total value thereof; and

(c) how were they disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI

PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). During 1975-76, 29,656 raids were carried out by the Customs Department to recover smuggled goods or incriminating documents and to apprehend the persons concerned with them. In these raids items like wrist watches, textiles and other miscellaneous luxury goods valued at Rs. 3.47 crores were seized.

The seized goods are proceeded against for their confiscation in accordance with law.

Enquiry against Indian Airlines' crew

1095. SHRI P. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines' crew on Kathmandu-Delhi flight were recently charge-sheeted for fuel shortage; and

(b) if so, the results of the enquiry against the crew?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b). Two crew members viz. the Aircraft Maintenance Engineer on duty on board the aircraft and the Commander of the Flight IC-414A on the sector Kathmandu/Delhi on 7th January 1976, were charge-sheeted. The report of the Enquiry Officer against the Aircraft Maintenance Engineer is under consideration of the competent authority. The enquiry against the Commander has not yet concluded.

Exports of Coca Cola Export Corporation

1096. SHRI BHALJIBHAI PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state reasons for the drop in exports of Coca Cola Export Corporation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): No information is available with Government which indicates the reason for the fall in exports of this corporation.

Cost Accounts and Monitoring Organization

1097. SHRI SUBODH HANSDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state whether his Ministry has any Cost Accounts and Monitoring Organisation in order to scrutinize claims of cash assistance and import replenishment by exporters ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : Exporters prefer claims for the grant of cash assistance and import replenishment to the port Licensing Authorities of the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports. These claims are based on the predetermined rates notified by the Government. For claiming these facilities, exporters have to furnish the following documents :—

- (a) shipping bill authenticated by the Customs authorities;
- (b) invoices duly attested by the banks; and
- (c) bank certificate in support of realisation negotiation of sale proceeds.

The claims of the exporters are duly scrutinised in detail by the Licensing Authorities, who are adequately equipped and experienced in this type of work, before the same are admitted. A sample test check by the audit authorities is also undertaken after the claim has been settled.

Cochin Aerodrome

1098. SHRI A. K. GOPALAN:
SHRI C. H. MOHAMED KOYA:

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

- (a) whether final selection of site for Cochin Aerodrome has been made;
- (b) if so, the broad outlines thereof ; and
- (c) if not, the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) to (c) . Four sites at Edakattuvayal, Poothotta, Mayithera and Perumbalam were considered for possible construction of a new civil aerodrome. In respect of first two sites heavy cost is involved in cutting, filling and removal of obstructions and structures standing thereon. The choice of site is between Mayithera and Perumbalam. The question of constructing a new civil aerodrome near Cochin has been deferred for the present. The existing Naval aerodrome is being developed to make it suitable for Boeing 737 operations.

Decision on application under F.E.R.A. in case of Foreign Companies

1099. SHRI BHALJIBHAI PARMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken decision in respect of pending applications of M/s. Coca Cola Export Corporation and other foreign companies under Sections 28 and 29 of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973; and

(b) if so, salient features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : (a) and (b). Out of 860 applications received by the Reserve Bank of India under Section 29 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act for continuing to carry on existing activities in India, the Bank has so far disposed of 572 applications in accordance with the guidelines issued for administration of Section 29 of FERA 1973.

Out of 1521 applications received under Section 28, the Reserve Bank of India have so far disposed of 456 applications.

The remaining applications, including those of Coca Cola Export Corporation, are being processed by the R.B.I.

**Report of Expert Committee
on Consumption Credit to
Rural Poor**

1100. SHRI VASANT SATHE :

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN :

Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Expert Committee on consumption credit to rural poor has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, what are its important recommendations; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the recommendations of the Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) Pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee, the Union Finance Minister held discussions with Chief Ministers of certain States at a meeting held on 16th June, 1976, among others, on the financial implications of the recommendations of the Expert Committee and the measures to be taken to strengthen the cooperative credit structure in the country. The Central Government also consulted the Reserve Bank of India on the recommendations concerning them. Pending Government's formal decisions on the recommendations of the Committee, most of the public sector banks have formulated schemes for expanding consumption credit to the rural poor. The Regional Rural Banks have also been allowed to extend consumption credit as a part of production credit for meeting the medical and educational needs of the rural poor.

Statement

Gist of the important recommendations of the Expert Committee on Consumption Credit.

The Committee concluded that the lowest stratum of the village community

having 'nil' holdings or with holdings measuring 0.01 to 0.50 acre would need pure consumption credit as distinct from production credit. The next higher class of rural population viz., those possessing land above 0.50 acre but not more than 5 acres will also need consumption credit but they would be able to meet their consumption credit needs from the general production credit availed of by them from the cooperative structure and the commercial banking sector including the Regional Rural Banks.

2. The Committee felt that by strengthening the cooperative credit structure and by determined attempts by the commercial banks including Regional Rural Banks, the bulk of consumption credit requirement of the latter class should be looked after by the production credit system in operation at present. In order to fulfil this role, the Committee has stressed that the measures already prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India to strengthen the cooperative credit structure, including universalisation of membership should be implemented without any delay.

3. On the basis of the general experience, as to the level of borrowings of the groups of people having land 'nil' holdings and holdings upto 0.50 acre, the Committee has recommended the following purposes for which pure consumption credit apart from production loan should be given and also the ceilings of such loans :

Type of loan		Ceiling of loan fixed at
1	2	3
		Rs.
(a)	Medical expenses relating to borrowers and members of their families	250
(b)	Education expenses for school	100
(c)	Marriage expenses	250
(d)	Expenses on funeral ceremonies as well as birth ceremonies	75

1	2	3
<hr/>		
(e) Expenses on religious ceremonies which are deeply rooted and considered inescapable by certain sections of society		Rs. 75

4. The Committee has computed the total requirements of pure consumption credit for the first year of the rural folk having 'nil' holdings or holdings measuring 0.01 to 0.50 acre and placed at Rs. 170/- crores.

5. The Committee has expressed the definite view that the primary agricultural credit societies organised into viable units, farmers' service societies, large sized multi-purpose societies in the tribal areas, will be the best suited agencies to handle the business of providing consumption credit to the various categories of the rural community.

6. Out of Rs. 170 crores, the cooperative societies would take care of consumption credit requirements to the extent of Rs. 70 crores only. This has been recommended on the basis that only those primary agricultural credit societies as have full-time paid secretaries should alone be entrusted with the responsibility of extending consumption credit.

7. Though no specific amount has been assessed to be provided through commercial and Regional Rural Banks, the Committee has recommended that these banks should provide consumption credit to their clientele on the lines recommended for cooperatives. The Banks should also go ahead with their programme of organising Farmers' Service Societies or liable multi-purpose societies in order to supplement the efforts on the cooperatives.

8. The remaining 'grey' areas in the country which would account for the remaining Rs. 100 crores has been recommended to be met out of the budgetary

resources of the State Governments. But since the State Governments may find it difficult to mobilise this amount, the Committee has recommended that the State Governments and the Central Government should enter into immediate dialogue for the purposes.

9. For the Tribal areas the Committee has recommended that State Governments should straightaway open fair price shops through their Forest and other concerned Departments in the areas where tribals congregate and where the large Multi-purpose Societies cannot be formed immediately.

10. As there is a high degree of risk involved in extending pure consumption credit to the classes of people envisaged, a risk margin assistance limited to 10% of the total quantum of loans advanced for consumption purposes should be given to the lending institutions. The liabilities of the risk fund should be born equally by the Central Government and the State Governments.

11. To solve the twin problem of provision of employment and collection of consumption loans, the Committee has recommended that on the model of the Scheme introduced by the Maharashtra Government, the other State Governments should also work out for recovery of consumption loans from the wages of the loanees working on such programmes.

Import & Export of raw materials by Foreign Drug Companies

1101. SHRI NANUBHAI N. PATEL :
SHRI K. S. CHAVDA :

Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that foreign drug companies are indulging in practice of over-invoicing and under-invoicing in the matter of import and export of raw materials ; and

(b) if so, action proposed to be taken to remedy the malpractice ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b). Specific cases of under-invoicing or over-invoicing of imports and exports by foreign drug companies whenever noticed are fully investigated and are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of Law.

Joint Venture Projects in Singapore

1102. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have offered all possible assistance to Singapore to develop joint venture projects in high technology industries ; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) :

(a) and (b). The Government delegation, during its recent visit to Singapore, in its meetings with Singapore authorities, had generally discussed the question of closer economic Co-operation, and had also referred to the possibility of setting up of Indian joint ventures including those involving sophisticated technology.

The setting up of joint ventures abroad by Indian entrepreneurs would be in accordance with the established policy and general Guidelines.

Take over of closed Jute Mills

1103. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the statement of 14th July, 1976 by the Labour Minister of West Bengal suggesting establishment of a

National Jute Corporation to take over and run the closed and sick jute mills ; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal at present to set up a National Jute Corporation.

उपभोक्ता ऋण

1104. श्री राम हेडाल : क्या राजस्व और बजट मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 20 सूची आर्थिक कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत गांवों में उपभोक्ता ऋण वितरण के लिए क्या प्रबन्ध किये गये हैं ? और
(ख) ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में अभी तक उपभोक्ता ऋण के रूप में कितनी राशि बांटी जा चुकी है ?

राजस्व और बजट विभाग के प्रभारी राज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रमोद कुमार मुबर्जी) :
(क) मन्कारी क्षेत्र के बैंकों ने उपभोक्ता ऋण को उत्पादन ऋण से सम्बन्ध करके, ग्रामीण समुदाय के अपेक्षित निधन वर्गों की उपयोग आवश्यकताओं को आंशिक रूप में पूरा करने की योजनाएं बनायी हैं। बना रहे हैं। छोटे और सीमान्तिक किसानों, कृषिक मजदूरों, ग्रामीण शिल्पियों आदि की चिकित्सा और शैक्षणिक आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए उन्हें उत्पादन ऋण से सम्बन्धित उपभोक्ता ऋण देने को अनुमति क्षत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों को दी जा चुकी है। भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने प्राथमिक कृषिक ऋण समिति को स्वयं अपने स्रोतों से, समय पर प्रदायगी करने वाले सदस्यों को, अल्प-कालिक ऋण के 10 प्रतिशत तक उपभोक्ता ऋण देने की अनुमति दे दी है, बशर्ते कि उसकी समग्र अधिकतम सीमा 250 रुपये से अधिक न हो।

(ख) "क" ग्रंथ ('ए' कम्पॉनेंट) नामक अशकालित ऋण का जो भाग मजदूरी आदि पर व्यय करने के लिए नकदी के रूप में दिया जाता है उससे किसानों की आर्थिक उपयोग आवश्यकताएं पूरी हो जाती हैं। फिर भी, पृथक रूप से ऐसे आंकड़े नहीं रखे जाते जिनसे यह पता चल सके कि "क" ग्रंथ के कितने भाग का उपयोग उपयोग आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए किया गया है। क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों को आदेश दिये गये हैं कि अपने ग्रामीण ग्राहकों को दिये गये उपयोग ऋण विषयक आंकड़े पृथक रूप से रखें।

Export of Rubber

1105. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kerala State Co-operative Rubber Marketing Federation has sought the Central Government's permission to export rubber directly by the growers; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof, and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Rubber Marketing Federation had *inter-alia* requested Government to allow them to export natural rubber directly and that when STC exports rubber, the profit on such exports should be passed on to the producers by the STC after taking reasonable commission. Government allowed rubber growers to export 3,000 tonnes of natural rubber through STC, who would collect a nominal service charge. Since they could export only limited quantities of natural rubber, STC was also allowed to export on their own besides whatever quantity is permitted for export by the growers within the overall figures of 3,000 tonnes.

Import of Raw Cashewnuts

1106. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether anticipated imports of raw cashewnuts will be very low this year as compared to the imports of the last year *vis a vis* the requirements of the industry; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefore ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The short crop in Tanzania and Mozambique, accentuated by their policy of finding alternative buyers for their exportable surpluses of raw cashewnuts have caused a sharp drop in the availability of supplies for import during 1976-77.

Cases of Under Valued Properties in Delhi

1107. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH GILL : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Income-tax Authorities recently made a survey of big buildings in the Capital to detect cases of irregular and under-valued property; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b). Survey of the bigger properties in posh localities in the Capital has been resumed from 28th June this year. Of the premises surveyed till 31st July, cases examined so far show estimated undisclosed investment/undervaluation of about Rs. 60 lakhs.

रुई की मांग और खपत

1108. श्री भागीरथ भंडार : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) आपातकाल के दौरान रुई की खपत तथा कारखानों की मांग में कितने प्रतिशत वृद्धि हुई ।

(ख) क्या खपत और मांग को देखते हुए रुई का आयात करने का कोई निर्णय लिया गया है और रुई किन देशों से आयात करने का विचार है ।

(ग) क्या रुई के मामले में भविष्य में देश को आत्मनिर्भर बनाने के लिये किसी योजना पर विचार किया जा रहा है । और

(घ) इस समय किस-किस देश से कितनी कितनी मात्रा में रुई का आयात किया जाता है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में सचिव (श्री विश्वनाथ स्वामी) : (क) आपात स्थिति की घोषणा के बाद मिली रुई की खपत पिछले वर्ष की उसी अवधि की तुलना में लगभग 5.7 प्रतिशत बढ़ गई है ।

(ख) सरकार ने उपलब्धता की स्थिति सुधारने के लिए इस साल रुई की 2 लाख गांठ आयात करने का फैसला किया है । रुई का आयात अमरीका, तंजानिया, मैक्सिको, अफगानिस्तान, टर्की, ईरान, यूनान, सोवियत संघ आदि देशों से किये जाने का विचार है ।

(ग) रुई के मामले में देश को आत्मनिर्भर बनाने की दृष्टि से गहन रुई जिला कार्यक्रम की एक व्यापक योजना पहले ही चल रही है ।

(घ) चालू रुई मौसम के दौरान अब तक आयात की गई रुई की वास्तविक मात्रा तथा देशों के नाम इस प्रकार हैं :—

देश	आयात की गई गांठों की संख्या
मूडान	37,000
मिस्र	9,746

Opening of New Branches of Banks in Rural Areas of Gujarat

1109. SHRI P. M. MEHTA: Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Gujarat State the fruits of nationalisation of Banks have not reached the villages and the number of branches opened in the Gujarat State are much less as compared to other States; and

(b) the steps being taken to open more branches in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b). In the post nationalisation period, the commercial banks, particularly the public sector banks, have made a conscious effort to open larger number of offices in underbanked areas and in rural centres. As a result, the commercial banks have achieved a sizeable expansion of their branch network in Gujarat, particularly in rural areas of the State as will be seen from the data reported by the Reserve Bank of India set out below:

	Ason 19-7-69	Ason June 30, 1976	Increase in offices between 19-7-1969 and June 30, 1976	
			No.	Per- centage
Number of offices of commercial banks	753	1711	953	126
Of which offices at rural centres	233	651	418	179

The average population per bank office in Gujarat which was 34,000 in the eve of bank nationalisation stands reduced to 16,000 as on June 30, 1976 as against the National average per bank office of 26,000.

Reserve Bank of India have also reported that as at the end of June, 1976, 132 allotments/licences were pending with the commercial banks for opening new offices in Gujarat.

विदेशों में काम कर रही राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों की शाखाएँ

1110. श्री भागीरथशंकर : क्या राजस्व और बैंकिंग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) विदेशों में राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों की शाखाएँ कहाँ कहाँ पर स्थित हैं और व्यवसाय की दृष्टि से प्रत्येक शाखा किस स्तर पर चल रही है ;

(ख) पंजाब नेशनल बैंक की लन्दन शाखा कब से चल रही है और उसकी कार्य क्षमता का ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) क्या राष्ट्रीय बैंकों की विदेशों में कार्यरत कुछ ऐसी भी शाखाएँ हैं जो अपना व्यय भी पूरा नहीं कर पाती है ?

राज्य : और बैंकिंग विभाग (श्री भारती राज्य बैंक (सं) राज्य कुम. सहित) :

(क) विदेशों, में भारतीय बैंकों की शाखाओं और प्रतिनिधि कार्यालयों की 31 जुलाई, 1976 की स्थिति प्रदर्शित करने वाला विवरण [सभा पटल पर रखा गया है देखिये संख्या एल० टी० 11164/76]

(ख) पंजाब नेशनल बैंक ने 19 जुलाई, 1976 को लन्दन में एक शाखा खोली है । बैंक आफ इंग्लैंड ने इस शाखा की रिहायशी पौण्ड (रेजिडेंट स्टलिंग) में सभी तरह के बैंकिंग कारोबार करने का अधिकार दिया है ।

(ग) : कुछ विदेशी शाखाओं को छोड़कर शेष सभी विदेशी शाखाएँ आम तौर पर अपना खर्च पूरा करने में सक्षम रही हैं ।

Closure of Natural Rubber Foam Factories

1111. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of natural rubber foam factories closed during the last three years both in large scale and small scale sectors and the reasons for their closure;

(b) whether Government are aware that the rubber growers in Kerala are affected due to the resultant loss in consumption of natural rubber; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) (a) to (c): The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Import of Raw Materials for Polyurethane Foam

1112. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent for the import of raw materials for the manufacture of Polyurethane foam during the last three years;

(b) whether Government are aware that these imported raw materials could be replaced by indigenous raw material, namely natural rubber latex; and

(c) if so, the reasons for giving tax concessions and import duty rebates for importing raw materials for Polyurethane Foam?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI
VISHWANATH PRATAP SING a)

Licences for import of raw materials for manufacture of Polyeurathene foam are granted for import from Rupee Payment Area only. The particulars of licences issued are published in the "Weekly Bulletin of Industrial Licences, Import Licences and Export Licences" copies of which are regularly supplied to the Parliament Library.

(b) Natural rubber latex cannot be used for manufacture of polyeurathene foam.

(c) Does not arise.

पोलिस्टर फाइबर, पोलिनोमिक फाइबर और
ईथरीन ग्लायकोल का आयात

1113. डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय :
क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा
करेंगे कि :-

(क) क्या सरकार चालू वर्ष के
दौरान पोलिस्टर फाइबर, पोलिनोमिक
फाइबर तथा इथरीन ग्लायकोल का
आयात अधिक मात्रा में करने जा रही है;
और

(ख) यदि हां तो इस पर कितनी विदेशी
मुद्रा खर्च होगी ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री
विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह) : (क) चालू वर्ष
के दौरान रेशों की उपलब्धता को सुधारने
के लिए पोलिस्टर फाइबर, पोलिनोमिक
फाइबर तथा विस्कोस फाइबर के आयातों
की अनुमति देने का निर्णय लिया गया है।

(ख) जब तक आयात पूरे नहीं हो
जाते तब तक व्यय का अनुमान लगाना
संभव नहीं है।

मध्य प्रदेश में ग्रामीण कृषि बैंकों द्वारा ऋण
दिया जाना

1114. डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पांडेय :
क्या राजस्व और बैंकिंग मंत्री यह बताने
की कृपा करेंगे कि :-

(क) वर्ष 1975-76 के दौरान मध्य
प्रदेश में ग्रामीण कृषि बैंकों द्वारा कितना
ऋण दिया गया ;

(ख) क्या कृषकों को ऋण शर्तों
तथा जमानत आदि के प्रावधानों के कारण
इस समय कठिनाइयों का सामना करना
पड़ रहा है ; और

(ग) क्या सरकार का विचार ऋण
शर्तों और जमानत संबंधी प्रावधानों को
उदार बनाने का है ?

राजस्व और बैंकिंग विभाग के प्रभारी
राज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रवेश कुमार मुखर्जी) :

(क) मध्य प्रदेश में दिसम्बर
1975 के अन्त की स्थिति के ताजा
उपलब्ध आंकड़ों के अनुसार सरकारी क्षेत्र
के बैंकों द्वारा दिये गये कृषिक ऋणों की
बकाया राशि 40.07 करोड़ रुपये (अन्तिम)
थी। इस के अलावा एक क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण
बैंक ने भी जुलाई 1976 तक 10.13
लाख रुपये प्रदान किये हैं।

(ख) और (ग) रिजर्व बैंक ने कृषि
के लिये वित्त की व्यवस्था करने के बारे
में बैंकों को मार्गदर्शक सिद्धान्त जारी
किये हैं जिनमें प्रतिभूति के आधार पर ऋण
देने के बजाय प्रयोजनशीलता उत्पादकता
और उन्नतिशीलता की ओर उन्मुख ऋण देने
पर जोर दिया गया है। बैंकों का मूलभूत
विचार यह रहा है कि ऋण प्रस्ताव तकनीकी
दृष्टि से व्यवहारिता तथा आर्थिक दृष्टि
से स्वावलम्बी हो और अन्त में, ऋण
वापिस करने की क्षमता ऋणकर्ता में
मौजूद हो। प्रतिभूति और माजिन के

मापदण्डों में भी उल्लेखनीय ढील दी गई है और वे प्रत्येक मामले में गुणावगुण के आधार पर निर्धारित किये जाते हैं ब्याज की दर के मामले में दर ऋण की मात्रा और भूमि की जोत के आधार पर लगाई जाती है और ब्याज की रियायती दर पर छंटे से छंटे और सीमांतक किसानों और कृषिक मजदूरों को ऋण दिया जाता है।

Dehoarding of Cotton Stocks by Mills

1115. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken effective measures for dehoarding of cotton stocks by the mills;

(b) if so, the main features thereof;

(c) the quantum and value of cotton stocks dehoarded this year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) No reports of violations of the Orders has been reported so far necessitating actual taking over of cotton by Government.

Statement

The following steps have been taken by Government:

(i) Inclusion of long staple varieties of Indian cotton within the limits prescribed for Indian cottons effective from 21-4-1976.

(ii) Permissible stock limits for all Mills other than Cooperative Spinning Mills reduced by one month, and for Cooperative Spinning Mills by one and half months effective from 8-7-1976.

(iii) Mills holding stocks in excess of permissible limits directed not to make fresh purchases before bringing down stocks below prescribed limits by future consumption.

(iv) Raising of margins of credit availability for cotton in case of Mills and trade effective from 8-7-1976.

(v) Intensive checking of stocks of cotton with mills and trade by Regional Offices of Textile Commissioner.

(vi) Directive to 'A' Class and 'B' Class traders to reduce their stock holdings to 50% of their June, 1976 and levels by 21-8-1976.

(vii) State Governments requested to initiate urgent steps to dehoard cotton with traders.

Smuggling on Indo Nepal Border

1116. SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA: Will the Minister of REVENUE and BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in a local Daily dated 16th June, 1976 under the heading "strict watch on Nepal border for smuggler";

(b) if so, the nature of vigilance further envisaged; and

(c) to what extent smuggling will be checked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE & BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The preventive arrangements on the Indo-Nepal border have been placed under the unified control of the Collector of Customs (Preventive) stationed at Patna. The preventive staff has been strengthened and the posting of more senior officers is under examination. More vehicles and other equipment have been provided for patrolling the border and for carrying out

preventive checks. The intelligence set-up has been strengthened. Greater co-ordination among the various enforcement agencies such as of the Customs and State Government officials, has been effected. Various measures are being negotiated from time to time with His Majesty's Government of Nepal for taking adequate steps in Nepal to curb chances of smuggling across the border. Preventive detention of smugglers is also being pursued vigorously, besides the collection, development and working out of intelligence to unearth organised gangs engaged in smuggling. On the basis of intelligence, raids and searches have been intensified both in border areas and in the consuming centres near to the border. It is expected that with these measures smuggling along the Indo-Nepal border will be effectively curbed.

Export of Groundnut Oil

1117. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL:
SHRI VEKARIA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether groundnut oil is being exported;

(b) if so, the quantity of groundnut oil exported during the years 1974-75 and 1975-76; and

(c) the names of the countries to whom exported?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (c). Taking into view the edible oils situation in the country, groundnut oil is not allowed for export. However, in March, 1976 Government directed STC to purchase 5,000 MT of groundnut oil as a price support measure. This amount was exported to U.K. and Netherlands in April, 1976.

Apart from this a small-quantity of 102 and 48 tonnes were exported in 1974-75 and 1975-76 respectively to neighbouring countries, mostly to Nepal.

Census of Coffee Estates

1118. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coffee Board has conducted a census of coffee estates in India;

(b) if so, the main findings of this census; and

(c) how far this would help the Board to effectively assess the production of coffee and to market it properly?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) About 35,000 coffee estates are un-registered.

(ii) An area of 1.58 lakhs acres of land have been planted with high yielding disease-resistant strains since 1950-51 in the two states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

(iii) Out of total area of 4.24 lakhs acres under coffee about 2.99 lakh acres are in normal production age group i.e. 5-50 years age group.

(iv) An area of about 1.20 lakh acres are estimated to be available for further expansion of coffee cultivation in existing coffee holdings in 3 traditional coffee States.

(c) The valuable information from the Census will provide a statistical data base for short and long term production planning and for formulating marketing strategy for exports and internal consumption of coffee.

बीमार जूट मिलें

1119. श्री रामावतार शास्त्री :

श्री नरेन्द्र कुमार दीवी :

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) बीमार जूट मिलों की संख्या बढ़ती जा रही है ;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने उन्हें बालू करने की कोई योजना तैयार की है ; और

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

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह) : (ग) पटसन उद्योग कुल मिला कर अब पूर्ण रूप से स्वस्थ नहीं है ।

(ख) और (ग). सरकार ने पटसन उद्योग की अक्षमता सुधार के लिये अन्य उपायों के अलावा निम्नोक्त उपाय किये हैं :-

(1) पटसन माल की सभी त्तरों पर निर्यात शुल्क की समाप्ति ।

(2) पटसन के नये उपयोग इकट्ठे तथा उत्पादन लागत घटाने के लिये गवेषणा तथा विकास प्रयत्नों के लिये उदार रूप से सहायता देना ; तथा

(3) पटसन माल पर उच्च कर लगाना ताकि एक विकास परिषद् के माध्यम से गवेषणा तथा विकास कार्यों के लिये धन जुटाया जा सके ।

Formation of Third Level J. C. M. Council in the Office of the Controller of Defence Accounts, Patna

1120. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rule for the formation of the third level of J.C.M. Council in Government offices;

(b) whether a third level J.C.M. Council has not been formed in the office of the Controller of Defence Accounts, Patna for last many years with the Association which commanded majority;

(c) whether the Administration has made administrative involvement in the matter of Service Associations and has harassed the office bearers of the All India Defence Accounts Employees Associations, Patna Branch since 1971 in one way or the other;

(d) whether the real cause of the employees has gone unrepresented; and

(e) if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Councils under the Joint Consultative Machinery Scheme for Central Government employees are set up not under any rule as such, but under a Voluntary Scheme to resolve all issues through joint consultations, or compulsory arbitration. Office Councils (Third Level) deal with purely local issues, but not individual cases.

(b) No, Sir. The Council as duly constituted functioned in Patna till 1st June, 1975. Following representation from the two recognised Associations in the Department, Government have since decided on the allocation of seats in all the Office Councils. The Office Council in Patna will also be reconstituted accordingly.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to Part (d) of the question.

Region-wise transfer of Class III and IV Employees of Defence Accounts Department

1121. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Controller General of Defence Accounts has been formulating a policy for region-wise transfer of Class III and IV employees of Defence Accounts Department;

(b) whether a large number of employees volunteered for transfer to their home State at their own cost or at Government cost from different Controllers of Defence Accounts Offices;

(c) whether the regional transfer policy will minimise Government expenditure; and

(d) if so, the number of Class III and IV employees who volunteered and the reasons for delay in implementing the transfers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) No, Sir. The employees of Defence Accounts Department have all India service liability and can, therefore, be transferred to any place in India. However, Controllers of Defence Accounts, having all India jurisdiction, have been instructed to ensure that, as far as possible, transfers of Class III and Class IV staff should be effected on a zonal basis.

(b) No, Sir. The number is not large compared to the total number of employees in the Department.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) of the question.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

Shifting of Offices of Controller of Defence Accounts from one State to another

1122. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been shifting some of the offices or sub-offices of Controller of Defence Accounts from one State to the other State;

(b) whether there is a proposal to shift a certain command of the C.D.A. to Patna;

(c) whether the office of the C.D.A. Patna or its any portion is to be shifted to Calcutta or any other place; and

(d) whether such proposal involves huge expenditure and if so, the main features of the proposal and reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) No, Sir.

(c) There is no proposal to shift the office of the C.D.A. Patna to Calcutta or any other place. However, there is a proposal to transfer a small portion of work at present done in the office of C.D.A. Patna to Calcutta to meet certain functional requirement.

(d) No, Sir.

Amendment to Central Sales Tax Act

1123. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has urged the Central Government to amend the Central Sales Tax Act to stop tax evasion; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE & BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Government of Kerala has made some suggestions regarding amendment of the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956. They are under examination in consultation with all the other State Governments.

Trade Contract with U.S.S.R.

1124. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any trade contract or a protocol was recently concluded with U.S.S.R.; and

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). A Trade Protocol between India and USSR covering the period 1976—80 was signed at New Delhi on the 15th April, 1976. The protocol envisages a trade turnover between the two countries of Rs. 830 crores in 1976 going upto Rs. 930 crores in 1980. In terms of the trade protocol, India is to export to U.S.S.R. non-traditional goods such as garage equipment, auto ancillaries, aluminium power cables, storage batteries, freight containers, wood veneers, drugs & pharmaceuticals, chemical products, in addition to traditional commodities like tea, coffee, spices, jute goods, cashew kernels, tobacco, etc.

U.S.S.R. is to supply to India Petroleum products, fertilisers sulphur, non-ferrous metals like zinc, Nickel, Platinum and Palladium, newsprint, asbestos, cotton, sunflower seed oil, in addition to machinery and equipment and spares and components for Soviet assisted projects.

Loans by Industrial Development Bank of India to Export Units

1125. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of REVENUE & BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Industrial Development Bank of India proposes to extend a loan of Rs. 300 crores to export units; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). There is no proposal with the Industrial Development Bank of India to extend a loan of Rs. 300 crores to export units.

Crop Insurance

1126. SHRI D. D. DESAI:
SHRI VASANT SATHE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the General Insurance Corporation is preparing a scheme for crop insurance; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) The General Insurance Corporation is at present examining a scheme for crop insurance drawn up by the Indian School of Political Economy, Lonavla.

(b) The main features of the scheme recommended by the Indian School of Political Economy are as under:—

(i) Crop insurance should be linked to agricultural credit and all crop loans should be insured. Premium should be deducted from the crop loans, and indemnities paid by insurance companies be set off against recovery.

(ii) It will be a combined scheme for all crops in a year.

(iii) The Scheme recommends area approach as opposed to individual approach in that if yield is less than average yield in an area, all insured farmers in that area will get compensation at the same rate, irrespective of an individual's loss.

(iv) The Scheme will apply only to those areas and crops for which crop cuttings have been conducted for the preceding ten years.

(v) Guaranteed yields and premium rate, which depend upon variations of indices of production, will be worked out for each selected area through statistical procedures based on past crop cutting data for the preceding ten years.

Common Board of Management for Indian Airlines and Air India

1127. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision has been taken on having a common board of management for Indian Airlines and Air India;

(b) whether this will help to achieve economies in operation; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) to (c). There is no proposal under consideration to have a common Board or Management for Indian Airlines and Air-India. Efforts are, however, under way to identify areas where there should be greater co-ordination between the two corporations, keeping in view overall national interest.

त्रिवेन्द्रम में पर्यटकों के लिये कोटिज

1128. श्री मूलचन्द डागा : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पर्यटन विभाग ने त्रिवेन्द्रम (केरल) में समुद्र तट पर एक कोटिज का निर्माण किया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कब और उस पर कुल कितना व्यय हुआ है ; और

(ग) वर्ष 1974-75 और 1975-76 में उस के रख-रखाव और प्रशासन पर कितना व्यय हुआ और उस से कितनी आय हुई ?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में

राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुरेन्द्र पन्ना सिंह) :

(क) और (ख) : भारत पर्यटन विकास निगम ने त्रिवेन्द्रम के निकट कोवालम् समुद्र तट पर 104 कुटीरों का निर्माण किया है जिन्हें उन्होंने 17 सितम्बर, 1972 को चालू कर दिया था। यह काम्प्लेक्स कोवालम् ग्राव कहलाता है। इस काम्प्लेक्स पर 40 लाख रुपये का कुल व्यय हुआ था जिस में इस के निर्माण की लागत तथा किचन, डाईनिंग रूम और स्विमिंग पूल आदि जैसी सभी सेवाएँ शामिल हैं।

(ग) कोवालम् ग्राव द्वारा 1974-75 तथा 1975-76 के दौरान उस के संचालन एवं प्रशासन पर किये गये व्यय एवं

अधिकतम दिये और राज्य का धीरा नीचे दिया गया है :-

	(लाख रुपये में)	
धारा	1974-75	1975-76(*)
संभारण	1.09	1.29
प्रशासन	0.88	1.00
राज्य	14.32	13.11

(* ये आंकड़े अंतिम हैं तथा इनकी चेष्टा परीक्षा होनी है।)

भारत पर्यटन विकास निगम के अधिकारियों के दोरों पर व्यय

1129. श्री मन्मथ झागा : क्या पर्यटन और नगर विमानन मंत्री यह बताते की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) भारत पर्यटन विकास निगम के अधिकारियों ने वर्ष 1973-74 में किन-किन देशों का दौरा किया और इन दौरों का उद्देश्य क्या था और इनसे विमान को क्या लाभ हुआ ; और

(ख) गत तीन वर्षों में वर्ष-वार इन दोरों पर कितना व्यय हुआ ?

पर्यटन और नगर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुरेश पाल सिंह): (क) 1973-74 के दौरान भारत पर्यटन विकास निगम के अधिकारियों ने पेरिस, एरिया, टूरिस्ट एजेंडस, अमेरिकन सोसायटी ऑफ टूरिस्ट एजेंडस तथा ऑस्ट्रेलियन फंडेशन ऑफ टूरिस्ट एजेंडस द्वारा आयोजित सम्मेलनों, सम्मेलनों तथा विचारवर्षियों में भाग लेने, तथा प्रशिक्षण पाठ्यक्रमों एवं पर्यटन विषयक अध्ययन एवं परिचालक यात्राओं के लिए अमेरिकन राज्य अमेरिका, यूरोपियन देशों, मैक्सिको, इंडोनेशिया, थाईलैंड, सिंगापुर,

जलेशिया, ताहिती, फिजी तथा हांगकांग का दौरा किया। इन दौरों में व्यापार-संबंधीयों में भारत पर्यटन विकास निगम का सफलतापूर्वक प्रतिनिधित्व करने के अतिरिक्त निगम के अधिकारियों को विदेशों में पर्यटन से सम्बन्धित उद्योग तथा दी जाने वाली सुविधाओं का परिचय प्राप्त करने तथा भारत पर्यटन विकास निगम की विभिन्न सेवाओं का वहां प्रचार करने का भी अवसर प्रदान किया। प्रशिक्षण पाठ्यक्रमों के लिए भेजे गये अधिकारियों को प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रमों से लाभ पहुंचा है।

(ख) पिछले तीन वर्षों में इन दौरों पर किये गये व्यय का धीरा नीचे दिया गया है :-

वर्ष	व्यय (लाख रुपयों में)
1973-74	1.27
1974-75	1.37
1975-76	0.99

लेखी से करने वाले यात्राओं के लिये हवाई धुओं की अपर्याप्त व्यवस्था

1130. श्री मन्मथ झागा :

श्री मोहिन्दर सिंह शिखर :

क्या पर्यटन और नगर विमानन मंत्री यह बता की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को पता है कि लेखी से बढ़ रहे यात्राओं के लिए देश में हवाई धुओं की व्यवस्था अपर्याप्त है और यदि हा, तो सरकार द्वारा इस बारे में क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ; और

(ख) क्या इस समस्याओं का हल करने के लिए सरकार का विचार कोई योजना

बनाने का है और यदि हां, तो कब तक और इसके लिए साधन कहां से उपलब्ध किए जायेंगे और उस पर अनुमानतः कितना खर्च आयेगा ?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री. (श्री राज बहादुर) : (क) और (ख). अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय विमान क्षेत्रों तथा अन्तर्देशीय हवाई अड्डों पर जहां नियमित हवाई सेवाएं परिचालित की जा रही हैं वहां यथा आवश्यक यात्री निपटान सुविधाएं व मुख सुविधाएं उपलब्ध हैं। बढ़ते हुए यातायात की आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति के लिये विमान क्षेत्रों का सुधार/आधुनिकीकरण एक निरन्तर चलने वाली प्रक्रिया है तथा परिचालनात्मक अपेक्षाओं और माघनों की उत्पत्ति के अनुरूप सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था एवं उनमें सुधार करने के निरन्तर प्रयत्न किए जा रहे हैं।

जहां तक अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय विमान क्षेत्रों के विकास का सम्बन्ध है, पांचवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में 27.67 करोड़ रुपये के परिव्यय की व्यवस्था की गई है। बम्बई विमान क्षेत्र पर 11 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से एक नये अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय यात्री तथा कार्गो टर्मिनल कॉम्प्लेक्स के निर्माण के लिए स्वीकृति पहले ही प्रदान की जा चुकी है तथा कार्य प्रारंभ कर दिया गया है।

अन्तर्देशीय हवाई अड्डों के विकास के लिए पांचवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में 63.29 करोड़ रुपये की राशि की व्यवस्था की गई है। वहां किये जाने वाले विकास कार्यों में बड़े तथा भारी विमानों के परिचालन योग्य बनाने के लिए धावन पथों के विस्तार तथा

मजबूत करने, टर्मिनल सुविधाओं में सुधार करने तथा दिक्चालन एवं संचार उपकरणों का आधुनिकीकरण करने के कार्य शामिल हैं।

Bose Mullick Committee Report on Jute Industry

1131. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

DR. RANEN SEN:

SHRI N. K. SANGHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bose Mullick Committee appointed to study the problems of jute industry has submitted its final report;

(b) if so, what are its recommendations; and

(c) Government's decision thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). It will not be in public interest to indicate the recommendations of the Committee before a final decision is taken by the Government.

Loans for joint stock sugar firms

1132. SHRI D. K. PANDA: Will the Minister of REVENUE & BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved a new policy for offering term loans for joint stock sugar firms; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The Industrial Development Bank of India would make available to certain industries including sugar industry loan

assistance on soft terms to modernise their machinery and equipment, so as to increase their productivity and competitiveness. Applications have been invited by the Industrial Development Bank of India from intending borrowers and those received upto 15th September, 1976 will be processed in the first lot. For sugar industry, the broad eligibility criteria for assistance under the scheme are expansion of capacity to an economic size, investment in cane development, improvement in thermal efficiency and semi-electrification of the plant and replacement of existing plant for improving mill or boiler house efficiency and quality of sugar.

राजस्थान में पिछड़े तथा कमजोर वर्गों को बैंको से ऋण

1133. श्री लालजी भाई : क्या राजस्व और बैंकिंग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि आपातकालीन स्थिति की घोषणा के पश्चात् राजस्थान में पिछड़े तथा कमजोर वर्गों के लोगों को किस-किस बैंक द्वारा वित्तीय सहायता दी गई और प्रत्येक बैंक द्वारा कितनी-कितनी वित्तीय सहायता दी गयी ?

राजस्व और बैंकिंग विभाग के प्रभारी राज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रणव कुमार मुखर्जी) : समाज के पिछड़े और कमजोर वर्गों को दिये गये ऋणों के आंकड़े पृथक् रूप से नहीं रखे जाते। आम तौर से ऐसे व्यक्ति ऋण और विभेदी ब्याज दर योजना के प्राथमिकता प्राप्त क्षेत्र के वर्गों के अन्तर्गत आ जाते हैं। राजस्थान में इन वर्गों के सम्बन्ध में बैंकवार, जून, 1975 और दिसम्बर, 1975 को समाप्त अवधि के उपलब्ध आंकड़े विवरण में दिये जा रहे हैं, जो सभा पटल पर रखा गया है।
[दिखिये संख्या एल टी.-11165/76]

Study Regarding Origin And Behaviour Of Monsoon.

1134. SHRI P. GANGADEB : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Soviet ships will join Indian ships to study monsoon in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal ;

(b) whether the two studies would give some understanding of the origin and behaviour of Indian monsoon ; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION . (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c). As a preliminary build up for the Global Atmospheric Research Programme to be held in 1979 under which a detailed study of monsoon is to be carried out, 4 research ships of USSR and 2 from India will take meteorological and oceanographic observations in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal during the period May-August 1977. Besides this, during this period, the observational programmes over certain land stations etc. will be strengthened.

These studies will enable acquisition of reliable and comprehensive data base, particularly over Oceanic areas so that further research on the monsoon can be undertaken.

Liberalisation of Import Policy in respect of Equipment and Raw Materials for Research Purposes

1135. SHRI P. GANGADEB : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether import policy in respect of equipment and raw materials for research purpose has been further liberalised during current year ; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI
VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH).

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Salient features of the liberalised import policy are given in the statement attached.

Statement

(1) All research and development institutions, whether in Government or private sector, and research and development units which are recognised by the Department of Science and Technology, all Government research institutions under Central and State Government, Universities, I.I.Ts., including research laboratories/institutions of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Council of Medical Research, and Indian Institutes of Science, Bangalore and Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad and other similar scientific agencies of the Central or State Govt., research and/or training institutes under the Central/State Governments (other than public sector undertakings) are allowed to import raw materials, components and spare parts, scientific instruments, equipments, apparatus and appliances, etc., upto a value of Rs. 100 lakh per annum without an import licence, subject to the condition that the items of raw materials, components and spares, scientific instruments, etc., are required for research and development purposes and a declaration to that effect is furnished by the importing research and development units at the time of clearance of goods through the customs indicating the c.i.f. value of imports already made in the same year. These facilities will not be applicable to colleges and other institutions.

(2) It is only for value in excess of Rs. 100 lakh for research purposes, that the units/institutions are required to apply for an import licence through the Department of Science and Technology in the

case of units recognised by that Department and through the sponsoring authority in the case of others.

(3) Technical and research institutions, analytical laboratories, including colleges and institutions, which are not recognised by the Department of Science and Technology and are not covered by the provisions mentioned in para 1 above, can also import, for their own use, scientific instruments, equipments and apparatus, etc., provided the c.i.f. value of such goods imported at any one time does not exceed Rs. 5,000/- or Rs. 25,000/- in one lot per annum.

Special Attention by Trade Development Authority to Markets in West Asia and Africa

1136. SHRI P. GANGADEB : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Trade Development Authority is considering to give special attention to the markets of West Asia and Africa ; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI
VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH).

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As far as West Asia is concerned, the Trade Development Authority (T.D.A.) plans to carry out country studies in the region. It proposes to send teams to study the export prospects for selected products and also to invite some buyers' missions from this region. T.D.A. is also engaged in analysing the potential for export to African countries, so that short-term and long-term strategies can be worked out. It also proposes to conduct country studies in selected markets in Africa.

Insurance Cover for Export Trade to Third Countries

1137. SHRI P. GANGADEB : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Export Credit and Guarantee Corporation proposes to provide insurance cover for export trade to third countries;

(b) if so, when will it be implemented; and

(c) the measures taken to provide co-insurance schemes with foreign countries for Indian turn-key projects to be set up in third countries ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) to (c) . It is in respect of exports jointly with another country to third countries where need for co-insurance schemes arises. Devising of schemes for insurance of such joint export projects to third countries is under active consideration of the Export Credit and Guarantee Corporation. The matter will be considered by the Government after the proposal has been approved by the Board of Directors of the Export Credit & Guarantee Corporation.

New Scheme for Distribution of Controlled Cloth.

1138. SHRI K.M.MADHUKAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new scheme has been evolved for proper distribution of controlled cloth; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) :

(a) and (b) . No new scheme for the distribution of controlled cloth, as such, has been evolved. However, the distribution

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system and machinery is kept under review and such modification as are considered necessary and feasible are made.

Export Production Centres for Handloom Sector

1139. SHRI K. MALLANNA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the intensive development projects and export production projects for the handloom sector approved by Central Government for being set up in different parts of the country State-wise, during the current year and the amount of Central financial assistance provided for these projects ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : 17 intensive development projects and 19 export production projects have been approved by Central Government for being set up by various State Governments during the current year. A statement indicating the location of the intensive development and export production projects is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in library. See No. LT—11166/76]. Excluding institutional finance, the outlay on an intensive development project is Rs. 1.85 crores and on an export production project is Rs. 40 lakhs over a five-year period. Under the pattern of assistance for the intensive development projects, the Central Government would finance 75% of the total expenditure incurred on the project during the first three years and 50% of the expenditure incurred during the remaining two years. The entire outlay of Rs. 40 lakhs on an Export production project will be met by the Central Government.

Performance Of Rural Banks.

1140. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of REVENUE & BANKING be pleased to State : (a) the performance of the Rural Banks in the country ; and

(b) the number of Rural Banks implementing 20-Point Economic Programme and the steps taken therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE & BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b). So far 23 Regional Rural Banks have been opened in different parts of the country. As at the end of June, 1976 19 Regional Rural Banks established till then mobilised deposits of Rs. 125.85 lakhs and have disbursed Rs. 160.15 lakhs. The performance report in respect of the remaining banks opened after June, 1976 is not available. All these Banks have been instructed to implement the points concerning them under the 20 Point Economic Programme.

Bank Loans to Weaker Sections in Karnataka

1141. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether may a bank in the Karnataka State are not coming forward to sanction loans to the weaker sections of people like farmers, artisans, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and unemployed youths because no security is provided on behalf of these people ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to help these sections of the society to have the benefits of the 20-point Economic Programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) (a) and (b) It is not correct to say that banks in Karnataka State are not coming forward to sanction loans to the weaker sections of the people, because no security is provided on their behalf. Even since nationalisation, the commercial banks have moved away from the security-oriented approach and have adopted purpose-oriented lending, particularly to the Weaker sections. No. viable scheme is rejected for

want of security or guarantee, if banks are otherwise satisfied on its merits. As and when any specific complaint is received from an individual for refusal of bank credit, the matter is taken up with the concerned bank and where necessary, banks are also advised suitably.

The provisional figures of balance outstanding in December 1975 in respect of priority sector advances, advances under DIR Scheme and Half-a-million Jobs programme in Karnataka were Rs. 191.45 crores, Rs. 2.18 crores and Rs. 7.79 crores respectively. Moreover, after the launching of the 20-Point Economic Programme, all the Public Sector banks have formulated various schemes to provide financial assistance to economically weaker sections covered in the Programme at liberal and concessional terms.

Development of International Airports

1142. SHRI VASANT SATHE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have approved the plan for further development of international airports in the country ; and

(b) if so, the physical contents of the plan, financial outlay involved and other main features of each airport separately ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) and (b). During the Fifth five year plan an outlay of Rs. 27.67 crores has been earmarked for the development of international airports. The major schemes/projects envisaged include construction of a new International Passenger and Cargo Terminal Complex at Bombay airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 11 crores. A new terminal complex is being planned and a cargo complex is being developed at the Delhi airport. The existing passenger handling facilities at Madras airport have already been improved at a cost of Rs. 22

lakhs and a new cargo complex is being set up at a cost of approximately Rs. 20 lakhs. The main runway at Calcutta has been strengthened to make it suitable for wide-bodied aircraft at a cost of Rs. 62.97 lakhs.

The communication and navigational aids at the four international airports are proposed to be modernised at a cost of Rs. 10 crores. Provisions of Rs. 2.10 crores for purchase of crash fire tenders and Rs. 1.42 crores for installation of Cat II lighting for the international airports have also been made.

Outstanding Deposits Written off by L.I.C.

1143. SHRI P. M. MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the amount of outstanding and unclaimed deposits and other accounts written off by the Life Insurance Corporation reached a high figure during 1974-75;

(b) if so, what was the total figure reached;

(c) what are the main causes for this; and

(d) whether Life Insurance Corporation feels that this is due to the large number of agents operating in the field?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI):

(a) and (b) As would be seen from the following statistics for the last five years, the amount of outstanding and unclaimed deposits & claims and other amounts written back to Revenue Account by LIC during 1974-75 was less than that in 1971-72 but was marginally higher than those during the preceding two years.

Year	Amount (Rs in crores)
1971-72:	4.00
1972-73:	2.76
1973-74:	2.15
1974-75:	2.96
1975-76:	2.80

(c) According to the LIC's procedure, where the claimant is not traced in spite of regular follow-up, the claim amount is credited to the revenue account after a specified period depending on the nature of the claim. Similarly, unadjusted premium deposits are credited to revenue account after 5 years, and other unclaimed amounts (other than policy claims) are credited to the revenue account after 4 years, when there is no response from the policyholders.

(d) No, Sir.

Proposal to Boost up Tourism in the Country

1144. SHRI P. M. MEHTA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government propose to take some urgent measures to boost up tourism in the country;

(b) whether a two day seminar on the subject was held in New Delhi in the month of July, 1976; and

(c) what were the suggestions made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND
CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA
PAL SINGH): (a) A statement pertaining to the measures being taken by the Union Government to boost tourism is placed on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). No seminar was organised by the Department of Tourism. However, a two-day Seminar on Tourism was organised on July 19 & 20 by a travel magazine. The recommendations of the Seminar, if any, have not been received by the Department of Tourism so far.

Statement

The Union Government is taking necessary measures to boost tourism in India on the pattern of development initiated in the Fifth Plan. The places where tourist facilities are proposed to be developed under the Central Sector are Gulmarg, Kovalam, Goa, Agra, Jaipur, Varanasi, Manali, Amritsar, Aurangabad, Elephanta, selected Buddhist centres, wild life sanctuaries and places of archaeological importance.

II. Promotional programmes of the Department of Tourism are continuing processes. The main steps being taken in this regard are enumerated as follows :—

1. Extensive advertising publicity and public relations campaign launched through 16 overseas offices.
2. Increased production of tourist publicity literature in foreign languages including Arabic and Persian and production of tourist documentary films in colour.
3. 'Discover India' tickets introduced by Indian Airlines and 'Travel as you like' by Indian Railways.
4. Relaxation of entry formalities such as issuance of landing permit on arrival valid for 28 days with multiple entry.
5. Visit of travel industry promotional teams consisting of representatives of Department of Tourism, Air-India Indian Airlines, Travel Agents Association of India, All India Hotel and Restaurant Federation to important tourist generating markets.
6. Loans for the construction of new hotels, and augmenting of tourist transport fleets.
7. Construction of tourist bungalows, youth hostels, camping sites, to cater to the needs of low-income group tourists.
8. Opening of a new tourist office at Kuwait to promote tourist traffic from West Asia.

Repatriation of Funds by Concerns Set by with Foreign Collaboration

1145. SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether industrial collaborations in India, especially those set up with the assistance of the western countries, have made a heavy drain on India's foreign exchange reserves;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to put a check on it?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) (a) and (b). As can be seen from the Statement attached, remittances to Western countries on account of industrial collaborations form a substantial part of the total liability.

(c) Government's policy in regard to foreign collaboration continues to be selective. Foreign collaboration is not normally permitted in areas where the requisite technology is indigenously available except where such a collaboration is intended to promote exports.

Statement

According to the data relating to remittances by foreign companies as compiled by the Reserve Bank of India, the payments on account of profits, dividends, technical know how fees and royalties directly attributable to foreign collaborations for

the period ending 1973-74 (which are the latest figures available) are as shown below. The statement gives the data for all countries as well as for Western countries :

		Rs. in crores)	
		All Countries	Western Countries
1971-72	. .	63.5	56.4
1972-73	. .	68.6	62.3
1973-74	. .	74.6	65.2

Jute Workers affected due to Retrenchment in Jute Mills

1146. Dr. RANENSEN. Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of jute workers affected on account of lay-offs, closures and retrenchment in jute mills during 1975 and 1976 so far due to shortfall in production of jute;

(b) whether a deputation of A.I.T.U.C. and I. N. T. U. C. met him on 28th June, 1976 in this connection; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) :

(a) According to information obtained from the Government of West Bengal, there was no retrenchment in the jute industry in 1975. During the same period, there were lay-offs in 23 units for varying periods due to different reasons. In view of the apprehended shortage and consequent need for conserving superior varieties of raw jute, a limited regulation of production was imposed for two months from June, 1976. Production regulation in regard to Carpet Backing and Hessian was withdrawn with effect from 14th July, 1976. This regulation of production is reported not to have affected any permanent or semi-permanent workers in the jute industry.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Export of Calcium Carbide

1147. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India, from an importer till 1975, has become an exporter of calcium carbide; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Imports and exports of calcium carbide during the last three years have been as follows:—

Quantity: Lakh Kg.
Value: Rs. Lakh

	Imports		Exports	
	Q.	V.	Q.	V.
1975-76 . .	..	..	2.6	6.5
1974-75 . .	38.5	119.0	0.1	0.5
1973-74 . .	20.0	24.8	0.2	0.7

Export of Silk Goods

1148. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been record export of silk goods in 1975-76;

(b) if so, whether this constitutes one of the highest records in recent years; and

(c) the percentage rise in 1975-76 as compared to 1974-75?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 38%

Arrests Under COFEPOSA in Bahraich District

1149. SHRI B. R. SHUKLA : Will the Minister of REVENUE & BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) Whether any arrests were made under COFEPOSA in the district of Bahraich (U. P.) in the month of July, 1976; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Counterfeit gold deposit case unearthed in State Bank of India at Bahraich (U.P.)

1150. SHRI B. R. SHUKLA : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any loan was advanced by the State Bank of India, Bahraich (U.P.) on the basis of gold deposit which was discovered to be fake and counterfeit;

(b) the amount of loan advanced; and

(c) whether some of the employees were also involved in the said fraudulent transaction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) :
(a) State Bank of India has reported that no loan was granted by its Bahraich Branch against pledge of gold ornaments which were subsequently found to be spurious.

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

Tea Auction Centre at Siliguri (West Bengal)

1151. SHRI R. N. BARMAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether nearly 50 per cent of the tea grown in West Bengal is now being sold at a low price directly by the distressed growers rather than being brought to the auction market;

(b) whether as a result of the present practice the small producers are losing heavily; and

(c) whether such producers have urged upon the Central Government to set up an auction centre at Siliguri and if so Government's reaction in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) :

(a) and (b). In 1975, about 40% of West Bengal teas were sold ex-garden without being sent to auctions. No statistics of prices for such ex-garden sales are available. Producers are free to dispose of their tea by any method of disposal either for consumption in India or for export. The main reason for ex-garden sales is that it results in quick disposal and realisation of sale proceeds within a short period as against the time involved in sale through auctions.

(c) Some of the producers have suggested the setting up of an auction centre at Siliguri with a view to providing another channel for disposal of teas thus reducing the delay in sales and realisation of sale proceeds. Tea Auctions in India are conducted under the rules framed by respective tea traders' associations in which the sellers, buyers and broker are members. It is for producers and traders to decide about setting up of a new auction centre at any suitable place having regard to the availability of necessary infrastructure facilities.

Tea Gardens in West Bengal

1152. SHRI R. N. BARMAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether at present 9 tea gardens are lying closed and 7 are sick in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, whether Central Government have considered it desirable to take-over them or give assistance to the State Government so that they can be run once again ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) :

(a) and (b). According to an Assessment made in 1975 there were about 26 sick/closed tea gardens in West Bengal. The process of identification and collection of information in respect of tea estates which can be considered for investigation/ take-over has been initiated.

Central Assistance to Bihar in 1976-77

1153. SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI :
SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central financial assistance to Bihar for the year 1976-77 is meagre;

(b) whether Bihar Government have requested the Centre for more financial aid; and

(c) if so, whether the Central Government are allocating more funds to Bihar ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) Central assistance of Rs. 75.55 crores has been allocated to Bihar for financing the approved State Plan outlay of Rs. 242.04 crores in the current year.

(b) and (c). After the finalisation of the Annual Plan 1976-77, the Government of Bihar had requested the Planning Commission for increasing the approved Plan outlay by Rs. 37 crores. Having regard to the resources available for sustaining the Plan outlay, it has not been found possible to agree to this request.

Bank Loans for Agricultural Purposes in Kerala

1154. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAKKAPPAN : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount given as loan in Kerala for agricultural purposes by the State Bank of India and other nationalised banks during the last two years ; and

(b) the particulars of the scheme for which loans have been sanctioned in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE & BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) :

(a) The amount of outstanding advances by the public sector banks including State Bank of India to agriculture in Kerala are as under :

	(Rs. in lakhs)
	Amount Outstanding*
June 1974 . . .	2014.90
June 1975 . . .	2682.41
December 1975 . . .	3808.73

*Provisional

(b) The direct agricultural advances are generally granted for raising of crops, irrigational purposes, purchase of machinery and other agricultural implements, plough animals, land development, construction of godowns and cold storage, developmental loans for plantations, and for allied agricultural activities like dairy,

poultry farming, pigery, fishery etc. Indirect agricultural advances are provided for distribution of fertilisers & other inputs, State Electricity Board, loans to farmers through coops, and other institutions serving agricultural development and entrepreneurs for setting up agro service centres etc.

Bank Loans for Development of Industries in Kerala

1155. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN: Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount offered to Kerala by the State Bank of India and other nationalised banks as loan for the development of industries during the last two years; and

(b) the figures thereof; Bank-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE & BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Available data on advances of the public sector banks to manufacturing industry in the State of Kerala, district-wise and bank-wise, is set out in the Statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-11167/76.]

Bank Loans to Small Scale Industries in Kerala

1156. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN: Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loans advanced by the nationalised banks to small scale industries in all the districts of Kerala during the year 1975; and

(b) the number of loan applications pending on 1st April, 1976?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT

OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):

(a) The aggregate outstanding advances of public sector banks to small scale industries in Kerala as at the end of December 1975 stood at Rs. 52.66 crores.

(b) The present system of data reporting does not provide for collection of data regarding the number of applications pending with the commercial banks.

Cases of Smuggling

1157. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state the number of cases of smuggling detected during May, June and July, 1976 and value of goods seized as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE & BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): In May 1976, 6000 seizures of smuggled goods valued Rs. 199.29 lakhs, were effected. Information for the months of June and July, 1976, is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Tax Evaders at Large

1158. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who have been absconding for non-payment of income-tax and other central taxes in various States during the first six months of 1976;

(b) the total amount to be realised from such persons; and

(c) action proposed to be taken against the offenders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF

REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHEJEE) :
(a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Exports to Iran

1159. **SHRI RAJDEO SINGH :** Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Iran's unprecedented affluence and its need for many Indian products offers this country an unique opportunity to expand its exports ;

(b) whether the big bottleneck in the way of expansion is the long delays caused in the transport of cargo from the producers to the consumers ; and

(c) if so, the hurdles which Government are not able to eliminate ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir. In recent years India's exports to Iran have in fact improved considerably.

(b) and (c). The main constraints have been congestion at the Iranian ports.

Performance of Indian Airlines

1160. **SHRI RAJDEO SINGH :** Will the Minister of **TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the performance rate of Indian Airlines with its Avros and other fleet of aircraft had been 99 per cent.

(b) whether Indian Airlines had taken up Avro work from outside India and recently an agreement was signed with Nepal to undertake all repair work of Nepal Airlines here ; and

(c) whether spare capacity for Avro training has been created in Hyderabad ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) The average on Time

Performance (technical despatch regularity for the first six months of 1976 works out to 99.11%. The overall on Time Performance on the basis of all types of delays/cancellations for the corresponding period works out to 72.35%.

(b) A contract has been signed with R.N.A.C. in October, 1975 to repair and overhaul their HS-748 components at Indian Airlines Engineering Workshop.

(c) The existing Engineering training facilities for Avro training at Hyderabad can accommodate trainees from within as well as outside the country.

Unaccounted Assets found with a Chit Fund Company

1161. **SHRI R.K. SINHA :** Will the Minister of **REVENUE AND BANKING** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Intelligence Wing of Income-Tax Department Madras searched in June/July, 1976 important branches of a public limited Company running chit funds ;

(b) whether unaccounted assets were found as a result of the searches and if so, the particulars thereof ; and

(c) whether Government propose to look into the affairs of other chit fund companies also operating in various parts of the country to detect fraud and mal-functionings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) :
(a) and (b). The Intelligence Wing of the Income-tax Department, Madras, conducted search and seizure operations in June-July, 1976 at the following business premises of M/s. Visalam Chit Funds Ltd. ;

- (i) Registered Office in Tirunelveli;
- (ii) Central office in Mount Road, Madras;
- (iii) Administrative office in Pallathur;
- (iv) Branch at Salem; and
- (v) Two branches at Madurai.

As a result of the above operations, books of account/documents have been seized.

Unaccounted assets/unexplained expenditure of about Rs. 50 lakhs were also detected from the residence of the Managing Director of M/s. Visalam Chit Funds Ltd.

(c) Wherever considered necessary, action as called for under the law is being taken.

Import of Cotton

1162. SHRI B. S. BHAURA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of cotton imported during the year 1975 and 1976 so far from which countries and at what prices; and

(b) the present price of indigenous cotton ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) :

(a) Details are as under :—

Country	Cotton Season		Value	
	1974-75	1975-76 (as on 14-8-76)	(Rs. in crores)	
	No. of bales.		1974-75	1975-76
1	2	3	4	5
Sudan	17,313	37,000	4.45	7.29
Egypt (ARE) . . . . .	..	9,746	..	4.68
Pakistan	2,00,000	..	25.00	..
TOTAL	2,17,313	46,746	29.45	11.97

(b) Present prices of some of the varieties of indigenous cotton are as under:—

Variety	Prices in Rs. per candy
	(as on 14-8-76)
Suin	9,000
Varalaxmi	6,400
S4	6,250
Digvijay	4,900
320-F	4,000

Survey of Posh Flats launched by Income Tax Department in Bombay

1163. SHRI B. S. BHAURA : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a survey of the posh flats has been conducted by the Income Tax officials in Bombay; and

(b) if so, the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) :

(a) and (b). As per information available

at present, 417 flats, bungalows have been covered in Bombay in the survey of posh localities resumed recently by the Income Tax authorities ; estimated unaccounted investment detected being over Rs. 186 lakhs.

Restriction on scope of Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India to Eastern Zone

1164. SHRI B. S. BHAURA : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state ;

(a) whether there is a proposal to restrict the scope of the Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India to Eastern India only and for starting new construction agencies in other parts of the country ;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ;

(c) the factors put forward for the proposal ; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) :
(a) No Sir.

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

Special Circle to assess Income Tax cases of Film Stars

1165. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Income Tax Department has set up a special circle to assess cases of film stars ; and

(b) if so, the salient feature thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) :
(a) and (b). No special circle has been created to deal with cases of film stars

exclusively. For purposes of carrying on proper scrutiny and co-ordinated investigation, the cases of persons and concerns connected with the film industry are assigned to separate circles in Bombay and Calcutta. These circles are manned by a number of Income Tax Officers. In Bombay and Calcutta, these circles are known as Film Circle and Cinema Circle, respectively. In Madras, the cases of such persons are concentrated with Income Tax Officers.

Cases of film stars in which large scale tax evasion is suspected or where detailed investigation is required to be made, are assigned to the Central Circle. In Bombay, one Inspecting Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax is also dealing with cases of some of the leading film stars.

Requirements of Rural Credit

1166. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL : Will the Minister of REVENUE & BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have agreed to meet 66 per cent of the requirements of rural credits ; and

(b) if so, state-wise allocation made during 1975 and so far in 1976 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE & BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Unauthorised Powerlooms in Karnataka

1167. SHRI S. B. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been made of the unauthorised powerlooms operating in Karnataka ;

(b) if so, their numbers districtwise and

(c) whether any penal action is taken or proposed to be taken against such unauthorised powerlooms owners without adversely affecting the employment of the poor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The policy regarding unauthorised powerlooms is under consideration.

National Industrial Committee on Plantations

1168. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Industrial Committee on Plantation has set up a Committee to study the problems of the sick and closed tea gardens;

(b) if so, the members of this sub-committee ; and

(c) when will this sub-committee submit its report ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) :

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The National Industrial Committee on Plantations at its meeting held on 18th June, 1976, constituted a Standing Sub-Committee with the following representatives each from employers and workers to deal with cases of closures, apprehended closures, retrenchments, lay-offs, etc. in the industry as and when referred to it by the Committee :

Workers' representatives

1. Shri Chinmoy Ghosh (AITUC)
2. Shri G. C. Sarmah (INTUC)
3. Shri Bhawani Paul (INTUC)

Employers' representatives

1. Shri V. I. Chacko
2. Shri S. N. Basu
3. Shri K. N. Sarkar.

(c) The Sub-Committee will submit its report to the National Industrial Committee after completion of the investigations of cases referred to it by the Committee.

Sale of Smuggled Goods

1169. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state the amount realised through sale of smuggled goods during last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) : The amount realised through sale of smuggled goods during last three years, is given below :

Year	Rs. in lakhs (approx.)
1973	1,130
1974	2,979
1975	2,973

Impact of Smuggling on Industries in Small Scale Sector

1170. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been made about the effect of the present sales policy of seized smuggled goods on the indigenous industry, particularly of the small-scale sector ;

(b) whether a study has also been made to find out items whose smuggling can be reduced by adjustment of excise duties on such items; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI

PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c). In order that sale of confiscated goods does not affect the goods produced indigenously the prices of such goods are kept in view while fixing the prices at which confiscated goods are sold. The quantum of smuggled goods sold being not large, the sale of such goods is also not likely to affect materially the indigenous industry.

As regards the study to find out items whose smuggling can be reduced by the adjustment of excise duties on such items, it may be stated that whereas no such regular study on this subject has been made, the consideration of checking of smuggling is generally kept in view while adjusting excise duties on different products. A number of items have been identified which are being manufactured predominantly in the small scale sector for which comparable goods were being smuggled into India. In order to provide quality goods and at cheaper prices so as to obviate the smuggling of and competition from foreign goods, efforts have been made to boost up production of these items. These measures together with other steps to combat smuggling have had a beneficial effect on indigenous industry.

Study to reduce Smuggling of Articles

1171. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been made to reduce smuggling activities by allowing exports through authorised channels or by adjustment of export duties; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b). Export Trade Control policy generally provides for exports where such exports do not adversely affect the country's wealth or the internal availability of essential supplies. The

policy in this regard and export duties are under constant review to secure maximum foreign exchange return. It may, however, be mentioned that as illicit exports are attempted for illegally acquiring foreign exchange abroad, reduction of export duties, would have limited impact on smuggling activities.

Alleged Mismanagement in Vijaya Bank Limited

1172. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the mismanagement going on in Vijaya Bank Limited ;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the 1975 balance-sheet of the said bank was manipulated which the share-holders had pointed out in General Body meeting ; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c). Government have received complaints from Vijaya Bank Employees Union against the Vijaya Bank Ltd. that it was patronising its employees' association affiliated to R.S.S./Jana Sangh cadres in various ways and, from the shareholders, alleging *inter alia*, that the bank has manipulated its balance sheet for the year 1975.

The allegations are being looked into by the Reserve Bank of India.

Development of Tourism in Malabar Area

1173. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Malabar area in Kerala is an attractive tourist spot; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in the Central Sector to develop the area from tourism point of view?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). India abounds in a large number of attractive places, the Malabar area in Kerala no doubt being one of them. However, due to constraint on resources necessitating a selective approach in tourism planning, the emphasis in the Central Sector is on developing tourist facilities at centres which are either already popular with international tourists or hold the potential to attract them. With this in view tourist facilities have been provided at Kovalam, Trivandrum and Periyar Wild Life Sanctuary in Kerala in the Central Sector.

Development of Tourist Spots in Kerala

1174. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken steps to develop the beautiful spots in Kerala for tourism; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). The emphasis in the Central Sector being on the development of tourist centres which are either already popular with international tourists or have the potential to attract them, the development of Kovalam as a beach resort of international standard has been taken up in the Central Sector. A Youth Hostel is under construction at Trivandrum, and it is also proposed to provide some additional facilities in the Periyar Wild Life Sanctuary. Apart from these 3 projects, there are no proposals for the present to develop facilities at other tourist centres

in Kerala in the Central Sector during the remaining years of the Fifth Five Year Plan.

Agreement with European Economic Community regarding Export of Coir

1175. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have entered into any new agreement with the European Economic Community regarding the export of Coir; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) Agreement has been reached between India and the European Economic Community on trade in coir products.

(b) The main features of the Agreement would include the following :—

- (i) The Common Customs Tariff of the EEC on coir products has been suspended by 80% with effect from 1-7-76 and will be suspended by 100% with effect from 1.1.1978. Imports into U.K., and Denmark will, however, continue to be duty free, within the framework of the Generalised System of Preferences.
- (ii) The Community will not subject the imports of these products from India to new quantitative restrictions. It has been agreed that appropriate steps be taken to facilitate the full utilisation of import possibilities deriving from existing quantitative restrictions.
- (iii) A Joint Cooperation Committee consisting of the representatives of the Government of India and the European Economic Community will be set up to meet at least once a year to examine any problem relating to the implementation of the

Agreement and also to investigate possibilities of and formulate suggestions for cooperation in regard to existing production methods, research and development of new techniques of preparing and processing coir and manufacturing coir goods in order to expand the end uses of coir. The task of this Committee will also include development of contacts between and facilitation of joint projects and programmes mutually agreed upon by, representatives of the coir trade and industry of both India and the Community.

- (iv) The Agreement will be valid until 31st December, 1979.

Fall in the Export of Shellac

1176. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether export of Shellac has come down due to the indiscriminate increase of its prices by Indian exporters and the resultant shifting to synthetic substitutes by European buyers; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. Export of shellac including seedlac is based on a policy of the Government which is aimed at ensuring a fair price to the growers and to ensure that shellac earns a price commensurate with its value. In order to achieve this, Government has asked S.T.C. to undertake buffer stock operations as a means of providing price support. Export of seedlac and shellac has been canalised through the S.T.C. under a policy which also allows controlled exports by private traders.

Import of Cotton by Cotton Corporation

1177. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Cotton Corporation has geared up its machinery for speedy import of cotton from various countries; and

(b) if so, broad features thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Cotton Corporation of India is taking all possible steps to import cotton as early as possible. Out of 2 lakh bales of cotton which are proposed to be imported, the bulk has already been contracted for.

Meeting of Cargo Managers of International Airlines in Delhi.

1178. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of the Cargo Managers of all international airlines was held in Delhi recently ;

(b) whether measures to clear the backlog of Cargo at Delhi and other airports were discussed in the meeting ; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) to (c). The Director General of Civil Aviation convened a meeting of the representatives of the various international airlines including Air-India in April, 1976 in New Delhi for devising measures for clearing the reported backlog of 500 tonnes of garments which had accumulated at Delhi due to the fact that the exporters had offered to the airlines 1400 and 1700 tonnes of

garments in February and March, 1976 as against their estimates of 1150 and 1200 tonnes respectively. As decided at the meeting, airlines operated extra cargo flights and uplifted 4695 tonnes of garments on their scheduled and extra flights during May, June and July, 1976 against the projected capacity requirement of 3500 tonnes indicated by the Garment Exporters' Association. All the backlog at Delhi has already been cleared.

Similarly, as a result of measures taken, the backlog of export cargo at Bombay is reported to have been cleared.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER GOLD (CONTROL) ACT, 1968 AND UNDER CUSTOMS ACT, 1962.

CENTRAL EXCISE (20TH AMDT) RULES, 1976 AND A STATEMENT RE LAYING OF NOTIFICATION

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE)
I beg to lay on the Table —

(1) 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 (Forms, Fees and Miscellaneous Matters) Second Amendment Rules, 1976, published in Notification No. S.O. 507(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th July 1976
- (ii) The Gold Control (Licensing of Dealers) Amendment Rules, 1976, published in Notification No. S.O. 508(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th July, 1976

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-11154/76]

(2) A copy of the Central Excise (Twenty-ninth Amendment) Rules, 1976 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1179, in Gazette of India dated the 7th August, 1976, under section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944.

[Placed in library. See No. LT-11155/76]

(3) (i) A copy of Notification No. (GHN 48) GST 1076(S. 49) (48)-TH published in Gujarat Government Gazette dated the 17th July, 1976 making amendments to Notification No. (GHN 627) GST 1070 (S. 49)-TH dated the 29th April, 1970, under sub-section (3) of section 49 of the Gujarat Sales Tax Act, 1969 read with clause (c)(iii) of the Proclamation dated the 12th March, 1976 issued by the President in relation to the State of Gujarat.

(ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining the reasons for not laying the Hindi version of the Notification

[Placed in the library. See No. LT-11156/76].

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 —

- (i) G.S.R. 481(E) to 483(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th July, 1976 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ii) G.S.R. 742(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 1976 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iii) G.S.R. 744(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 1976 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in library. See No. LT-11157/76]

MINERAL CONCESSION (1ST AMDT.)
RULES, 1976

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): On behalf of Shri Sukhdev Das, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Mineral Concession (First Amendment) Rules, 1976 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1164 in Gazette of India dated the 7th August, 1976, under subsection (1) of section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1976.

[Placed in library. See No. LT- 11158/76]

12.0 12 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :—

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 17th August 1976, agreed without any amendment to the Delhi Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Bill, 1976, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th August, 1976."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 17th August, 1976, agreed without any amendment to the Government of Union Terri-

tories (Amendment) Bill, 1976, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th August, 1976."

(iii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 19th August, 1976, agreed without any amendment to the Maintenance of Internal Security (Second Amendment) Bill, 1976, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th August, 1976."

(iv) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return her with the President's Pension (Amendment) Bill, 1976, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th August, 1976, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.02 hrs.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN BILL
1972

(i) REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

SHRIMATI MUKUL BANERJI (New Delhi) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the adoption of children and for matters connected therewith.

(ii) EVIDENCE

SHRIMATI MUKUL BANERJI : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the record

[Shrimati Mukul Banerjee]

of Evidence (Volumes I, II and III) tendered before the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the adoption of children and for matters connected therewith.

12.03 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS(SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing 23rd August 1976, will consist of :—

- (1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
- (2) Discussion and voting on :—
 - (a) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Tamil Nadu) for 1976-77.
 - (b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Pondicherry) for 1976-77.
- (3) Consideration and passing of :—
 - (a) The Burn Company & Indian Standard Wagon Company (Nationalisation) Bill, 1976.
 - (b) The Braithwaite & Company (India) Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Bill, 1976.
 - (c) The Delhi Sales Tax (Amendment & Validation) Bill, 1976.
 - (d) The Antiquities & Art Treasures (Amendment) Bill, 1976, as passed by Rajya Sabha.
 - (e) The Labour Provident Fund Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1976.
 - (f) The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 1976, as passed by Rajya Sabha.
 - (g) The Factories (Amendment) Bill, 1976, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

Report

- (4) Introduction, consideration and passing of :—
 - (a) The Laxmirattan & Atherton West Cotton Mills (Taking over of Management) Bill, 1976.
 - (b) The Metal Corporation of India (Nationalisation and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 1976.
 - (c) The Photies (Additional Excise Duty) Repeal Bill, 1976; and
 - (d) The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1976.

In addition, I may also mention that Government proposes to introduce a Bill to amend the Constitution of India to increase the age-limit of State Public Service Commission Members. We hope to introduce this Bill early next week and propose to take it up for consideration on the 30th August, 1976.

MR. SPEAKER : The Constitution amendment regarding this particular matter is to be taken up on the 30th.

SHRI B.V. NAIK (Kunara) : What about the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes areas delimitation Bill? We have been told for quite some time that it is coming.

12.05 hrs.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

EIGHTEENTH REPORT

SHRIMATI MAYA RAY (Raiganj): I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Eighteenth Report of the Committee of Privileges laid on the Table of the House on the 16th August, 1976."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is : "That this House do agree with the Eighteenth Report of the Com-

mittee of Privileges laid on the Table of the House on the 16th August, 1976."

The motion was adopted.

12.5½ hrs.

**BURN COMPANY AND INDIAN
STANDARD WAGON COMPANY
(NATIONALISATION) BILL***

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI B.P. MAURYA) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the acquisition of the undertakings of the Burn and Company Limited and the Indian Standard Wagon Company Limited with a view to ensuring the constituency on the production of goods which are vital to the needs of the economy of the country and for the fulfilment of the contracts for the supply of railway wagons abroad and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the acquisition of the undertakings of the Burn and Company Limited and the Indian Standard Wagon Company Limited with a view to ensuring the continuity of the production of goods which are vital to the needs of the economy of the country and for the fulfilment of the contracts for the supply of railway wagons abroad and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI B.P. MAURYA : I introduce the Bill.

12.06 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE. BURN COMPANY
AND INDIAN STANDARD WAGON
COMPANY (NATIONALISATION)
ORDINANCE, 1976**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI B.P. MAURYA) : I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Burn Company and Indian Standard Wagon Company (Nationalisation) Ordinance, 1976. [Placed in library. See No. LT-11159/76].

12. 6½ hrs.

**BRAITHWAITE AND COMPANY
(INDIA) LIMITED ACQUISITION
AND TRANSFER OF UNDERTAK-
INGS) BILL***

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI B.P. MAURYA) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the acquisition and transfer of the undertakings of Messrs. Braithwaite and Company (India) Limited for the purpose of ensuring the continuity of production of goods which are vital to the needs of the country, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the acquisition and transfer of the undertakings of Messrs. Braithwaite and Company (India) Limited for the purpose of ensuring the continuity of production of goods which are vital to the needs of the country, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI B. P. MAURYA : I introduce† the Bill.

12.7½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE. BRAITHWAITE AND COMPANY (INDIA) LIMITED (ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKINGS) ORDINANCE, 1976.

SHRI B.P. MAURYA : I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Braithwaite and Company (India) Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Ordinance, 1976. [Placed in library See No. LT-11160/76].

12.08 hrs :

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),
1976-77—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up the further discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1976-77. The time allotted is 3 hours, time taken—1 hour 5 minutes and the balance is 1 hour 55 minutes.

Shri Ramsahai Pandey to continue his speech.

श्री राम सहाय पंडे (राजनंदगांव) : श्रीमन्, कल अनुदानों की पूरक मांगों के समर्थन के संदर्भ में मैंने "समाचार" एजेंसी की स्थापना का स्वागत किया था लेकिन जो साधन "समाचार" एजेंसी को दिये गये हैं, 10 लाख रुपए, मैं समझता हूँ जो दायित्व और जो कार्य क्षेत्र निर्धारित किया गया है उसको देखते हुए वह बहुत कम है। "समाचार" एजेंसी ने अपने प्रतिवेदन में 25 लाख रुपए तुरन्त देने की मांग की थी, उसके आधार पर 10 लाख रुपए दिए गए हैं जब कि इस समाचार एजेंसी पर बहुत बड़ा राष्ट्रीय और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय दायित्व आ गया है।

1. आभिन, समाचार की स्थापना के बाद जिन योग्यता से हुनार मंत्रालय और हमारे मंत्रों जो—श्री विद्याधरण जो शुक्ल—इस

काम में लगे हुए हैं, पत्रकारों की जो समन्वित एजेंसीज हैं वे जिस कार्यकुशलता और दक्षता से काम कर रही हैं—मैं आपके माध्यम से उनको साधुवाद देता हूँ धन्यवाद देता हूँ, क्योंकि जिस नाजुक समय से हम गुजर रहे हैं, उसको देखते हुए यह बहुत आवश्यक है कि हम सामान्य से सामान्य व्यक्ति के पास सही समाचार, सभ्य से प्रोतप्रोत समाचार पहुंचाकर इस एजेंसी का कार्य पूरा करें। काम बहुत बड़ा है, समाचार को आज यह जिम्मेदारी निभानी है, लेकिन इस के लिए उनके पास पर्याप्त साधन नहीं हैं। इस बात को सरकार स्वयं भी स्वीकार करती है कि समाचार को देश के गहरी, अर्धशहरी तथा ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में हो रहे विकास के बारे में पूरी जानकारी जनता तक पहुंचाने के लिए अपने कार्यक्षेत्र का ज्यादा से ज्यादा विस्तार करना है। अपने संबद्धताओं को अविलम्ब विश्व के सभी नाजुक क्षेत्रों में भेजना होगा जहां घटनाएँ होती रहनी हैं। इस दृष्टि से तमाम गुट-निरपेक्ष देशों की समाचार एजेंसियों का पूल बनाना, उन में आपस अधिक से अधिक योगदान हो—इस दृष्टिकोण से इन देशों के सूचना मंत्रियों का एक सम्मेलन पिछले जुलाई मास में यहाँ सम्पन्न हुआ, जिसके फैसलों का कोलम्बो में सम्पन्न हुए गुटनिरपेक्ष देशों के सम्मेलन में बड़ी सराहना हुई। इसका एक उद्देश्य यह भी था कि हम एक ऐसी एजेंसी का गठन करें जो अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय अगत-जीवन में हमारी नीति को हमारे जीवन का हमारे दर्शन का, हमारी प्रतिक्रिया को सही ढंग से प्रस्तुत करे। पश्चिमी समाचार जगत ने हमारे देश की जो तस्वीर अब तक दुनिया के गुटनिरपेक्ष देशों के सामने प्रस्तुत की है, वह संदेह सच्चाई से बहुत दूर रही; इसलिये कि उनका दृष्टिकोण हमेशा आपनिवेशवादी, कालोनियलवादी रहा है। यह बड़ा चलेन हमने स्वीकार किया है—हम ऐसे देशों का एक संगम

बनायेंगे—समाचार-संगम— जो समाचारों के आदान-प्रदान के साथ साथ विश्व में एक ऐसा चित्र प्रस्तुत करेंगे जो सबकी पर आधारित होगा। लेकिन इसके लिये हमें एक बड़ा मोर्चा लेना होगा। सभी जानती हैं—अमरीका, ब्रिटेन और फ्रान्स जिन ती एजेन्सीज और जिन संवाददाता अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय क्षेत्रों में फैले हुए हैं, उनकी तुलना में हमारी एजेन्सी को काम करना है और उन तत्त्व वैश्वेज का सामना करना है जो आए-दिन हमारी छवि को बिगाड़ते हैं। हमारे पास 5-7 प्रतिनिधि ही बाहर होंगे, जहाँ तक मेरी जानकारी है—एक यूनाइटेड नेशंस में है, जो अमरीका के समाचार भी भेजते हैं, एक फ्रांस में है, एक ब्रिटेन में है, एक कोलम्बो में है, एक काठमांडु में है—इस तरह से सब निम्नान्वर 5 या 7 प्रतिनिधि हैं, जब कि आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि हमारे अधिक से अधिक संवाददाता अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय क्षेत्रों में और खास तौर से उन देशों में जहाँ समाचार घड़े जाते हैं, जहाँ छविबिगाड़ी जाती है—रबे जायें। अभी कोलम्बो में श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी ने पश्चिमी देशों के जो समाचार प्रकाशित होते हैं उनको उद्धृत करते हुए स्पष्ट शब्दों में कहा कि उन को मनोवृत्ति को देख कर उन्हें दुख होता है और जिनका समर्थन हमारे देशों ने किया—हमारी रुस के साथ मैत्री है इस की जानकारी सारी दुनिया को है लेकिन पश्चिमी देशों ने हमारी और रुस की मैत्री को एक सैनिक संधि कहा और पाकिस्तान की सैनिक संधि की तुलना में उसको रखने का प्रयत्न किया जिसका साप्टीकरण श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी ने कोलम्बो सम्मेलन में किया। उनकी सराहना हुई है। ऐसे ऐसे समाचार पश्चिमी देशों में प्रकाशित होते हैं जिस का सच्चाई के साथ कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं होता है उससे बहुत दूर होते हैं। इस प्रकार के समाचार प्रकाशित हुए हैं कि भारत की सड़कों पर टैंक घूम रहे हैं दिल्ली की सड़कों पर टैंक घूम रहे हैं। कहां घूम रहे हैं कहां उन का मोर्चा लगा हुआ है

कुछ पता नहीं है। इस प्रकार के समाचार समाचार उनमें प्रकाशित होते हैं। इसके विपरीत यहाँ पूर्ण शान्ति है सारा चल रही है हमारी समाचार एजेन्सी कुणतापूर्वक काम कर रही है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि हमारे विश्व को सबकी बातों को निकट लाकर एक ऐसा दर्शन उपको दिया जाए ताकि वे तोड़ उरोड़ कर समाचारों को प्रकाशित न करें। किसी भी देश के निवासियों को लांछित न किया जाए। किसी भी देश को छवि को बिगाड़ने का काम प्रयास नहीं होना चाहिये। दिल्ली में हुए सम्मेलन जिसका उद्घाटन सर्व प्रधान मंत्री जो ने किया था और जिसमें समाचार संगम बनाने की सिफारिश की गई थी और जिस सम्मेलन में करीब चात्तीस देशों के मंत्रियों और अधिकारियों ने भाग लिया था कोलम्बो में हो रहे सम्मेलन में जिसमें 80-85 देश भाग ले रहे हैं, उसका स्वागत किया है। दिल्ली में जो सम्मेलन हुआ था उसको प्रतिज्ञा हमारे देश ने तैयार की थी। उस सम्मेलन ने बड़ी भूमिका हमारे देश ने अदा की। अब 80-85 देशों के मंत्रियों और अधिकारियों ने एक स्वर से समाचार संगम बनाने का स्वागत किया है। यह बड़ा ही शुभारम्भ है अच्छा श्रोगण है इसके द्वारा सच्चे समाचार देने की प्रवृत्ति को बढ़ावा मिलेगा। इसमें समाचार गढ़े नहीं जायेंगे बल्कि जो ठीक समाचार हों सच्चे समाचार होंगे वही दिए जाएंगे। विकास के संदर्भ में लोकतंत्र के संदर्भ में जन के कष्टों और दुबो के सम्बन्ध में जो कुछ भी समाचार होंगे वे ठीक ठीक दिए जाएंगे।

मैं प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि इसको एकितो को बढ़ाने के लिए आम उदारतापूर्वक इसको पैसा दें। दस लाख रुपये की जो आपने व्यवस्था की है वह बहुत थोड़ी है। इसमें 1800 कर्मचारी हैं। ये इसको आगे बढ़ाते हैं। इन में से पांच सौ पत्रकार हैं और बाकी टैक्नोकल हैं। उनकी सुविधा के बारे में उनके एमालुमेंट्स के बारे में

[श्री राम सहाय पाण्डे]

आपको उदारतापूर्वक सोचना होगा ताकि राष्ट्रीयता की भावना के साथ, मौलिक विचारों के साथ परिवर्तनशील समय को देखते हुए अपने आपको ये ढाल सकें और बड़ी अच्छी गति से, निष्ठा से अपना काम कर सकें। इस वास्ते यह जरूरी है कि आप उनकी सुख सुविधाओं को भी प्राथमिकता दें, उनका भी आप ध्यान रखें।

हमारे यहां एक हिन्दुस्तान टेलीप्रिंटिंग मद्रास की कम्पनी है जो टेलीप्रिंटिंग बनाती है। हमारा अप्रेशन कैसे होता है। नौ दस भाषाओं में समाचार भेजे जाते हैं, समाचार एजेंसी के माध्यम से जिस में से साठ प्रतिशत तो हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी में और शेष 40 प्रतिशत गजरात, पंजाबी, तेलगू, उर्दू, बंगला, असमिया आदि भाषाओं में भेजे जाते हैं। हमारे पास टेलीप्रिंटर मशीन बहुत कम हैं। 150 के करीब हैं जिनमें आधी किराये पर सरकार ने ले रखी है। हम को आवश्यकता दोसी के करीब की है। एक मशीन की कीमत कम से कम दस हजार होती है। ये उपलब्ध नहीं हैं। आप आज आर्डर प्लेस करें तो पता नहीं कब मिलेगी। इसकी ओर आपका ध्यान जाना चाहिये।

इस एजेंसी की एफिलेंसी को आपको बढ़ाना होगा अगर आप चाहते हैं कि अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय क्षेत्र में यह मोर्चा लेने की स्थिति में हो। देश के अन्दर काम करने वाले जो संवाददाता हैं जो गांवों में और छोटे टाउंड में हैं जिनको हम स्ट्रिजर कहते हैं, उनको काम करने का मौका देना होगा। उनका काम आज बन्द पड़ा है। वे समाचार भेज नहीं पाते हैं। यह जो नेटवर्क है इसका स्क्रीनिंग होना था। जो बैंड संस्थाएँ हैं, जिन संस्थाओं पर हमने प्रतिबन्ध लगा दिया है, उन से जो सम्बन्धित थे, उनकी स्क्रीनिंग की योजना बनाई गई थी। स्क्रीनिंग नहीं हुआ। इसका नतीजा यह है कि समाचार आने अभी भी

बन्द है। आपको इसके सम्बन्ध में द्रुत कदम उठाने चाहिये। स्क्रीनिंग करके समाचार की एफिलेंसी को आपको बढ़ाना चाहिये, समाचार एजेंसी जो देश भर में फैली हुई है, जितने भी समाचार पत्र हैं उनको अच्छी तरह से सम्भालने के लिए, उनकी देखभाल करने के लिए, उनको समाचार देने के लिए, इसको अपने प्रतिनिधि नियुक्त करने के लिए जितने पैसे की जरूरत है, वह आपको देना चाहिये। इसको पैसा बहुत कम दिया जा रहा है। इस एजेंसी ने 25 लाख की मांग की थी और आपने दस लाख स्वीकार किया है। अगर आपको गुटनिरपेक्षीय देशों का प्रतिनिधित्व करना है, जो भूमिका आपने दिल्ली में अदा की है, उसको बनाये रखना है तो आपको करोड़ों रुपये की आवश्यकता है। कम से कम एक करोड़ रुपया तुरन्त दीजिये और इसके बाद धीरे धीरे और रुपये देने का प्रावधान कीजिए। यह बात सही है कि जितने भी गुटनिरपेक्ष देश हैं वह आधुनिक साधनों से परिपूर्ण नहीं हैं, लेकिन चूंकि हम उसमें लीडिंग कंट्रा है, हमारे ऊपर दायित्व है, तो यह जो एक्मचेंज आफ न्यूज होगा इसमें सारे गुटनिरपेक्ष देश हमारी तरफ बड़ी उम्मीद से देख रहे हैं। इसलिये कहीं ऐसा न हो कि हमारा लक्ष्य इसलिये डिफीट हो जाय कि हमारे पास पैसा नहीं है, यां पैसे दिये नहीं गये हैं।

अब मैं इस विषय से हट कर फ्रीमिली प्लानिंग की तरफ आना चाहता हूँ। इसमें आपने 500 लाख रु० का प्रावधान किया है। आपने पहले से इससेटिव की दर बढ़ा दी है, अब आप 75, 100, 150 रु० इससेटिव के तौर पर लोगों को देंगे, इसका अच्छा असर होगा। मेरी राय में यह एक ऐसा काम है जिसको प्रायोरिटी देनी चाहिये क्योंकि संसार की गणना के अनुसार 2000 ए० डी० में, अगर हमारी आबादी इसी अनुपात से बढ़ती गई, और हर साल हम एक आस्ट्रेलिया को

जन्म देते गये, तो हमारी आबादी 100 करोड़ हो जायगी और सारे संसार की 800 करोड़ हो जायगी।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : 800 नहीं बल्कि 8,000 करोड़ संसार की आबादी हो जायगी।

श्री राम सहाय पांडे : मान्यवर, यह बड़ा कठिन काम है। जनसंख्या बढ़ती जा रही है, धरती सीमित है और साधनों के लिए समुद्र के तल में जाना पड़ेगा। लेकिन उसकी भी एक सीमा है। अतः जब तक इसको नियंत्रित नहीं करेंगे, इस समस्या का समाधान नहीं ढूँढ़ेंगे और एक आन्दोलन के माध्यम से इस काम को नहीं करेंगे तब तक काम नहीं होगा और अन्त में प्रश्न आ जाता है पैसे का, जिसका सम्बन्ध वित्त मंत्री जी और मुर्शाला जी से है। हमारी उप-मंत्री महोदया स्माल सेविंग का बड़ा अच्छा काम करती हैं, महिलाओं से इस योजना में खूब पैसा लेती हैं इसलिये मेरा मुझाव है कि जो स्माल सेविंग में पैसा आये वह फैमिली प्लानिंग में लगा दिया जाय। कहिये, मुर्शाला जी, आपको यह मुझाव स्वीकार है? कितनी अच्छी राय मैंने दी है? इससे देश का भविष्य समन्वित हो जायगा और यह काम बार फुटिंग पर होना चाहिये। यह नहीं कि 500 लाख रुपया आपने दे दिया। इससे कुछ नहीं होने वाला है। हमको लोगों में चेतना पैदा करनी है देश की आबादी के प्रति। लोगों को बताना है कि इतनी आबादी को हम नहीं खिला सकेंगे, और बढ़ती हुई आबादी से जो भय की स्थिति पैदा होगी वह इससे हमको बचाना है। इसलिये कम से कम आप हमारी राय को मान लीजिये आप मान लेंगी तो मुब्रह्मण्यम साहिब भी मान लेंगे।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपने जो 800 करोड़ का था वह ठीक है। 8000 करोड़ की क्या सही नहीं है।

श्री राम सहाय पांडे : साधनों को देखते हुए जो 20 सूची कार्यक्रम का आह्वान हमारी प्रधान मंत्री जी ने दिया है और चार सूची कार्यक्रम द्वारा हमारे कुशल युवा नेता श्री संजय गांधी ने देश का ध्यान आकषिप्त किया है उसके लिये मैं उनको साधुवाद देता हूँ। हमें आशा है कि श्री संजय गांधी के कुशल नेतृत्व में जिस गति के साथ यह आन्दोलन चला है और जिस उद्देश्य और लक्ष्य के साथ उन्होंने आह्वान किया है वह अत्यंत सफल होगा। परिवार नियोजन के सम्बन्ध में इस प्रकार का आह्वान शायद किसी ने नहीं किया। वह हमारा एक ऐसा मूल बन गया है, जिसके माध्यम से हमारी आबादी कम होगी और हमारा भविष्य सुरक्षित होगा। लेकिन जिस प्रकार पैसे की कमी के कारण समाचार एजेंसी के सम्बन्ध में हमारे उद्देश्य की पूर्ति में बाधा उत्पन्न होने की आशंका हो सकती है, कहीं वैसी स्थिति परिवार नियोजन की योजना के विषय में न उठ खड़ी हो, जिस के लिए हमने देश में जागरूकता और चेतना पैदा की है। सरकार को इस नियोजन के लिए पर्याप्त धनराशि का प्रावधान करना पड़ेगा।

विभिन्न मंत्रालय जिस कुशलता के साथ काम कर रहे हैं, उस को देखते हुए हम इन मांगों को अपनी स्वीकृति देने के लिए तैयार हैं, लेकिन मंत्री महोदय मेरे इस मुझाव को भी स्वीकृति दिलायें कि स्माल सेविंग का सारा पैसा परिवार नियोजन के कार्य में लगाया जाये।

SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHA-PATRA (Balsore): While supporting the Supplementary Demands for Grants I have only to impress on you that the country is going from strength to strength every year. Only five days ago, we celebrated our Independence Day, and naturally there is a rethinking as to how much we have achieved during the last 27 years.

[Shri Shyam Sunder Mohapatra]

I have to bring to your notice one fact. Agriculture and irrigation is the lifeline of India's progress. It is a matter of great satisfaction today for 60-crore Indians that we have probably crossed those hurdles which brought us in confrontation with difficult situations two or three years ago. Today we have probably a stock of 17 million tonnes of foodgrains in our country. I do not know whether it is a buffer stock, but it is a matter of great satisfaction that with this reserve stock we can cross any flood or drought situation.

A glance through the Report of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation will show that weather conditions 'during January-February 1976 have proved to be beneficial and in case weather conditions during the remaining part of the season remain favourable, production of rabi crops may also register a substantial increase over the previous year'. It is true that India being an agricultural country has to depend on the monsoon and there will be vagaries of nature. There will be floods or drought in some part or other of the country every year. It may be as in Kerala where we have drought in some parts and floods in some other parts. But the overall situation of agriculture and food in the country is very good. That is a matter of great satisfaction to the people.

In this connection, I must say something very pertinent to my State, Orissa. Orissa is an agricultural State, and as Gandhiji said, the poorest of all the States in India. It has so many projects to be taken up. I come from North Orissa where there is the Subarnarekha project which has been passing through almost every Ministry during the last ten years. Now probably it is pending with the Planning Commission. Babuji will agree—perhaps he has seen the file—it is an inter-State project to be finalised between Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa. Although the Chief Ministers of Orissa and Bihar have agreed to the project, the

signature of the Chief Minister of West Bengal is yet to come. I have no doubt that through Babuji's intervention and good offices, the signature of the Chief Minister of West Bengal will be obtained. If that is done and the project is taken up, this multi-purpose project is going to bring prosperity not only to 10 lakh people in Orissa but to a large number of people in Bihar in the upstream of Subarnarekha who are suffering due to floods. It will also bring prosperity to a large section of people in the Midnapur district of West Bengal who have suffered during the last 50 years and have come to call Subarnarekha as a river of sorrow.

The emergency has brought a lot of good to the country, because for the first time probably everything has been electrified, everything is in gear and every individual, right from top to bottom, is trying to devote his energy in a spirit of dedication to the service of the country so that the country may progress.

We all know that the rural people depend on banks. Here I want to say something about the functioning of banks. When banks were nationalised, it was probably considered by the people of India as the 'magna carta' of the people of India.

The people of India thought that after nationalisation of the banks prosperity would come round the corner; the major components of our Prime Minister's twenty point economic programme are for ameliorating the economic conditions of the vulnerable sections of society. The different items of the programme should be enabled to move forward with the flow of credit from banks as an engine of economic growth so that small investments can be made self-reliant and productive. But the managers in some of the banks are not dedicated to the spirit of serving the people, nor are they attuned to the spirit of emergency; they have not inhaled the spirit of nationalisation.

tion and because of those reasons, it has become a failure because the common people, general people are not feeling that the banks are for them and are not for Birlas, Dalmias, Jains and Goenkas and other people from the upper strata. When a common man goes to the bank he is frowned upon. When banks were in the private sector, service was easily available. Bureaucrats now feel that they are highbrows and chief patrons and they are controlling the banks. I have written numberless letters to the Deputy Minister about this and I have also asked that a bank manager be transferred. I feel that a machinery has to be evolved and some action should be initiated so that the bank managers should feel during the emergency that they are equal to people who come to them for relief, for money; otherwise the poor peasants will not benefit. I have been elected chairman of the co-ordination committee of the northern zone for the State Bank of India. There is victimisation in the State Bank of India. There are persons like Mr. Goel, Mr. Rangachary and others. I do not know them. There are employees, workers working till 9 p.m. in the night and they do not get any overtime; it is not even allowed to enter it in the register that they are working for so many hours extra. I asked Mr. Balasubramaniam, additional secretary to get in touch with Mr. Goel, so that he could talk to me about this; Mr. Goel did not care to talk to me and he tells the workers: why should I talk to a Member of Parliament? This is his attitude to workers. Those workers and the employees who work in the banks are the backbone of nationalisation and they are to deliver the goods, not the managers or Goels or Rangacharis. The Hon. Minister should try to find out the grievance of the employees; he should know whether they feel oppressed and whether they have any complaints or submissions to make to the government. Some machinery should be found out to do that; they should not merely depend upon the report of the branch or divisional manager or other

persons at the top level. As a trade unionist I know that the poor people, the peasants and the workers constitute the backbone of our society and they are behind the Prime Minister's 20 point economic programme, they are behind the Congress Party and not the police nor the bureaucrats nor officers who are there only to take a lion's share of the good that comes out.

During the emergency, we have tried to find out the condition of the workers in the industries. As a trade unionist, I feel that the workers have lost their bonus. They do not mind; they feel that they have to contribute to the success of the planning and that they as workers can contribute something financially and also physically by their labour; they have stated supporting the plan of the Prime Minister, unlike some engineers or top brass of the managerial class. There is a grievance everywhere, in all the steel plants in the industrial installations and everywhere. The workers have no access to government. The managerial class has been empowered with so much power in emergency that if in their opinion there is any type of insubordination by any worker, he will meet with summary dismissal from the job. In the Southeastern Railway, I know that on flimsy grounds twenty ticket collectors had been removed. I come from the steel plants area and I am connected with steel plants unions; the managers in the steel plants are having such repressive measures that it is difficult for the workers to feel that they are part of the installation. They are giving premature retirement to officers who are honest and who have the maximum amount of integrity and are trying to keep only those officers who indulge in buttering and flattering and eulogising; you are the person who is responsible for the progress of this steel plant. This is the situation in Rourkela; this is the situation in Durgapur and everywhere.

If I send a letter to the minister making some complaint, the reply comes from that very manager against whom I have com-

[Shri Shyam Sunder Mohapatra]

plained. You can imagine what would be the contents of such a reply. Mr. Mukherjee is a very dynamic minister and a close friend of mine. He has given a new turn to the entire banking and revenue system. He must look into these things. In my constituency, there is a small place called Soro. The manager there has become very unpopular. He openly criticises the Prime Minister and the 20 point programme. When people come for loan, he behaves in a very rude way. Courtesy costs nothing, says an English proverb but he thinks he is a monarch in that little area. When I complained to the minister, I received a reply saying, "So and so has not paid his dues to the bank. You, as a Member of Parliament, may please use your good offices in the matter so that the money may be paid back to the bank." As a Member of Parliament, it is my duty to use my good offices, but it was not my duty**

Mr. SPEAKER : I think a very unusual situation is there in the House. You are levelling charges against persons who are not here to defend themselves. You are not following the procedure prescribed. You are naming the persons and saying that they indulged in bribery, corruption, etc. If you have to make accusations of a serious nature, you should inform me and take my permission. So, whatever you said about individual names and charges will not form part of the proceedings.

SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA : I am sorry; I will not give the names of the officers. I will only mention the bank. As I said, the manager of the State Bank, Balasore has written me a letter asking me to extend my good offices to realise the money. Those officers who were responsible for giving money to such people should be taken to task and their

explanation should be called for. Why should a poor M.P. be asked after three years to use his good offices for realising the money ?

On the 8th August, an editorial appeared in a very well known daily of Orissa, *Samaj* about the exploitation of poor tribal and Harijan women. The contractors and *tehdars* from the industrial areas of Jamshedpur and West Bengal lure the poor people in Tribal and Harijan areas, which are poverty-stricken due to continuous floods or draught, and take these people out of Orissa. In such a situation, what should be the duty of the government? The police should be activated in such a way that these contractors are not in a position to come to the rural areas with money and allure the poor people.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to certain projects in Orissa. Orissa is the poorest of all the States in India, as Mahatma Gandhi once said and as our esteemed Prime Minister also has said and in the considerations of the Planning Commission and other agencies, Orissa should get priority. We have many river valley projects to be completed. There was a ferro-vanadium plant which was to come up in Mayurbhanj district, but nothing is heard about it. The Prime Minister announced that a fertiliser plant will come up at Paradip and the people were hoping that this will change the face of the whole State. But we understand that the project has been accepted only in principle. I request that due attention may be given to this also.

The S. E. Railway covers the maximum area in the State of Orissa. But there is not much development as far as the railway is concerned. There are areas which should be connected by railway lines. The communication system should be geared up.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur):
These are Supplementary Demands
(General), excluding the railways.

**Not recorded,

MR. SPEAKER: You should confine yourself to only those items which are included here.

SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA: I was having an overall picture before my eyes.

MR. SPEAKER: No overall picture in the discussion of the Supplementary Demands.

SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA: Our country is facing a huge unemployment problem. Today in 1976 we have about 94,26,000 unemployed people in our country. About 50 lakhs of them are matriculates. Then, big job seekers like technocrats, engineers, doctors and those who have passed BA or MA examination account for another 4 lakhs. We should provide avenue of employment for these people in our country. The private sector should be compelled to absorb as many people as possible.

If you compare the unemployment problem of Orissa with that of the rest of the country, you will find that Orissa is placed in a very disadvantageous position. Because there is no industrial development and agriculture is poor, the number of unemployed people in Orissa is increasing as at a fast rate.

During this period of emergency when planning is being accelerated to reach every home, when there is hope and aspiration in the minds of millions of people, when the emergency and the 20-point programme and also the 5-point programme of Shri Sanjay Gandhi have electrified the minds of everybody in our country, planning should be done in such a way that there is co-ordinated planning and there is cohesion in planning between State and State in the larger interests of the people, so that the States which are lagging behind are brought to the level of the advanced States to ensure that there is a balanced economy.

श्री रघु प्रताप सिंह (वारंगल) :

माननीय अध्यक्ष जी, आप ने मुझ को 1976-77 के अनुदान की पूरक मांगों पर अपने विचारों को प्रकट करने का अवसर दिया है, इस के लिये मैं हृदय से आप का आभारी हूँ। मैं इन का समर्थन करने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूँ।

मान्यवर, सब से पहले तो मैं अपने दल की नेता श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी, प्रधान मंत्री, भारत सरकार को इस बात के लिये वधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि जिस समय देश की प्रतिक्रियावादी शक्तियाँ, देश की स्थितिवादी शक्तियाँ, देश की सम्प्रदायवादी शक्तियाँ देश की लोकतन्त्र को, देश की धर्म निपेक्षता को, देश की समाजवाद को, हमारे आदर्शों को, हमारे मूल्यों को, सब को कुठाराघात करना चाहती थीं, ऐसे समय पर हमारी प्रधान मंत्री जी ने एक सामयिक कदम उठाया और देश में आपातकालीन स्थिति की घोषणा की। मान्यवर, हमारी प्रधान मंत्री जी ने न केवल देश आपातकालीन स्थिति की घोषणा की, उस के साथ ही उन्होंने देश को 20 सूची आर्थिक कार्यक्रम भी दिया, जिस पर हमारी केन्द्रीय सरकार, हमारे देश की सभी प्रदेश सरकारें और केन्द्र शासित क्षेत्रों की सरकारें, बहुत गहरी रुचि के साथ, लगन के साथ, तत्परता के साथ कार्य कर रही हैं। श्रीमान्, हमारी भारत सरकार के जितने भी मंत्रालय हैं, वे सभी इस बात का प्रयास कर रहे हैं कि हमारा जो बीस सूची कार्यक्रम है, बल्कि 24 सूची कार्यक्रम है—किस प्रकार से जनता की भावनाओं और आकांक्षाओं के अनुरूप

[श्री रुद्र प्रताप सिंह]

उन का शतप्रतिशत लाभ भारत की जनता को मिल सके। उसके लिए मैं अपनी नेता, केन्द्रीय सरकार के सभी मंत्रालयों, अपने दल की प्रदेशों की सरकारों को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ।

हमारे देश के युवा नेता श्री संजय ने चार सूत्री कार्यक्रम देश को दिया था। उसके पश्चात उन्होंने उस में एक सूत्र और जोड़ कर उसको पांच सूत्री कार्यक्रम बना दिया। उस कार्यक्रम को जिस प्रकार से देश के नौजवान तथा दूसरे लोग पूरा करवाने में रुचि ले रहे हैं इसको मैं देश के लिए बहुत बड़ा सोभाग्य मानता हूँ। अभी हमारे यहां जनपद सुजतानपुर के अमेठी में युवकों का एक गिरिवि आयोजित किया गया था। उस में देश भर के युवकों ने भाग लिया। देश के कोने कोने से काश्मीर से कन्याकुमारी और असम से गुजरात तक के युवकों ने जाकर भाग लिया और वहां कार्य किया। यह देश के इतिहास में एक अद्वितीय घटना है। संजय जी के नेतृत्व में देश के नौजवानों, देश के नव-निर्माण का काम आपने हाथ में लिया है, यह बहुत बड़ा शुभ लक्षण है और इसको देश के कल्याण की दिशा में उठाया गया कदम कहना अनुचित नहीं होगा। जिस प्रकार हमारे देश के नेता पंडित मोती लाल नेहरू ने, पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू ने और हमारी प्रधान मंत्री श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी ने देश को दिशा दी है उसी परम्परा का निर्वाह करते हुए हमारे संजय जी ने देश की

सेवा का व्रत लिया है, यह बड़े ही सोभाग्य की बात है।

चूंकि समय बहुत कम है, इसलिए मैं गृह मंत्रालय, सूचना मंत्रालय, परिवार नियोजन मंत्रालय और सिविल मंत्रालय के सम्बन्ध में कुछ निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ। आपातकालीन स्थिति की घोषणा के पश्चात जिस प्रकार से देश के अन्दर जो अराजकता में, हिंसा में विश्वास करने वाली शक्तियां थीं, तोड़फोड़ में विश्वास करने वाली शक्तियां थीं उन पर नियंत्रण पाने के लिए गृह मंत्रालय ने कार्य किया है, वह सराहनीय है और उसके लिए हम उन्हें बधाई देते हैं। जिस प्रकार से हम देश में नव-निर्माण करना चाहते हैं, उसके स्वरूप को बनाने में, उसको ठीक प्रकार से चित्रित करने में हमारे सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय ने जिस प्रकार से अपनी भूमिका को अदा किया है, उसके लिए भी उसकी जितनी सराहना की जाए, कम है। समाचार की दिशा में हमने जो कदम उठाए हैं, और हमारी प्रधान मंत्री जी ने जिस प्रकार से उस कार्य को अपना नेतृत्व प्रदान किया है, उससे न केवल राष्ट्रीय मंच पर बल्कि अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मंच पर भी न केवल भारत की जनता का कल्याण हुआ है बल्कि मैं यह कह सकता हूँ कि अनुचय विश्व में भारत का मस्तक ऊंचा हुआ है। इस प्रकार से जो प्रवास हम करने जा रहे हैं उससे न केवल गुट निरपेक्ष देशों को बल्कि दुनिया के समस्त देशों को, जो स्वतंत्रता में विश्वास करते हैं, बड़ी शक्ति मिलेगी। इससे इस प्रकार के समाचार जो प्रकाशित होते हैं जिनका

शास्त्विकता से कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं होता है और जो वास्तविकता से कभी सम्बन्धित नहीं रहे हैं उस पर नियंत्रण किया जा सहेगा, ऐसा मेरा विश्वास है।

अब मैं दो शब्द परिवार नियोजन के सम्बन्ध में कहना चाहता हूँ। इस दिशा में जो प्रयास हो रहे हैं वे अत्यन्त सराहनीय हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि हमारे राष्ट्र के सम्मुख जो समस्याएँ मुंह बाएँ खड़ी हैं उन में से परिवार नियोजन की समस्या सब से गम्भीर समस्या है। इस समस्या को हमें बहुत गम्भीरतापूर्वक लेना होगा और इसका समाधान खोजना होगा। जहाँ तक इसके निराकरण का प्रश्न है मैं आपके सामने अपने अनुभव की बात कहता हूँ। मेरा कार्य क्षेत्र बाराबंकी है। हमारे शासन तंत्र के द्वारा, हमारे कांग्रेस के जन प्रतिनिधियों के द्वारा इस दिशा में पूर्ण प्रयास किया जा रहा है। इस प्रयास की सफलता इस बात पर निर्भर है कि हमारे जन प्रतिनिधि, हमारे कांग्रेस जन और हमारी सरकारी अधिकारीगण, हमारा शासन तंत्र कितनी निष्ठा से काम करता है। जितनी अधिक निष्ठा से ये सब कार्य करेंगे उतना ही सफल यह कार्यक्रम होगा। मैंने अपने क्षेत्र की दसों क्षेत्र समितियों का दौरा किया है और दौरे के दौरान मैंने जनता को बताया है कि मैंने तो 31 अगस्त 1966 को ही नसबन्दी करा ली थी। उसका जनता पर प्रभाव

पड़ा है। जनता चाहती है कि जन प्रतिनिधि जिस नीति की बात कहते हैं उस पर स्वयं आचरण करें और तब हमारे बीच में आकर बात कहें। जब मैंने लोगों को इस बात को बताया तो इसका लोगों पर प्रभाव पड़ा। इसके साथ साथ आपको यह जानकारी प्रसन्नता होगी कि हमारी पार्टी के वहाँ के कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष और उपाध्यक्ष जी ने भी पंद्रह अगस्त को अपनी नसबन्दी करा ली है। उसका जनता पर प्रभाव पड़ा। तो इस प्रकार का महान कार्यक्रम कांग्रेस पार्टी ही कर सकती है। मैंने भी जो कुछ किया उसका क्रेडिट कांग्रेस पार्टी के एम० पी० को है, डा० रुद्र प्रताप सिंह को कुछ नहीं है। हमारे जिले में परिवार नियोजन के सम्बन्ध में जिला कांग्रेस पार्टी के अध्यक्ष ने 15 अगस्त को नसबन्दी करवाई। इस प्रकार से कांग्रेस के अन्दर देश में कार्य हो रहा है और हमारा शासनतंत्र भी इस काम में रुचि ले रहा है। बाराबंकी में सभी कांग्रेसी लोग तथा सरकारी अधिकारी परिवार नियोजन को अपना रहे हैं। इस प्रकार से एम० पी० से ले कर ग्राम पंचायत के प्रधान तक इस कार्यक्रम को अपनायेंगे, ऐसा हमारा विश्वास है। हमें आशा है कि सभी कांग्रेसी, जन प्रतिनिधिगण और सरकारी अधिकारी इस को अपना लेंगे और तब हम समझेंगे कि भारत की जनता परिवार नियोजन के पक्ष में है। मैं दावे के साथ कह सकता हूँ कि भारत की समस्त जनता परिवार नियोजन के पक्ष में है, केवल उन को समझाने की आवश्यकता है और नसबन्दी, बंध्याकरण की समुचित व्यवस्था का प्रबन्ध करा देना है।

[श्री रघु प्रताप सिंह]

इसके अतिरिक्त सिचाई आन्दोलन के सम्बन्ध में मैंने कुछ कहना है। प्रदेशों में, क्षेत्रों में, अर्थात् पूरे देश में प्रति वर्ष वर्षा के कारण ऐसी स्थिति पैदा हो जाती है जिसके कारण करोड़ों लोगों को उसका सामना करना पड़ता है, करोड़ों लोगों के घर गिर जाते हैं, उनके भोजन और वस्त्र की समस्या का सामना करना पड़ता है। तो इस दिशा में कुछ ठोस कदम उठाने चाहिये। हमारे बाराबंकी जिले के लो-नया निर्वाचन-क्षेत्र के दो विकास खंड—मुरतगंज और पूरहलई—में प्रति वर्ष अधिकांश गांव बाढ़ की चपेट में आ जाते हैं जिसकी वजह से गांवों की बड़ी कठिनाई होती है। यह केवल बाराबंकी की बात नहीं है, बल्कि पूरे देश की बात है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : सिचाई का तो कोई आइटम इसमें है ही नहीं। मण्टीमेंटरी डिमान्ड्स में जो आइटम्स हैं उन्हीं पर आपको कहना चाहिये।

डा० रघु प्रताप सिंह : मान्यवर, मैंने इस बात को ध्यान नहीं दिया था। मैं आगे इस बारे में कुछ नहीं कहूंगा।

मैं पुनः कहना चाहता हूँ कि देश के अन्दर जो आपात्कालीन स्थिति की घोषणा की गई है उस से देश में एक नया वातावरण बना हुआ है। देश के अन्दर लोगों ने नये भारत को बनाने का संकल्प लिया है, परिश्रम करने का अभ्यास हो रहा है, और हमारे युवा नेता श्री संजय गांधी का यह सूत्र कि बातें कम, काम ज्यादा, इस पर गम्भीरता से लोगों ने काम करना प्रारंभ कर दिया है। हमारी प्रधान मंत्री जी ने जो कहा है कि कड़ी मेहनत, दूर दृष्टि, पक्का इरादा और अनुशासन, इन चारों बातों की तरफ भारत की महान जनता, हमारी महान नेता श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी के नेतृत्व में, उस दिशा में कार्य कर रही है।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं आपकी समस्त मांगों का समर्थन करता हूँ।

SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH (Sidhi): Sir, while supporting the Supplementary Demands for Grants, I wish to bring before this august House two difficulties that would, I hope, find solution.

I represent an area which is completely hilly and preponderantly inhabited by Adivasis. It has been an experience in that region that the supply of essential goods to the Adivasis is an extremely difficult operation. Specially in the context of the present conditions obtaining when the question of black-marketing is almost wiped out, it is all the more important that these Adivasis are allowed to have a sufficient supply of these essential commodities, specially things like sugar, kerosene oil, coarse cloth, etc., at proper prices. The difficulty that is being faced is the fact that, since these Adivasis are poor people, they find it very difficult to leave their agricultural operations and come to the district headquarters from where these essential goods are usually supplied. At the same time, the usual commission that is allowable on such goods is not at all sufficient for any one who would like to transport them over hills without any roads, either on horse-back or as head-loads. While we in this country are trying to obviate shortages in the supply of essential consumer goods in the urban areas, I think, it would be in the fitness of things that this obviation is more in those hill areas where the people are really poor. It is a matter which should exercise the concern of this Ministry to find ways and means to obviate these difficulties and enable these Adivasi areas in the backward regions to get the supply of these essential commodities. As to how and in which way this could be done, I leave it to the Ministry.

The second thing I would like to present before the House is the fact that, in the context of the necessity for more agricultural production in this country, it is an extremely difficult situation that is obtaining in our region. We are about 120 kms. away from the rail-head, and whatever fertiliser is supplied to this area has to be transported by road to the district headquarters and from there it is distributed. So, the situation is that upto the rail-head, the charges for transport of fertiliser are not borne by the agents who distribute it, but as soon as the fertiliser leaves the rail-head, the transportation charges are added on to the commission of the supply agents. The upshot is that, in our district, the fertiliser is always in short supply, whereas people have taken to adopting improved farming techniques and the demand for fertiliser is there. The difficulty is that there is no agent, apart from the cooperatives who do it in an off-handed way, who would undertake to supply fertiliser in sufficient quantity to this region. In this context, I would submit that it is essential that the transport of fertiliser from rail-heads to the district headquarters should find a subsidy from the Fertiliser Corporation, so that it does not go against the interests of those people who are involved in the supply of fertilisers to these areas.

SHRI CHAPALENDU BHATTACHARYYA (Giridhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the Supplementary Demands for Grants. It is a sort of mini-Budget and is in vogue in other countries also. The necessity of a right policy mix is widely felt, so that, along with the developing technology, along with sophistication, along with growth in the highly capital-intensive sector...

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member will continue after Lunch. The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at six minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1976-77—Contd.

SHRI CHAPALENDU BHATTACHARYYA (Giridhi): As I was saying, right policy-mix and micro planning are necessary to help completely implement the 20-point programme of our Prime Minister and the five points additionally projected by Mr Sanjay Gandhi which have raised great expectations. Of course, family planning is the crux of the matter. We have to keep the rate of inflation to the level of increase in productivity in industries and in scientific agriculture. The Supplementary Demands for Grants have made a provision as follows: Rs. 65 crores for agriculture and rural development. Rs. 32 crores for power development. Rs. 46.93 crores for foreign trade and export promotion. I am happy that Rs. 3 crores have been provided for revenue and capital account for Mines and Minerals perhaps ostensibly to give a drive for such heavier minerals like uranium, copper, silver, nickel and so on. I again emphasise the overriding necessity of exploring intensively 22 degree latitude plus fifty miles north and south of it, from the mouth of Subarnarekha river to that of Tapti.

Sir, priority is fixed for particular schemes and here also it is a projection of the priority fixed in the original budget. I wholeheartedly support it. My only point about the additional demands is this. There are Rs. 2 crores for science and technology. I wish these demands were larger so that the brain drain now taking place could be effectively stemmed.

[Shri Chapalendu Bhattacharyya]

Low income, Low wage, depressed areas should be specially identified and given necessary economic support to bring them in line with other areas. I have in mind the higher plateau areas of Chota Nagpur where stick lac is grown and the lower plateau of Chota Nagpur so far as mica is concerned. These depressed areas require special attention and they should be identified.

One crop zone areas should be identified and more credit should be pumped into them by rural banks. At every Anchal head-quarters in order to effectively prime the agricultural pumps for higher production pumping of extra credit is a must.

Co-relation between credit and higher production in agriculture is immediate and highly significant. But, I do not want to labour on the point. That will also help in mobilisation of the masses for bettering their own existence. That will also develop selfreliance and, for that particular purpose, we must mobilise adequate deposits in the rural banks also in the second round.

Sir, the nationalised banks with their high-salaried employees have effectively increased the cost of credit facilities reflecting the high interest rate. And then there is that Lakshman Rekha of 16 k.m. beyond which it will not operate. These officers have no adequate motivation, they hardly ever go out of their offices into the villages. That is one of the major reasons why our economy in our part of the country is not going up as fast as we had expected. They have, one reason or another, the absence of agronomists or the B.D.Os are not supplying the ownership certificates in time. Of course, that 16 k.m. limit is there sometimes. These are the valid reasons. But, more often, those are excuses and alibis and unless we can remedy these, I am afraid, that much of the 20-Point Economic Programmes will not be effectively implemented.

I know that some of these banks are really an extension of the image of one individual; I know also of the situation in Ranchi where one high officer of the bank went into the surrounding gram panchayat and by pumping the credit in course of just two years, through overproduction of tomatoes has brought down the cost of potatoes to 15 paise a k.g. The problem for them is for an effective marketing.

Now, we have to purchase tomatoes at Rs. 5 a k.g. higher than what we pay for the apples. This requires an urgent and immediate and effective intervention. Some of these bank officials' performance should be noted and those whose performance is effective and good should be rewarded irrespective of the seniority.

I suggest that, side by side, in order to remove the imbalance, the public sector corporations should think of adopting villages. A private firm in Ranchi has adopted over 50 villages where they have their own agronomists who are setting up a cropping pattern there; they are giving them Australian sheep and also some cows for dairies. Unless we do that, the two-sector economy which is emerging out of the introduction of new technology will go on gathering momentum and every public sector corporation will be surrounded by 200 to 400 villages which will have their economy depressed. With an effective role of the public sector corporations by adopting the villages and with the efforts of the nationalised banks as also the community development project authorities by bringing them together, I am sure, we can make an effective improvement in the situation obtaining in the villages at the shortest possible time. The problem of energy, raw materials and development are to be tied together.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Have these any reference to any of these demands? Not the general principle underlying, not even the original demands, can be dis-

cussed at this stage; only the portion relating to supplementary demands.

SHRI CHAPALENDU BHATTACHARYYA: In the supplementary demands, they have not provided for the integrated development of solar power and the agricultural pump sets which hold so much of the promises for the village economy in the coming decades.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can not do that in supplementary demands. It is in original demands.

SHRI CHAPALENDU BHATTACHARYYA: I support the supplementary Demands for Grants.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR (Dindigul): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support these supplementary demands but I further put more demands for Tamil Nadu.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have only to refer to the supplementary demands before the House. You cannot create more demands.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: I am coming to that. So far as agriculture is concerned, the price of fertiliser has not been reduced. On the other hand, the price of paddy in Tamil Nadu has got reduced considerably. The farmers are unable to purchase fertiliser since the price of fertiliser has not been reduced in proportion to the reduction in the price of paddy. I request the Government to consider reduction in the price of fertiliser.

Sir, the hon. Member who preceded me has put very valid points in regard to rural banks. The rural credit should be available not only to the agriculturists but also to the village artisans and the poor needy public. No doubt, we have nationalised banks but we have to...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no supplementary demand in the case of rural as well as nationalised banks.

1506 LS-6.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: Sir, the hon. Member has put it correctly that the banks are giving loans to the capitalist group in the villages, towns and cities. These big sharks in industry are able to satisfy the agents and the directors of the banks and, as such are able to get loans. The object of the Government is to provide loans to the weavers, down-trodden people, dhobis, carpenters, village artisans and the petty businessmen but these people are not able to get any loan at all. This is the practical difficulty which I am placing before the hon. Members of this House. I have come across hundreds of such instances in my constituency as well as my State. You must also take stringent action against those bank officials who are not helping the public in accordance with the objectives of 20-point programme.

Sir, the Home Minister visited Tamil Nadu recently and admitted that in ten districts out of fifteen districts there was drought and...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Is there any demand for Tamil Nadu? I am only trying to point out to you the parameters of discussion. You can take your time and say anything you like but after you go back home please read the relevant portions of the Constitution relating to the Supplementary Demands and rules for discussion thereon.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: Sir, the Governor of Tamil Nadu also inspected many districts and the Government granted rupees seven and a half crores for agriculture development, drought situation and drinking water. In Tirunelveli district, the agriculture activity came to a standstill. The agriculturists were unable to implement the agricultural activity and, as such, Rs. 1 crore were granted for each district. I plead with the Government to grant Rs. 25 to 50 crores more than what has been granted. The amount of rupees seven and a half crores is insufficient. I submit that you must sympathetically

[Shri K. Mayadharan:]
consider the position of agriculturists in Tamil Nadu and grant more money to provide for the drinking water and to protect the small petty landlords, the poor unemployed men and the down-trodden people in Tamil Nadu.

Then so far as relief to the agriculturists is concerned, in Tamil Nadu, the President through the Governor, announced exemption or debt relief only to those agriculturists who had borrowed loans from private parties. There was no relief from indebtedness given to those farmers who had borrowed from Societies, banks or Government or quasi-governmental authorities. It is like saying 'Operation successful patient collapsed'. Therefore, I would request Government to give them exemption from repayment of all loans, to the poor and medium farmers in Tamil Nadu, thereby giving protection to the long-affected farmers of Tamil Nadu.

Side by side, these farmers should also be given credit facilities. There is no use giving only debt relief to agriculturists and artisans. You must give them additional protection by way of credit facilities from rural banks and nationalised banks. Now because of the moratorium on loans taken by agriculturists and the debt relief provided to the farmers, the farmers are unable to get any loan from any moneylenders. They are unable to even mortgage their jewels or even vessels. Poor people used to pawn their clothes and saris also for loans. Even then the moneylenders are not accepting those properties and articles and giving them money. The result is that they are unable to carry on their day to day life or business in the field as well as elsewhere. Therefore, I request the Government to make more provision for agriculture not only in Tamil Nadu but throughout India because the farming community constitutes 80 per cent of India, but they are given only 20 per cent

outlay in the Five Year Plan. Therefore, you must give them at least 50 per cent more to protect the interests of the agriculturists who are the backbone of our rural economy. If they produce more food-grains, the prices of essential commodities will come down in Tamil Nadu and elsewhere. As a result of the emergency and the twenty-point programme, the prices of essential commodities and agricultural produce like wheat, paddy and other things have come down. But recently they have once again gone up. These prices should not be allowed to go up; there should be a continuous decline in price so far as essential commodities are concerned.

Now there is no kerosene oil available in Tamil Nadu for the last one month. You must take immediate steps to provide kerosene oil to the State. With these words, I support the Demands.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): At the outset, I would like to thank each of the hon. members who have participated in this debate, making me wiser and more well-informed after their suggestions. I would also like to thank you for drawing their attention to the relevant articles of the Constitution and rules within the limits of which discussion on these Demands should be controlled. But by and large, we have seen that members, because of their anguish at the conditions obtaining in their constituencies, do realise that they have to voice their feelings. So we do find that apart from confining themselves strictly within the rules in regard to the discussion of the Supplementary Demands, they have aired their views beyond their scope of this discussion. But they would excuse me if I do not reply to those points. But I can assure them that all the points they have made will be conveyed to the Ministries/Departments concerned and I am sure proper action would be taken by them.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is difficult to hold the Members under leash. I do not want the Ministers under leash.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I am sure I do not need it.

Apart from that, by and large, the House has given its support to the Demands, though many of the members who have spoken are not in the House just now.

Hon. Members will realise that there is a lot of difference in the economic situation today; therefore, when they raised some points, they probably forgot the changed conditions of the Indian economy. There is buoyancy in our economy and there is restoration of faith and people have confidence that we have made a breakthrough and there are going to be better days even. They have brought in so many points and therefore I should like to make a brief review of the economic situation. The workers in the factories and the peasants in the farm have laboured to produce this situation and then the policy of the Government and the strategy of the Government and the co-operation of the people have all yielded results and we find that there is a much better climate today. It is a fact that India is one of the very few countries in the world that had contained inflation and had brought about a negative rate of inflation. Many developed countries have a higher rate of inflation, 5 to 12 per cent inflation. Fortunately India had made a record for itself in the world economy. In the agricultural sector we find that there has been a record production of 118 million tonnes. There was a slight delay in the arrival of the monsoon and when speculators tried to take advantage of that situation and the situation got reflected in the slight rise in prices, the Government immediately acted. Because of the vigilance on the part of the Government as well as stern measures and other policies that were adopted by the Government, that trend had been brought under control. That shows that the Government has to be over vigilant and fiscal and monetary

discipline is absolutely necessary more now than at any time before. Our stock position is better now. On the industrial front, the growth was 2.5 per cent in 1974-75 compared to 5.7 per cent in 1975-76. There are indications that with discipline and determination in our fields and factories, the industrial growth rate is likely to be of the order of 10 to 12 per cent this year. They are very good signs for the country. Power position has definitely improved. Apart from the above, various other economic measures had also been taken such as curbing the expenses under Government, both in the States as well as in the Centre. We find that there has been economy though there was always scope for further improvement. The Government had issued instructions that there should be the utmost economy in Government expenditure and avoidable expenditure should not be incurred. Our tax collections have also increased and our savings have improved. Some hon. Members have taken keen interest and I should therefore like to say to them that we have exceeded our targets and collections under small savings this year are Rs. 90 crores more than the last year and I hope this trend will continue. Further we also find that our balance of trade position and the foreign exchange position is satisfactory. Some of these gains have accrued because of the policies of the Government and also because of the discipline among the people. We find that the people stood together with the Government in bringing about economic improvement.

One of the hon. Members pointed out that supplementary demands led to pumping of more money into the economy and he asked whether it would not lead to a rise in prices. That is the reason why credit will have to be disciplined. Monetary and fiscal measures have been taken and Government will see to it that those checks are there all the time.

[Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi]

Coming to sick textile undertakings, 103 of these were nationalised and a provision of Rs. 40 crores was kept earlier. But it could not be utilised. Now this amount is being drawn through supplementary demands. These sick mills were running at losses. The loss on this score alone came to Rs. 7.5 crores per month. I am glad to inform the House that because of various steps taken by the Government, together with the cooperation of the workers, to day the position is much better.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA
(Serampore): Is there no loss on account of these mills now?

SHAIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI:
The loss was Rs 7.6 crores in April 75. The latest figure of loss is Rs 1.25 crores for July, 76. We do hope that these losses will be wiped out completely and in that the hon. member can be of great help, if he wants. We do hope that ultimately these losses will be completely wiped out and converted into gains.

For modernisation of the mills, various plans have been drawn up both for the present and for future and we are sure these will yield results. Many of these textile mills are earning foreign exchange and we do hope that the exports will go up in course of time. Two of these mills which belong to Kanpur to which Mr. Banerjee has referred—Lakshmi Rattan Mills and Atherton West Mills—were nationalised only recently. I do not know why Mr. Banerjee who chooses to quote my name in connection with so many other things kept out my name when the taking over of these two mills came, but I leave it at that. I would like to inform the House that the proposal of the Ministry of Commerce for releasing a sum of Rs. 2.74 crores, out of the sum of Rs. 5.90 crores which will be required for this, for working capital margin and immediate renovation of these two mills has been approved and sanction for the release of the funds has been issued. We do not want their working to

be stopped. We want them to go ahead with their working.

The question of subsidies on fertilisers came up and some members said that this subsidy is going to the rich manufacturers. I would like to say that this is not the concept. This subsidy will go through the manufacturers to the farmers. This is going to help not the big sharks but the small farmers who really need it. I am happy to announce that because of the reduction in prices for which subsidy is required, there has been a greater off take of fertilisers. The increase in consumption has gone up by nearly 34%. That shows that production also increases and naturally this is going to help our agriculture and our economy as a whole. This should allay the fears, if any, in the minds of hon. members.

At the time of presentation of the budget, a sum of Rs. 15 crores was to be given to the Finance Ministry for integrated rural development. But later on it was decided to allocate this sum not to the Finance Ministry but to the Department of Rural Development. It was said last time that the money is lying waste that it is not surrendered, etc. Because there had been a change and because the money cannot be transferred from one to the other, it is being surrendered from Finance and asked for in a supplementary demand under the Department of Rural Development. I hope hon. members will appreciate that the strategy for rural development will go a long way in sustaining our economy and giving employment to our people.

The question of the sixth instalment of DA also came up. I think only recently an answer has been given about it. We find that the index average which went down below the 320 mark in January 76 has consistently declined since then. The figure for June 76 is 303.75. I may assure the House that the representatives of the employees will be consulted before taking a final decision regarding the sixth instalment of DA.

A question was raised about the pay-scales of supervisors and draftsmen in the defence establishments. We are already aware of the position and a decision is going to be taken on this shortly.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: The final decision rests with Finance. It is for the Finance Ministry to okay it before it goes to the Cabinet.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: In fact, a question is pending on this subject, which is likely to come up next week.

Then, a very senior member, Shri Tiwari, who is one of our leaders in the party from the days of the freedom struggle, chose to make a number of charges; in fact, I would not call them charges. Unfortunately, he is not present here to hear the reply. There was nothing very specific in what he said which I could enumerate. He said in a general way that there has been corruption, there is no discipline, the Government servants are free to do what they like and so on. I would like to say that in order to gauge the administrative efficiency of the Government officers, periodically their work is reviewed. According to the latest information, the cases of 55,587 Government servants have been reviewed, out of whom 2,048 Government servants have been retired, 12 belonging to Class I, 56 belonging to Class II, 1,420 belonging to Class III and 560 belonging to Class IV. 31 Government servants have been reverted to their substantive posts as a result of the review. That shows that Government is not sitting pretty on this, but taking steps which are absolutely necessary, in the larger interests of the administrative efficiency of the country.

Some hon. Members referred to the Employment News and said that it was catering only to high salary posts. As a matter of fact, we find that even posts of apprentices are advertised there. So far as posts in the lower grades are concerned,

recruitment is generally done from the States concerned, and so those posts are not advertised in the Employment News, which has all India circulation. Now Punjab State has decided to start its own Employment News. Such newspapers will naturally carry advertisements for posts in the lower grades also. Normally, it carries advertisements for posts carrying a salary of Rs. 500 and above.

One hon. Member mentioned that there is no demand for education. This is not main budgetary allocation but supplementary demands. It is a matter of satisfaction, rather than a matter for criticism, that the Education Ministry have been able to manage with in their allocation, rather than coming for a supplementary demand.

Then, many hon. Members waxed eloquent on family planning. I am speaking on this subject, not as a Member of Parliament but as one of the women in the country, and I say that this should be taken up on a war footing. I feel that the incentive that is provided is still quite good. But we should not look at it purely from the point of view of incentive. I think every Member of Parliament, as a representative of the people, should go to the various parts of the country and carry this programme as a beacon light to every nook and corner of the country, because there are still people in this country who are not aware of the significance of this campaign. We should take it not as a negative aspect, but as a positive programme. I am told that every time a human pulse beats three babies come into the earth. We cannot allow this rate of population growth, especially when 40 percent of our people are living below the subsistence level when our *per capita* income is so low. Because, existence does not mean satisfying the hunger or having two square meals a day.

As we are heading towards a socialist, classless society, which is our goal, the basic amenities of life should be provided to

[Smt. Sushila Rohatgi]

them. As such, family planning should really become the flag of our future programme, because with it is linked the future of the country. Therefore, I am glad that some of our younger Members participated in the debate along with the elder people. All of us should be united in this not only on the floor of the House, not only in the speeches made here, but we should link this programme with every speech that we make in any part of the country. I think we should make it a part of our creed and mobilise public opinion, and that will really act.

It is said that there are three means of fast communication if you want to send a message quickly. The first is the telephone, the second is the telegram and the third is tell-a-woman because they say it travels fast. So, why don't we tell our women, educate our women, that it is in their larger interest, the woman is the mother, sister and wife, and comprises about 50 per cent of the population. I would request each and every Member of the House very humbly that they should make this part of their programme.

Apart from this, there is a misunderstanding which may hurt this movement, which I would certainly like to clarify. It was raised with a very good and objective purpose that if we are asked to reduce the population, and rightly too, we should not suffer in our representation. Therefore, it has been very clearly laid down in the Statement on Population Policy which the hon. Minister of Health Dr. Karan Singh, laid on the Table of the House on 16th April..

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : In the National Apex Body, a resolution was brought forward by the Labour Minister himself increasing the granting of special leave to ladies from 7 to 14 days for family planning operation. May I know whether the same concession will be given to the Government employees also ?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI :

I do not know what the factual position is but we will consider it.

The wider question of family planning as such is one which concerns all the Banerjees, the Rohatgis and the Bhattacharyyas. So it has been decided that representation in the Lok Sabha and the State Legislatures will be frozen on the basis of the 1971 census until the year 2,001. Therefore, the fear of the Member that this may have some effect on the representation in the State Legislature and in the Lok Sabha is unfounded. It has been mentioned in that policy statement that the census figures of 1881 and 1891 will not be considered for the purpose of the Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly seats and that the necessary constitutional amendments will be brought forward during the current year. Appropriate legislation for other elective bodies, it has been said, will also be undertaken. That clarifies the position.

Many hon. Members raised the question of the handloom industry. Next to agriculture, it is the biggest industry. Nearly ten million people are employed in it in the rural and semi-rural areas, and naturally Members have a right to be slightly agitated over it. The handloom industry is now giving us very good foreign exchange. It has been included in the 20-point programme, and is treated as one of the priority areas. Special emphasis has been laid to see that it gives employment to the people concerned. Our handloom products compare well with those of other countries. The Sivaraman Committee which went into the question has made some recommendations which have been accepted and implemented.

I find, 17 intensive development projects and 20 export-oriented projects located in various states have already been approved by the Government and are being implemented through the State Governments which have to be provided with necessary funds in order that the

scheme may get going without any loss of time. That shows the sincerity of the Government to see that the people of the lowest strata are giving employment and they are able to get incremental income to meet their needs.

The question of Tripura, Manipur and Assam floods was also broached yesterday. The reports about flood damage have been received from these three states. Some provision has been made. As I said, during the Question Hour earlier, this morning, according to the Sixth Finance Commission, relief measures are required to be financed by the States concerned out of their own resources with the help of the margin money and such re-adjustments of the Plan resources as may be necessary. All these things are before the Government. As I said earlier, if it is necessary, an advance from the Central assistance will also be made. A Central team will be deputed to the States soon after the necessary request from the States concerned is received because that is necessary. The margin money allowed by the Sixth Finance Commission to these three States is, Assam—Rs. 1.25 crores; Manipur—Rs. 0.04 crore and Tripura—Rs. 0.07 crore.

I think, *Samachar* also featured in our discussion today. It has not only featured here but it has also featured in the Non-Aligned Conference and all over the world, we find people talking about *Samachar* and the good work done by it. It approached the Government for making a grant of Rs. 25 lakhs during the current year. I find that a sanction has been accorded for the grant amounting to Rs. 10 lakhs to *Samachar* and further grant will depend upon the basis of the recommendations of the high-powered committee which has been set up. All these things are under consideration.

I think, I have covered most of the points which have been raised by the hon.

Members. I would like to assure them that if there are other points to which I have not replied it is because these will be conveyed to the Ministries concerned and full attention will be given to them.

Before I wind up, I thank the hon. Members for their participation in the discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants. I would like to beseech humbly that this is the time when our economy has made a breakthrough, that there is a buoyancy in investment climate and that there is a faith and a sense of discipline among the people and the people are determined to go ahead with production to make a better future for our country and we are duty bound to see that this element of discipline, an element of dedication and an element of working towards making a New India is kept up with all speed and with all unity.

SHRI NIMBALKAR (Kolhapur) : I think, the hon. Minister has missed the most important point to which she has to reply and that is whether this amount of money which is now going to be pumped into the market is not going to further aggravate the inflationary tendency in the country?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : She has explained that. It is a very insignificant sum. It is only about Rs. 130 crores. It is not a very big sum in the context of the whole country.

The question is :

“That the respective Supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1977 in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof?”

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

The motion was adopted.

Demands Nos. 1, 2, 7, 14, 25
29, 30, 32, 38, 39, 41, 48, 51,
61, 65, 76, 83 to 85, 88 and
89."

[The Demands for Supplementay Grants
(General), 1976-77, which were voted by
Lok Sabha are shown below—Ed.]

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant Voted by the House	
1	2	3	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION			
1	Department of Agriculture	20,85,000	..
2	Agriculture	60,00,00,000	..
7	Department of Rural Development	15,00,00,000	..
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE			
14	Foreign Trade and Export Production	1,000	40,68,00,000-
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE]			
25	Capital Outlay on Defence Services . . . . .	..	15,00,000-
MINISTRY OF ENERGY			
29	Ministry of Energy	3,78,000	..
30	Power Development . . . . .	..	32,00,02,000-
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS			
32	Ministry of External Affairs	2,50,00,000	..
MINISTRY OF FINANCE			
38	Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments	9,40,73,000	..
39	Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Finance . . . . .	..	58,56,60,000
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING			
41	Department of Revenue and Banking	3,45,000	..
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING			
48	Family Planning	5,00,00,000	..
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS			
51	Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms	1,000	..

1	2	3
	MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES	
61	Industries	1,000.
	MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING	
65	Information and Publicity	1,00,00,000 ..
	MINISTRY OF PLANNING	
76	Department of Science and Technology	2,00,00,000 ..
	MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES	
83	Department of Steel	5,50,000 7,28,79,000.
84	Department of Mines	6,00,000 ..
85	Mines and Minerals	1,23,00,000 1,98,00,000.
	MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION	
88	Department of Rehabilitation	46,00,000
	DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY	
99	Atomic Energy Research, Development and Industrial Projects	1,000

14.50 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (No. 5) BILL, 1976*

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year, 1976-77.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1976-77.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI : Sir, I introduce† the Bill.

Sir, I beg to move† :—

“That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1976-77, be taken into consideration.”

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1976-77, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We take up clause-by-clause consideration.

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 20-8-76.

†Introduced/moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

The question is :

"That Clauses 2 and 3, the Schedule, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3, the Schedule, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI :
Sir, I move : "

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.52 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE. INCREASE IN EXPORT DUTY ON HIDES, SKINS ETC.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We now take up the Statutory Resolutions. Mr. Pranab Kumar Mukherjee.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) :
Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution :—

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 8, read with sub-section (3) of section 7, of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975), this House approves the following notifications of the Government of India in the Department of Revenue and Banking (Revenue Wing), namely :—

(a) No. G.S.R. 741(E), dated the 2nd August, 1976, increasing

the export duty on hides, skins and leathers, tanned and untanned, all sorts, but not including manufactures of leather from 20 per cent *ad valorem* to 25 per cent *ad valorem* ;

(b) No. G.S.R. 743(E), dated the 2nd August, 1976, levying export duty on animal feed at the rate of Rs. 125 per tonne under the new Heading No. 21, in the Second Schedule to the said Act;

(c) No. G.S.R. 745(E), dated the 2nd August, 1976, for substituting the entry 'Mica' in Heading No. 8 in the Second Schedule to the said Act by the entry 'Mica, including fabricated mica'

from the date of each of the notifications aforesaid."

The Customs Tariff Act, 1975, was brought into force with effect from the 2nd August, 1976, replacing the Indian Tariff Act, 1934. Heading No. 14 of the Second Schedule to the new Act, which refers to hides, skins and leathers, tanned and untanned, all sorts, but not including manufactures of leather, showed a rate of export duty of 20 per cent. However, the corresponding entry under the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, carried the export duty of 25 per cent *ad valorem*.

Notification No. G.S.R. 741(E) dated the 2nd August, 1976, seeks to increase the rate of duty from 20 per cent to 25 per cent so as to maintain the *status quo ante*.

By Notification No. G.S.R. 743(E) dated the 2nd August, 1976, a separate Heading No. 21 has been added to the Second Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, for animal feed with export duty at the rate of Rs. 125 per tonne. Export duty was being levied at this rate on animal feed

even under the repealed Act. However, the addition of a specific heading for animal feed in the Second Schedule to the new Act was considered necessary to resolve the difficulties faced by custom houses in this regard.

Notification No. G.S.R. 745(E) dated the 2nd August, 1976, seeks to amend the description against Heading No. 8 in the Second Schedule to the new Act to read 'Mica, including fabricated mica' in place of 'Mica'. The corresponding entry in the Second Schedule to the repealed Act read as 'Mica, all sorts'.

Under that description fabricated mica was also liable to pay export duty. The proposed amendment seeks to make the position clear regarding the types of mica which are chargeable to export duty, without changing the scope thereof.

I wish to make it clear that by issue of these notifications there is no additional burden by way of export duties as these Notifications seek to maintain the levels of export duties prevailing before the 2nd August, 1976, when the new tariff was brought into force.

I, therefore, submit to the House that approval be accorded to the Notifications.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Resolution moved :

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 8, read with sub-section (3) of section 7, of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975), this House approves the following notifications of the Government of India in the Department of Revenue and Banking (Revenue Wing), namely :—

(a) No. G.S.R. 741 (E), dated the 2nd August, 1976 increasing the export duty on hides, skins and leathers, tanned and untanned, all sorts,

but not including manufactures of leather from 20 per cent *ad valorem* to 25 per cent *ad valorem* ;

(b) No. G.S.R. 743 (E), dated the 2nd August, 1976 levying export duty on animal feed at the rate of Rs. 125 per tonne under the new Heading No. 21 in the Second Schedule to the said Act ;

(c) No. G.S.R. 745 (E), dated the 2nd August, 1976 for substituting the entry 'Mica' in Heading No. 8 in the Second Schedule to the said Act by the entry 'Mica, including fabricated Mica'

from the date of each of the notifications aforesaid."

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : I have no hesitation in supporting this resolution because the hon. Minister has really mentioned that there will be no extra burden on the export duty.

When I support this I would like to mention something about exports of raw hides, skins and leathers, tanned and untanned because 3 or 4 places in the country are famous for exporting hides tanned and untanned and in goods we are doing it now because previously during the time of the Britishers they used to take the raw hide from us and they were auctioned in London and other places and the same hide after tanning used to come to our country. I have seen what was happening in Kanpur, how the tannery workers were exploited, how the tanners were exploited and how the entire stocks of cow hides, buffalo hides or the goat skin were exported without any arrangement for tanning in our country. Now we have got very good tanneries in Kanpur, Madras, Hyderabad and other places. I have mentioned Kanpur because of the formation of Tanneries and Footwear Corporation and a few tanneries have also been modernised. Madras is famous for exporting hides

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

and half-tanned hides—what they call, blues, which are very much liked in USA. I have a feeling that some steps should be taken to see that this export of hides is equally distributed among all the tannery-owners. What is being done is that it has been channelised through STC. I do not mind. I want STC come in between. But, what is happening is that certain tanners who have got their links through the small tanners are actually monopolising the entire export market and it is they who are benefited by these exports. I know. The Finance Ministry can have discussions with the Commerce Ministry who are primarily concerned with such exports. I think this can be equally divided and the tanners whether small or big who are really doing the job and tanning the raw hides to the extent where exports are possible should not be deprived. What is happening in Agra? All people are approaching the big tanners either at Madras or Kanpur who have huge tanneries and who are monopolising the entire trade and they are sending their hides through these tanners with the result that they are simply getting a commission and in certain cases they are not getting proper prices for the raw hides which are tanned and sent abroad and the benefit of these exports goes into the pockets of only those who are monopolising this particular trade.

15.00 hrs.

There is another question which arises and that is whether the time has not come where to protect the leather industry against the severe competition from plastics and other synthetic materials we should have a corporation. I was told that the Commerce Ministry was seriously considering to establish a Bharat Leather Corporation. I want to know what has happened to that Bharat Leather Corporation. A Bharat Leather Corporation can be formed not merely for the purpose of

exports of leathers, half tanned or tanned or even in the raw condition but also manufactured articles. We are now exporting shoes. We are exporting shoes, leather goods, suit-cases and so on. If you go to Kanpur you will see the factory which was owned by Bajorias and Mundhras and so on, I mean, the British India Corporation and so on. Now it is running very well thanks to the personal interest taken by Mr. B. P. Maurya. We should improve the market for exportable leather goods and so far as Flex is concerned, there is a glut in the market. The prices are reduced. After all, when do we wear shoes in India? I am a person who wears shoes only for one or two months in a year, that is in December or January. In India we can pull on with chappals for the rest of the months and there are numerous people also here who do not wear shoes at all. Unless we improve our leather export market the shoes manufactured by TAFCO will not have any market inside the country also. I would tell to the hon. Minister that we do not mind increase in excise duty for export purposes but we should also develop this particular corporation, Bharat Leather Corporation. Our raw hides used to be taken away and we have had to pay heavily for its purchase in finished form. The cost of a shoe is Rs. 36 and more. We can have a cheap quality shoe. Our export is limited and better quality shoes can be exported. We got some contract with Soviet Union but we manufactured so badly that an order of 56,000 shoes had to be cancelled by them. To protect the leather industry it is necessary that the leather goods manufactured by our factories should also be exported. I request the Finance Minister to have a dialogue with the Commerce Minister to help the leather industry in every possible way. As you will see, temperaments and tastes change every time. Nowadays people like big-heal shoes and so on. Every day people are changing the designs. We have to keep pace with such things. We should protect the interests of the workers in

the leather industry which is in crisis now. It is only through export to our friendly countries that this industry can be saved.

With these words, I extend my support to the Government Resolution moved by the hon. Minister.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: One Resolution was issued on 1st May, 1976 and this was done only to support the contention of Mr. Banerjee so that raw hides are not exported out of the country and that is why we wanted to impose export duty at 25 per cent. So far as the export policy on leather and other things are concerned, this is something concerning the Commerce Ministry and we are in dialogue with them. We have asked what structure they would like to have, what type of administrative machinery and so on. My purpose is to get the surplus of the profit to fill our national exchequer, and that is the job of Revenue Minister, so far as export duty is concerned.

Here what we are doing in this particular matter both in hides and in animal feeds is this. We, in consultation with the Commerce Ministry, have brought this notification. I do feel, that more and more it should be our endeavour to see that we are in a position to export finished leather instead of raw hides and skins and the whole objective of imposing export duty is with that end in view. What should be done in relation to exports to the friendly countries and in what way the improvement of the leather industry can be taken care of—these I can pass on to the concerned ministry.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 8, read with sub-section (3) of section 7, of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975), this House approves the following notifications

of the Government of India in the Department of Revenue and Banking (Revenue Wing), namely:—

- (a) No. G.S.R. 74(E), dated the 2nd August, 1976 increasing the export duty on hides, skins and leathers, tanned and untanned, all sorts, but not including manufactures of leather from 20 per cent *ad valorem* to 25 per cent *ad valorem*.
- (b) No. G.S.R. 743 (E), dated the 2nd August, 1976 levying export duty on animal feed at the rate of Rs. 125 per tonne under the new Heading No. 21 in the Second Schedule to the said Act;
- (c) No. G.S.R. 745(E), dated the 2nd August, 1976 for substituting the entry ‘Mica’ in Heading No. 8 in the Second Schedule to the said Act by the entry ‘Mica, including fabricated Mica’.

from the date of each of the Notifications aforesaid.”

The motion was adopted.

15.07 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE. CONTINUANCE IN FORCE OF THE PROCLAMATION IN RESPECT OF NAGALAND

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We now take up the next item on the continuance of the Proclamation in respect of Nagaland. Shri Brahmananda Reddy.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:

“That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation, dated the 22nd March, 1975, in respect of Nagaland, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 26th September, 1975.”

[Shri K. Brahmananda Reddy]

The hon. Members will recall that the Resolution for the continuance of Presidential Proclamation in Nagaland for a further period of six months was passed by this august House on the 11th March, 1976. The Proclamation will be in force up to and inclusive of 25th September, 1976. A brief report highlighting the important measures taken by the State Government and the various achievements during the period of President's Rule for Nagaland upto the 31st July, 1976 has been circulated for the information of the hon. Members in the House. The most important development in the State since the imposition of President's Rule was the peace talks with underground Nagas which culminated in the Shillong Accord signed on 11-11-1975. This Accord is a distinct landmark in the History of Nagaland. Under the Accord, the underground elements have accepted unconditionally the Constitution of India. They have also undertaken to abjure violence and to bring out weapons. The implementation of the Shillong Accord has been going on satisfactorily. There have been no violent incidents by the underground in the State since the signing of the Accord. The Government, on their behalf, have released all prisoners detained in connection with the insurgency including undertrials and detenus as a gesture of goodwill.

Government are anxious that with the return of peace and normalcy, Nagaland should forge ahead in economic and social development. A number of steps have been taken in this direction during President's Rule. Execution of plan and development projects has been sought to be speeded up. The Fifth Plan provision has been increased to Rs. 83.47 crores, the per capita outlay in the State now being one of the highest in the country. The provision for the Annual Plan has been raised to Rs. 17.7 crores as against an anticipated expenditure of Rs. 15 crores in 1975-76. The State Government, are attaching the

highest importance to the fulfilment of the 20-Point Economic Programme.

As I stated earlier, the present term of President's Rule is to expire on the 25th September, 1976. If elections are to be held before this date, the arrangements will have to be made during the monsoons which are quite heavy in the north-eastern region and continue till the middle of October. During this period, the communication remains uncertain and the movement is difficult. This is also the period when the vast majority of people are tied with agricultural operations which provide the mainstay for their economy. The implementation of the Shillong Accord is proceeding apace under the President's Rule in the State and a new atmosphere of peace, harmony and orderly progress is being built up. Holding of elections at this juncture may create new complications which may even provide a setback to the process of normalisation in the State.

It is accordingly felt that peace must be consolidated and further progress made in this direction before elections are held. Government, therefore, is of the considered view that the President's rule in Nagaland should be continued for another period of six months with effect from 26th September, 1976.

With these words, I commend the Resolution for the approval of the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Resolution moved.

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation, dated the 22nd March, 1975, in respect of Nagaland, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 26th September, 1976."

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kamrup): Generally, speaking, we do not support

extension of Proclamations. But if it is the contention of the hon. Minister that because of certain conditions prevailing in Nagaland, after the Naga rebels have almost surrendered themselves and their activities are under check, it is necessary to keep that atmosphere for some time before elections could take place, I think that is a very reasonable stand for Government to take. And we Members of this House cannot possibly oppose any extension of President's rule or demand immediate elections because we are also on extension. So naturally if the life of this House is to be extended because of the abnormal situation for a year, why not extend President's rule in Nagaland for six months?

The question—in Nagaland is this. There is a silver lining which is of great importance. Even the hostile Nagas have realised that hostility has a limited place, that after all they have to remain in United India. That is one reason why the chain between the hostile Nagas and Mr. Phizo, the self-styled great leader of Nagaland, who is in a foreign country, who thought of establishing a link with them from there, who promised them that once he is abroad he would create world opinion in favour of the Naga rebels or hostile Nagas, is broken. Because of the miserable failure on his part despite some malicious propaganda against our Prime Minister and this Government by the western press who supported Mr. Phizo in certain ways, these Nagas have realised and seen the futility of such a movement and ultimately they have become more peace-loving citizens.

Apart from this, one has to remember one thing. These Nagas are honest people. We have seen them during the Republic Day celebrations and in delegations which have come here. They are honest people. They are not like us who sometimes talk hypocritically and so on. If they feel they are against you, they will act up to that; if they feel they are friends with you,

they will equally be friendly with you. That is their characteristic. I am sure they have done this in genuineness in their heart and they have done it with very good intention.

But that is not all. Nagaland has to be developed. Their young men have to be provided with jobs, because Nagaland and the people of Nagaland cannot be controlled merely with the help of the Border Security Force and the CRP. It is an integral part of the country and the people of Nagaland must feel that they are an integral part of India. Nagaland has to be an integral part of India both industrially and agriculturally. Then there will be no trouble. How was this trouble created? There were some sections which went on propagating a separatist tendency, who were telling the people of Nagaland 'We do not belong to India; our culture is different, we should remain separate' and so on. This separatist tendency was much in evidence before the emergency in the country. Now nobody talks of separatism. Time was when in Nagaland, Mizoram etc., there was a constant and sustained propaganda going on telling people 'We are a different people, we are separate from the Indian people' and so on. That tendency has been curbed. But that tendency is there. This has to be combated by imparting proper education to the young children there. They have to be told that they are the sons of the soil of a country which has produced men like Buddha, Gandhi and others.

They should also be made to feel that they are in the stream of our national movement. They should not think that they are a different people. Certain agents were there and they were doing this type of propaganda, namely, people like Michael Scott, etc. were responsible for this situation to some extent. I think their culture should remain what it is; I have seen how jubilant they are; they know how to enjoy life. Groups of Nagas should be taken round the country, not only on 26th January

[S. M. Banerjee]

but at other times also so that they see other people, how they live, etc. so that they may see for themselves that what was propagated in Nagaland by interested parties was absolutely wrong. Under the leadership of Mrs. Gandhi, the country is implementing 20-point programme; they are like any other state and they should also get the benefit. Fortunes and misfortunes should be shared by all alike. The separatist tendency may not be there now; but one should be cautious in one's approach. I congratulate the hon. Minister for releasing all those who were arrested during the time of the earlier movement. A general amnesty should be granted to all because they have surrendered. We should also take steps to promote industries in that region, whether cottage industries or medium or whatever industries. I know it is difficult for the hon. Home Minister to make a statement on industrialisation of Nagaland. My point is that it should be industrialised and made a strong state. It may be a small state but it can be developed industrially, so that when young boys get educated and grow up, opportunities may be there for employment. Otherwise the problem will become serious.

I now come to another point. Some-time back serious charges were made on the floor of the House by several Members how some officers misbehaved; how some women were raped and so on by the CRP men. If this thing continues, it will give a lot of irritation to those people and whatever good has been done will be spoiled. So the jawans and others we send to those areas should behave correctly and they should protect the local people against internal and external danger. They should be the friends of the local people so that the sisters and mothers of Nagaland could feel that the CRP men and others are there for their protection. Some cases of rape etc. were mentioned here; they may be right or they may be wrong. There was some truth because some officers were suspended after some

investigations. The temper and atmosphere should be created for democratic rule because President's rule might have done some good but it cannot continue indefinitely and the ground should be prepared for a fair election as they want an elected assembly. I feel that conditions should be created for a fair election and elections should be held. We are supporting this resolution only because of certain conditions prevailing in Nagaland; otherwise we would not support it.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY:

Sir, I would like to express my thanks to Mr. S. M. Banerjee for ably supporting my resolution. I have not much to differ from the sentiments he has expressed, namely, a lot of separatist propaganda had gone on for a long time and therefore, we have had trouble in Nagaland for the last 20 years. However, luckily with the understanding by the underground Nagas of the realities of the situation etc., a climate for reaching an agreement has been created and an accord has been entered into. You may also note that in fulfilment of the objectives of the accord, we have released the prisoners. We have even returned back the collective fines levied long ago to inspire confidence and faith in them. We have been making available to the Nagaland administration sufficient money for rehabilitating the underground friends who have come over-ground, so that they may be able to live on their own, either on agriculture or by some other means. The Government of India and the State Government have thus been generous in the treatment of the underground Nagas and in their rehabilitation, etc.

I agree that many young people of Nagaland, both boys and girls, should be made to tour the other areas of the country so that they may be enabled to get a feeling of oneness with them and they may also see the developments going on. Therefore, we are trying to see that more and more Naga boys and girls go

to the rest of India and observe the life of the people. It is also true that more employment opportunities have to be created. There is no gainsaying that fact. Sir, you know the area much better than many of us. Several steps are being taken to improve the communications. In that area, communications is one of the most important developments or infrastructure for further development. Therefore, though communications has lower priority in the rest of India in the fifth Plan, thanks to the efforts of our Prime Minister, in the north-eastern region communications is a very high priority item for development of that area. I would request some hon. members to go and see that area now. It should present a different picture than what it was a decade ago. I am glad to see many people there going to the schools and colleges and the university in Shillong. I have no doubt that with more understanding and more cooperation and more development projects coming up there, they would become an integral part of the national mainstream.

You may have noticed during Question Hour or at some other time that a paper mill is being sought to be established, which is a big one, in Nagaland. That is not on behalf of the Nagaland Government, but on behalf of the central sector of the plan. I do not know at what stage it is, but it is being pushed through and it will provide large employment. There is also a sugar factory at Dimapur. We are trying to see that more employment opportunities are made available in the area.

I entirely agree with Shri Banerjee that the officers and others who go there must behave in such a manner as to make the Nagas feel that friends have come to help them. I think we are instilling that sense of responsibility in them.

So far as elections are concerned, certainly they will come in due time. But, at the present moment, as you are aware, it is not opportune to have the elections. We shall certainly bear your
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observation in mind and try to see that Nagaland is not attempted to be perpetually under President's Rule.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation, dated the 22nd March, 1975, in respect of Nagaland, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 26th September, 1976."

The motion was adopted.

15.27 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE. CONTINUANCE IN FORCE OF THE PROCLAMATION IN RESPECT OF TAMIL NADU

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We now take up the next Resolution in respect of Presidential Proclamation on Tamil Nadu.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation dated the 21st January, 1976, in respect of Tamil Nadu, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 10th September, 1976."

Hon. Members would recall that the Proclamation under article 356 of the Constitution issued by the President in relation to Tamil Nadu was approved by this House on the 10th, March, 1976 and will continue to be in force up to the 9th September, 1976. A report on the performance and achievements of the Government during six months of President's Rules in Tamil Nadu has been circ-

[Shri Braumananda Raddy]

ulated to the hon. Members in the House. In view of the legacy left by the previous Government, special emphasis has been laid on providing a clean and efficient administration in the State. Steps have been taken to compulsorily retire the corrupt and inefficient on the one hand, and adequate care has been taken in ensuring proper placement of the officers on the other. Instructions have been issued for speedy redressal of public grievances and for expeditious action in regard to complaints about misuse of power and misconduct on the part of the Government functionaries at lower levels.

There has been a noticeable improvement in the law and order situation in the State. The anti-social elements and the members of banned organisations have been appropriately dealt with under the law. Clandestine circulation of prejudicial literature, which was not earnestly tackled by the previous Government has been brought under control. The labour situation has shown distinct improvement since the imposition of President's Rule and several labour disputes involving non-payment of wages, retrenchments, lay-offs and strikes etc. have been resolved.

Hon. Members would recall that there were complaints earlier that the 20-Point Economic Programme was not being effectively implemented in Tamil Nadu under the previous Government. There has been a vast change in this regard since the imposition of the President's Rule, and the State Government are attaching now the highest importance to the fulfilment of the new Economic programme. In the wake of regulatory and punitive measures undertaken by the Government to ensure more effective distribution of essential commodities, wholesale and retail prices of rice and other essential commodities have registered a noticeable decline. Legislative measures for liquidation of rural debts, socialisation of urban and urbanisable land have already been taken. Other legislative proposals

to provide protection to cultivating tenants, conferment of rights of ownership of house sites on rural artisans have been processed. Legislation for amending the Tamil Nadu Ceiling law is also under the active consideration of the Government. Necessary legislative measures to improve the working of Co-operative Societies and Religious Institutions have also been taken. Effective steps are being taken to rehabilitate the bonded labourers by launching schemes with the assistance of nationalised banks. Several bonded labourers since released have already been rehabilitated by way of assignments of cultivable land.

While all efforts are thus being made for development of the State and welfare of the people, the administration is facing a difficult task on account of the failure of north-east monsoons for the second successive year, resulting in scarcity conditions in 10 out of 15 districts. The Central Government have already sanctioned Rs. 7.5 crores towards drought relief measures. Drought relief measures and relief operations are in full swing in these districts. To overcome the problem of scarcity of drinking water, 32,000 bore-wells have been sunk out of a total programme of 6,300 bore-wells. Soil conservation, afforestation, conventional programmes relating to medium and minor irrigation and roads have been undertaken to provide employment in the affected districts. In July, the employment created was 27 lakh man-days.

The present term of president's Rule in Tamil Nadu is due to expire on the 9th September, 1976. The administrative machinery in the State is now tied down to the urgent task of providing relief to the drought-affected people in the State. Holding of elections before the expiry of the present term of the President's Rule will thus not be possible. It would be desirable also to maintain the current drive in cleaning up the administration and for speedy development and welfare in the State for some time. Gov-

ernment, therefore, is of the view that President's Rule in Tamil Nadu should be continued for another period of six months with effect from 10th September, 1976. Rajya Sabha has already approved the requisite Resolution on the 17th August, 1976.

With these words, I commend the Resolution for the approval of this august House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Resolution moved:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation, dated the 31st January, 1976, in respect of Tamil Nadu, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President for a further period of six months with effect from the 10th September 1976."

We take up the Private Members Business now.

15.31 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SHRI DHAMANKAR (Bhiwandi): I beg to move:

That this house do agree with the 'Sixty-sixth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 17th August, 1976."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is :

"That this House do agree with the 'Sixty-sixth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 17th August, 1976."

The motion was adopted.

15.31½ hrs.

RESOLUTION RE. NATIONAL FOREST POLICY—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We take up further consideration of the following Resolution moved by Mr. P. K. Deo:

"This House notes with concern the large scale denudation of forest in the country and urges upon the Government to have a more pragmatic national forest policy so that 33.3 per cent area of the country is covered by forest."

SHRI M. C. DAGA (Pali): I beg to move:

That in the resolution,—

after "in the country" insert—

“, indifference of the States and formulation of separate policy by them in this matter” (1)

*SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA (Visnupur): MR Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wholeheartedly support the resolution of Shri P. K. Deo regarding national forest policy.

15.32 hrs.

[SHRI VASANT SATHE in the Chair]

The National Forest Policy of 1952 had suggested that steps should be taken to encourage and expand the area under forest in our country and they had also suggested various measures as a result of the implementation of which the country, could have forests extending over 33.3 per cent area of our country. Unfortunately the national forest policy remained a pious wish and we could not do much to increase our forest wealth. After 1952, the next concerted effort made the Government was in 1976 when the report of the National Commission on Agriculture was represented. This is no doubt a very comprehensive report which has made many

*The original speech was delivered in Bengali.

[Shri Ajit Kumar Saha]

recommendations in regard to the development and utilisation of forest wealth. During the last 26 years we have not been able to achieve any progress in regard to the development forests in our country. As per the figures contained in the 1976 report we find that in 1950 the area under man made forest was 29,210 hectares. In 1972 there was a marginal increase of 2-3 per cent of this area and this proves how badly we have been neglecting our natural resources. Not only this even the existing forests are not being utilised fully. A proper utilisation of the forest wealth will go a long way to improve the economic conditions of our country. It will not only help our defence efforts, communications and other industries but it can in a big way help to solve the problem of unemployment which is prevailing in our country in menacing proportions. The administration of the forests is in the hands of the State Governments. From the report referred to above we find that the total number of persons engaged by the Central Government for the maintenance and development of forests is 93502. The number of technical persons engaged by these agencies is however not mentioned in this report. These figures only indicate that we are not paying adequate attention to the forests that they deserve. Not only this the amount of money spent by each State Government for this purpose is also quite insufficient. Paucity of funds is no doubt one of the chief handicaps for the State Governments to develop forests in our country and I would therefore request the Central Government to give liberal assistance to the State Governments so that they can make best use of the forests. Needless to mention, Sir, that the forests are also good foreign exchange earners. During 1973-74 we had exported forest products to a tune of Rs. 95.42 crores. While we earn from forests we still continue to import forest products for our internal

needs. For the same period of 1973-74 we spent a sum of Rs. 46.96 crores for the import of newsprint, paper board and pulp etc. If we can fully develop the man made forests in our country much of the expenditure on import can be curtailed and to that extent our country's economy will be benefited. We get a lot of things from our forests. We get medicinal herbs and honey from the jungles of Sunderbans. I would urge upon the Government to have well chalked out plans for rearing of bees and extraction of honey from the jungles of Sunderbans. This will offer employment to the local people and will also boost our national economy.

I would like to make a special reference about the way the bidi jungles are being utilised at present. There are a number of bidi jungles in the district of Bankura of West Bengal and in the neighbouring State of Orissa. Most of these jungles are still being owned by the private traders. The workers engaged by these traders get a nominal amount of 50/60 Paisa per day and thus the owners corner a huge profit out of the sale of the bidi leaves. The exploitation of these workers is indeed pitiable and I would request the Central Government to exert their influence on these two State Governments so that special legislation is passed, to safeguard the interests of the bidi leaf collectors. I would also request the Central Government to nationalise the forests that are still in private hands. With these measures, I am sure we would be able to make a better progress in the sphere of forest development in the country than before.

श्री मूल चन्द ढागा (पाली) : सभापति जी, जिस प्रकार सदन की ज्यादा शोभा तब तक रह सकती है जब यहां पर अधिक सदस्य उपस्थित हों उसी प्रकार घरती की शोभा तब रह सकती है जब उस पर ज्यादा पेड़ हों। जिस प्रकार की हालत आज इस सदन की है वैसी ही हालत घरती की भी है।

शिन्दे साहब क्षमा करें, आपके खेती के विभाग ने सारे कामों में सफलता प्राप्त की, करोड़ों टन अनाज पैदा कर दिया लेकिन अगर किसी काम के लिए आपको सब से बड़ा दोषी ठहराने की हिम्मत करें तो वह यह है कि हिन्दुस्तान में जंगल कम हो गए। प्या भी खर्च हुआ लेकिन कुछ हुआ भी नहीं।

इसका कारण आप दे नहीं सकते हैं, फ्रीमन एक बात कहेंगे कि यह स्टेट मजबूत है और स्टेट आपकी बात मानती नहीं है। मैं संकल्प रखने वाले सज्जन को जरूर धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ, वन नीति जरूर बननी चाहिये, एक राष्ट्रीय वन नीति जरूर बननी चाहिए। लेकिन इसका सरकार पर क्या असर पड़ेगा—मैं नहीं जानता। बहुत सी कमेटियाँ बनीं, उनकी रिपोर्ट आई, आप एस्टीमेट्स कमिटी की अभी हाल की एक रिपोर्ट को देखिये—यह 65वीं रिपोर्ट है, इसमें कमिटी जंगलों के बारे में कहती है—

“The Committee feel greatly concerned that no concrete steps have been taken so far and the very first step suggested in the First Five-Year plan document that an immediate reconnaissance survey of wasteland be made so as to know how much of wasteland would be available in every state and what proportion of wasteland would be suitable for raising plantations has now been included in the Fifth Five-Year Plan....”

पहली पंचवर्षीय योजना में यह बात तय हुई कि देखा जाय कि हिन्दुस्तान में वेस्ट लैंड कितनी हैं जहाँ पर पेड़ लगाए जा सकते हैं, लेकिन 18 साल के बाद यह काम हुआ। शिन्दे साहब इस बात को जरूर कुबूल कर लेंगे, क्योंकि वे एक सज्जन आदमी हैं, वे अपने मन की बात को स्पष्ट तौर से कह देते हैं। वे अभी भी यही कहेंगे कि तरकीब करेंगे। लेकिन मैं यह नहीं समझ पाता हूँ इसकी वजह क्या है, पांचवीं पंचवर्षीय

योजना आ गई, 18 साल के बाद यह सर्वे हुआ कि हिन्दुस्तान में कितनी वेस्ट लैंड है जहाँ पेड़ लगाये जा सकते हैं—

“The Committee had urged that effective steps should be taken by the Board to increase the forest area in the various states where possibilities therefor existed, as during a period of 15 years, i. e., after the adoption of the National Forest Policy Resolution in 1952 till 1966-67, about two million hectares, registering an increase of only 6 per cent in the forest area was added.”

18 साल के बाद यह सर्वे हो सका कि हिन्दुस्तान में इतनी वेस्ट लैंड है जिस पर पेड़ लगाये जा सकते हैं। अभी हमारे पाराशर जी हिल स्टेशन की प्लानिंग की बाबत कह रहे थे, दिक्कत यह है कि हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार बहुत ढंग से और धीरे धीरे काम करती है। 18 साल बाद तो यह सर्वे हुआ अब जंगलों की क्या हालत है—मैं आप को बतलाऊँ—जंगलों के संबंध में हमारे जो कानून हैं वह 1927 में बना था। बार बार कमिटी ने सजेस्ट किया और यहाँ भी कहा गया कि इस कानून में संशोधन कीजिये, इस कानून को बदलिये, लेकिन भगवान जाने, क्या बात है, यहाँ पर कोई भी इस बात को नहीं चाहता है। स्टेट्स को इस के बारे में कहा गया उन्होंने इस काम को नहीं किया। राज्यों को मालूम ही नहीं था कि उन के राज्यों में कितनी जमीन विल्डफारेस्ट्स के लिये उपलब्ध है, कितनी जमीन प्रटेक्टिड फारेस्ट्स में है। नेशनल पार्क आप ने बनाये हैं, वह बात अलग है। जंगलों की हालत गाँवों में भी बिगड़ी हुई है। आँका रेजोल्यूशन क्या था।

“The Ministry has been pleading with the States through the forum of CBF as well as through National

[श्री मूलबन्द डागा]

Development Council to increase the forest area and bring it upto the level recommended in the National Forest Policy (There is little doubt that every State and Union Territory must have a minimum of 33 per cent of its land area under forests). However, it is brought to the notice of the Estimates Committee that Centre is in no statutory position to enforce the recommendations of the Central Board of Forestry."

The centre is in no statutory position.

विकल साहब भी बैठे हुये हैं। वह भी कृषि मंत्री उत्तर प्रदेश में रह चुके हैं। मैं एग्रिकल्चर की बात कर रहा हूँ जो इस से जुड़ी हुई है। वह कहते हैं कि हमें कोई पावर ही नहीं है।

"In the absence of statutory authority in the Government of India, it would be hardly possible to enforce the recommendation of the National Development Council that no forest area be disforested for the purpose of extension of cultivation and that suitable wastelands be afforested to compensate for the areas already lost. Under the Constitution forests are included in the State list of VII Scheduled of the Constitution. As such, unless a suitable amendment is carried out in the Constitution the Centre would find it extremely difficult to enforce the recommendation of N. D. C."

मैं शिन्दे साहब से प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि इस एमरजेंसी में वह चुकें नहीं। आप कानून लायें और इस को लागू करें। यह एक सुनहरी मौका है। अब कानून पास भी बहुत जल्दी होता है। अब आप चुक गये तो यह मौका आप के हाथ नहीं आयेगा आप को अपनी नीति फारेस्ट्स

के बारे में स्पष्ट करनी होगी। इस से आपको फारेन एकसबेंज मिलती है। 78 करोड़ की आप को मिली भी है। जंगलों से आप को जलाने के लिये लकड़ी मिलती है। उद्योगों के लिये आप को रा मेटैरियल जंगलों में से मिलता है। आदिवासियों की तो आत्मा ही जंगलों से जुड़ी हुई है; उन की तो जीविका ही इस पर निर्भर करती है। लेकिन हुआ क्या है। वहाँ पर कुछ ठेकेदार आ गये हैं और उन्होंने इन जंगलों को लाभ उठाना शुरू कर दिया है। इन की आजीविका का साधन इनसे छूट गया है। सरकार ने फारेस्ट्स के मामले में अपनी नीति अभी तक भी माफ में नहीं बनाई है। कमेटी की रिपोर्ट में आपने खुद कहा है कि हम इसमें कुछ नहीं कर सकते हैं। जब आप ही कहते हैं कि आप कुछ नहीं कर सकते हैं तो हम आपको क्या राय दें। कमेटी ने कहा है :

"The Committee are distressed to note that in spite of Committee's recommendation and Government's acceptance of the same at the action taken stage in early 1970 that a comprehensive review of the working of the Commission should be made...."

अब रिव्यू भी चार साल में न हुआ है। आपको एयर कंडीशंड मकानों का मोह त्यागना होगा और जंगलों को लगवाना होगा। मैं यह भी कहूँगा कि जो वृक्ष आप लगावाएँ वे छायादार होने चाहियें, घने होने चाहियें फलदार होने चाहियें। संजय जी ने एक नारा बहुत अच्छा और सुन्दर दिया है और वह पेड़ लगाने के बारे में दिया है। फलदार पेड़ लगाने के बजाय सफेदे के पेड़ लगाए जा रहे हैं लम्बे लम्बे। 50-60 लाख जो लगने हैं वे घने होने चाहियें। आपने राज्यों को कहा कि वे इतने लगाएँ और उन्होंने गिनती पूरी करने के लिए सफेदे के लगा दिए जो जल्दी जमीन को पकड़ते हैं। इन पेड़ों को लगाने का खर्चा तो कम आता है लेकिन

इनके इन्हीं गिर्द जो जंगल लगाई जाते हैं उस पर ज्यादा खर्च आ जाता है। साढ़े तीन सौ के करीब उस पर खर्च आ जाता है।

बड़ा कमाल है भाई छोटी छोटी म्युनिसिपैलिटीज में मैं ने देखा कि जितने पेड़ लगाये जा रहे हैं, पी० डब्ल्यू० डी०, इरीगेशन डिपार्टमेंट और युवक कांग्रेस द्वारा, यह हमारे लिये लाभप्रद है। लेकिन आप फल वाले पेड़ लगवाइये। यह कानून 1927 का है, प्लानिंग कमिशन ने सिफारिश की जो मैं आगे बताऊंगा, उस में लिखा है कि रात के अंधेरे में चोरी होती है जंगलों में, या उन के पिलर्स हटा देते हैं या जंगलों को जला देते हैं। हमारे यहां एक पानरवा जंगल था मेरे क्षेत्र में जिस में आदमी दिन में भी बिना टाँच लिये नहीं जा सकता था। इतना घना जंगल था। लेकिन अपने लाभ के लिये उस का सत्यानाश कर दिया। उदयपुर के हिस्से में आदिवासी लोग उससे अपना गुजारा करते थे। आज वह भिखमंगे हो गये। इतना उत्पादन उस जंगल से होता था।

कोई अगर जंगल को जला दें तो सजा क्या है ?

He shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 6 months or with fine.

और फाइन अगर हो जाय तो उस का कोई अमर नहीं होता क्योंकि उस से अधिक का लाभ आदमी कर लेते हैं। एक पेड़ ले आये और उस का सोफा बनवा लिया। तो 1927 के ऐक्ट के बाद काफी खिलवाड़ हुई है। इस ऐक्ट में आपको रद्दोबदल करनी पड़ेगी। लेकिन इस के बारे में मीटिंग ही नहीं होती, कोई कार्यवाही ही नहीं हो पाती।

नैशनल फ्रीरेस्ट पोलिसी रिजोल्यूशन पर कितनी बार कमेटी बैठती है। 1952 से आज कितने साल हो गये। मैं धन्यवाद देता हूँ उस आदमी को जिस ने इतने बड़े प्रश्न की ओर ध्यान दिलाया।

The National Forest policy envisages that two thousand crores of trees would be necessary to restore hydrological balance.

बहुत बड़ा पैसा, जो नष्ट हो रहा है कि पेड़ का सवाल ही नहीं रहा। कई जगहों पर पेड़ ही नहीं रहे। ठेकेदारों ने उन को काट कर पैसे कमा लिये और लोगों ने खेती के लिये जमीन दे दी जहाँ चाहा। और कोई कानून नहीं इस को चेक करने के लिये। इसलिये इस बारे में यूनीफ़ॉर्म ला बनना बहुत जरूरी है। जब तक एक यूनीफ़ॉर्म कानून नहीं बनाया जायगा, तब तक जंगलों को नही बचाया जा सकेगा। नैशनल कमिशन आन एग्रीकल्चर ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा है :

"There may be genuine apprehension in the States that an all India Act would introduce an element of rigidity, which may not meet the special problems concerning forestry in a State. Under Article 252 (2) of the Constitution, 'any Act so passed by parliament (on any of the matters included in the State List) may be amended or repealed by an Act of Parliament passed or adopted in like manner but shall not, as respects any State to which it applies be amended or repealed by an Act of the Legislature of that State.' It is likely that some of the States would be unwilling to give up their power of amending Forest Acts, whenever considered expedient. It should, however, be possible to frame an all-India Act in such a manner that the States are free to make subsidiary rules and regulations under the Act to meet any special situations."

नैशनल कमिशन आन एग्रीकल्चर की सिफारिश है कि इस संबंध में एक कानून बनाया जाये। इस लिये सरकार को इस दिशा में कदम उठाना चाहिये।

गांवों के बेरोजगार लोगों को काम देने के लिये फ़ारेस्ट वेल्थ इंडस्ट्रीज स्थापित करने पर गौर करना चाहिए।

[श्री मूलचन्द डागा]

कमीशन ने जो रेजोल्यूशन पास किया है, वह मैं आप की सेवा में रखना चाहता हूँ :

"In view of what has been stated above, the revised national policy of India be based on the following important needs of the country:—

- (i) Managing the forest resources of the country so as to provide maximum goods and services for the well-being of the people and economic progress of the country;
- (ii) Checking denudation and erosion in mountainous regions and catchments of rivers on which depend perennial stream flows, fertility of the land in the catchment and the useful life of dams and reservoirs;

* * * * *

- (iii) Providing recreational and tourist opportunities in the forests without impairment of forest....."

मैं वचन से देख रहा हूँ कि राजस्थान के हिल स्टेशन, माउंट आबू, पर बड़े बड़े रिटायर्ड अफसरों ने बंगने बना लिए हैं। वे लोग रिटायर होने से पहले ही जंगल के एरिया में अपने लिए जमीन खरीद लेते हैं। इस लिए अब माउंट आबू का कोई सौन्दर्य नहीं रहा है। सब जगह बंगले ही बंगले बन गये हैं। चाहे मैयूरन जाड़े चाहे महाभुलेश्वर जाड़े। अब शिन्दे साहब का बन रहा हो तो मुझे पता नहीं मुझे गये बहुत दिन हो गये। तो यह हिल स्टेशनों पर बंगले बनाने की एक हवा चल पड़ी है। सभी हिल स्टेशनों पर बंगले बन गए। शिमला का क्या सौन्दर्य रहा? यह पाराशर साहब जानते होंगे, सब जंगल खा गए। माल रोड जरूर बन गई है, उस माल रोड पर घूम लीजिये, लेकिन जंगल का जो सौन्दर्य था वह अब नहीं रहा। फारेस्ट एरिया के अंदर जो रिक्रिएशन होना चाहिये वह सब अब नहीं रहा। बस लोगों ने अपने बंगले वहाँ बना लिए हैं। लोग देखते हैं कि जमीन सस्ती मिल गई, पहाड़

का पत्थर लेकर मकान बना लिया। यह बिल्कुल मना होना चाहिए। जंगल के अंदर यह चीज नहीं होनी चाहिये।

फारेस्ट एरिया के अंदर टूरिस्ट सेंटर्स बनने चाहिए। जिस प्रकार जो घने जंगल उन को नेशनल पार्क बना देते हैं ऐसे ही हमारे देश के अंदर भी इतकी जरूरत है। लेकिन उस के अंदर भी कोई तरक्की नहीं हो रही है। उस को भी गिरावट आ गई है। आज फारेस्ट की जमीन कम हो गई। 33 परसेंट कहने थे कि जंगल होना चाहिए। लेकिन वह नहीं है। हर पंचायत को उस के लिये एक जमीन देनी चाहिए। पहले जमाने में हमारे राजस्थान में ऐसा था, उस को प्रोटेक्टेड फारेस्ट कहते थे, हम उस को ओरान कहने हैं उस में कोई आदमी कभी भी लकड़ी नहीं काटता कोई उस में हाथ नहीं लगाता वह जंगल का जंगल रहता है। जो लकड़ी अपने आप गिर जाती है उसी को लेते हैं। इनने घने जंगल अब बहुत थोड़े रह गए हैं। अब तो हर आदमी उस को उजाड़ने की कोशिश करता है। और इन फारेस्ट्स का जितना नुकसान हम लोगों ने नहीं किया उस से ज्यादा नुकसान फारेस्ट डिपार्टमेंट के लोगों ने किया है। ये जितने फारेस्ट के आफिसर्स मालदार हुए हैं ये सब जंगल की सम्पत्ति को लूट कर मालदार हुए हैं। इन्होंने बिल्कुल धरती को नंगा कर दिया। यही सब से ज्यादा फारेस्ट का नुकसान करते हैं। आप कोन हैं—रेंजर साहब आप कोन हैं—डिप्टी रेंजर साहब, आप कोन हैं—चीफ कंजर्वेटर आफ फारेस्ट्स भगवान जाने कितने आफिसर्स हैं। ये जंगल की सब लकड़ी बेच कर खा गये। मुझे तो जब कोई पेड़ काटता है उस पर कुल्हाड़ी चलाता है तो ऐसा मालूम होता है कि जैसे किसी आदमी को मार रहा हो। हरे भरे पेड़ काट डाले जाते हैं। ये सारे रेंजर्स इतनी गड़बड़ करते हैं

जितनी कोई नहीं करता। और ये रिसर्च करने वाले रिसर्च क्या करते हैं? देहरादून में क्या है? इन की कमेटी की रिपोर्ट आप देखें। मैं अगर ज्यादा पढ़ूंगा तो आप कहेंगे कि डागा पढ़ पढ़ कर बातें करता है। तो आप खुद देख लीजिए। मैं ने तो यही देखा और मैं यही कहना चाहता हूँ कि पेड़ और लगाइए और जो है उन को रहने दीजिए, उन को काटिए मत। जंगल के बारे में शिन्डे साहब से मैं प्रार्थना करूंगा कि इस एमर्जेंसी में कोई ऐसा कानून आप ले आएँ। मैं माननीय सदस्य को धन्यवाद देता हूँ जो प्रस्ताव ले आए, उस में मैं ने जो अमेंडमेंट दिया है वह इस लिये कि सारी स्टेट्स के अंदर एक यूनिफार्मिटी ला के मामले में हो सके और जंगलों की तरफ वे विशेष रूप से ध्यान दें।

16-00 hrs.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : Mr. Chairman it is perhaps a coincidence of history and our civilisation that the greatest feature of our land is that it is the land of Lord Budha who was born under a tree. He has said something about forests. I want to quote it.

Lord Budha said :

"The forest is a peculiar organism of unlimited kindness and benevolence that makes no demands for its sustenance, extends generously its life activity, affords protection to all beings, offering shade even to the axeman who destroys it".

Whatever latest information is available about our forests, it is disquieting; it shows that in recent years our country has lost five million acres of rich forest land. Today only 22 per cent of the total land area in our country is under forests, whereas the limit stipulated in the national forest policy resolution says that at least 33.3 per cent, that is, one third of the

total area should be under forests. Even the 22 per cent I mentioned is the average; there are states in India where the total area under forests is only 5-6 per cent of the total land area of the state. I think with proper scientific management of our forest wealth, we could add to our national wealth every year about Rs. 1000 crores in terms of land fertility, manure to our fields, fuel wood, etc. It is itself a modest figure. Today we get products worth about Rs. 30 crores while we spend nearly Rs. 22 crores for the upkeep and maintenance of the forest resources and wealth. You can see how unutilised this wealth is. Added to this, during the last two decades, deforestation has been going on at three times the rate of afforestation. India had 15 per cent of the world's population but only two per cent of the world's forest area. As a result of deforestation, fully half of India's land surface has been rendered unusable due to erosion, floods and water logging. Millions of acres of top soil has been washed away every year and the total loss of fertilisers in that soil so washed away is even greater than India's annual production of chemical fertilisers, including imported fertilisers. Some scientists have calculated that so erosion had already ruined millions of hectares of cultivated land reducing them to submarginal levels. Because forest area is shrinking fuel wood is not available to the teeming millions in our countryside. In December 1927 Gandhi was on his foot march and when he was walking all over Orissa, he was at one place called Bolgan in my area and he had written that he saw a man belonging to the weaker sections of our society, a Scheduled Castes man bringing fuel wood to sell in the market.

Today that continues and one has to work for the whole day to get some fuel wood to sell in the market, which will bring him Rs. 1.50 or 2 a day. Because the forests are shrinking, the whole family has to go miles and miles to collect this wood. According to an estimate, nearly 400 million tonnes of wet dung is used for

[Shri Chhatmani Panigrahi]

domestic fuel in India annually, which amounts to burning up fertiliser equivalent to the production of more than eight Sindri fertiliser plants. Nearly four million hectares of utilisable land had been permanently lost to productive agriculture through the formation of ravines.

Mr. Daga has already quoted from the Estimates Committee's report. In 1974-75, the Estimates Committee has stated in its report that the National Forest Policy Resolution envisaged that 2000 crores of trees would be necessary to restore the hydrological nutritional balance of the country and under the Land Transformation Programme of the Central Government, planting of 30 crores of trees during ten years was planned, but government had not undertaken any specific scheme under this programme

About the development of forest roads, the committee states

"The committee are concerned to note that against the target of 11,050 KM of roads to be constructed during the fourth five year plan, the likely achievement by the end of the plan would be 7,100 KM only, a shortfall of about 36% "

I have seen that in the Simlipal National Park in Mayurbhanj district in my State, called 'Project Tiger' by the Government of India, the tigress Khairi and other animals are attracting thousands of tourists. It is one of the most beautiful spots in the world you can sit till 8 or 9 o'clock in the night and watch the deer, buffaloes, tigers and other animals. But there is not a single mile of good road in that 4000 sq mile area. I do not think much money has been spent out of the money allotted for Project Tiger in developing this national park. I have my own personal experience also. Near Mahanadi there is an area called Badaallinga where 30,000 tribals reside. There is not one

KM of road there, not to speak of primary health centres, etc. As you know, Kendu leaves are used to prepare birla and in my State the forests provide employment to 2 lakhs of people. In the whole country, the forests provide employment to about 30 lakh of people. Under the 20 point programme, our aim is to provide employment to millions of people. I think a scientific management of forests can provide employment to 10 million people every year.

Some of the East African countries are earning as much as Rs. 100 crores in foreign exchange from their wild life sanctuaries. We can double this income if we can properly develop wild life sanctuaries in this country. Some experts have suggested that if you invest Rs 1,125 crores in a phased manner, India can be made green. I do not know how much money the government will be able to spend and what the planners have thought about it. But Shri Sanjay Gandhi's call to the vast masses of youth to make India green by their involvement is a very timely programme and it has enthused the youth. I have gone to UP, Bokaro and other places and I have seen how the youths can be involved in planting trees.

Though the Government of India have made some efforts during the last 27 years to make India green, they have not met with much success. But if this call is implemented, if the youth are determined to make India green, the way they are replanting I can say that the coming 25 years would be the greening of India, and it is the youth of India which will involve itself in this task.

Here I want to say that one of the biggest sources of blackmoney which has not been plugged so far is the forest contractors. The way they are plundering the forest wealth of this country, it is really surprising why the Government have not taken any strong measures against them.

We are saying that we are going to amend the Constitution to include education in the Concurrent List. It is our suggestion that forest wealth should also be included in the Concurrent List, so that the Centre can get involved in the implementation of this programme of making India green in the coming few Years. In fact a proposal in this regard has been brought before the Prime Minister and it may come before the Cabinet very soon. I hope that Shri Shinde, who is determined to do something when the Government intended to do something, will pay some attention to this problem.]

SHRI B. V. NAIK (Kanara) : Mr Chairman, like our learned friend Shri Panigrahi, I also come from a forest area. There is not much that it can add to what has been said on this subject by the Mover of the Resolution, Shri Deo, with all his concern for the forests, and Shri Daga and Shri Panigrahi.

The main thrust of the Resolution seems to be to have 33 per cent of the Indian sub-continent as forest areas. I am sure that Shri Deo has in mind is not a uniform 33 per cent for all States, because there could be states which will have forests more than the prescribed limit of 33 per cent, while there may be other States which have very little scope for having forests. For instance, take the Ingo-Gangetic plain, where we cannot think of having 33 per cent of forests. At the same time, in the sub-Himalayan range, from where Shri Mahajan comes, or the Western Ghat area, the forest area will be more than 33 per cent. I hope what the mover meant is an average of 33 per cent, whereas the present average is only round about 20 to 22 per cent.

I come from a district (I am not referring to my constituency, which is much bigger) which has 4,500 sq. miles of forests. At one time, 85 per cent of the area of that district was under forests; now it has come down to 65 per cent. I am referring to the district of North Canara, with which Shri

Shinde is familiar, which is on the West Coast, which has the densest forests in the whole state of Karnataka. We give the State exchequer Rs. 18 to Rs. 20 crores of forest revenue every year. The injustice that is being done to the forest areas, which I am afraid has not yet been highlighted, at the political level, is entirely being done by the nonforest areas of this country. The forest areas are being treated today as very convenient sources of revenue where you invest nothing. For an industry you have to invest in capital, for agriculture you have to invest in inputs, you have to provide credit and infrastructure but when it comes to the cutting down of forests, you do it indiscriminately. I will not say what the baser officials in the bureaucratic machinery do when it comes to a question of linking with the forest contractors who are sources of revenue for other purposes, but taking the right royal path by which money goes into and comes out of the Consolidated Fund of India, you take Rs. 20 crores and you are not paying back or ploughing back into the forests even Rs. 1 crore. How can we think in terms of the lofty resolution of Mr. P. K. Deo that the whole country should become green and that there should be forests growing galore in the whole country? It is plainly impossible until and unless the Government of India comes down with a firm hand and says that at least 50 per cent should be put back into the forest out of what is taken out as forest revenue, with an exceedingly good price for timber. Then, you will be able to keep the forests neat and intact, in a wonderful condition. You have not been doing it.

When our Home Minister, Shri Brahmananda Reddy, was the Chairman of the Sixth Finance Commission, I brought this to his kind notice, but unfortunately it fell on sympathetic but deaf ears. There is in certain areas, in regard to finance, what we call indigenous colonialism. It is not imported. Multi-national and other people are involved in it, it is plan, indigenous, made-in-India colonialism when the

[Shri B. V. Naik]

backward areas of this country, more particularly the hilly and forest areas, are made to serve the interests of the more advanced parts of the country and that is where exploitation takes place right under our own nose when we want to remove regional imbalances. I am afraid the Research and other wings of the Government of India have not been able to pay their attention to it. Therefore, the request for the inclusion of forests in the Concurrent List has not come a day too soon. It is most perfectly timed.

You have constituted the Indian Forest Service as one of the All India Services, but who are the persons who have been taken into this service? The same old bureaucrats who had made their names as corrupt officials and Rangers in the State service. Could you not find better people? It contains the same people who colluded with the lumber and forest contractors for fighting out their cases in the Supreme Court regarding their seniority etc. The same people are back again in the Indian Forest Service. What guarantee is there and what assurance that it will deliver the goods?

My friend Shri Daga may not know that there are a dozen ways in which the forests can be denuded. The marking is done by the Forest Guard. All of us from the forest areas know that an area of about 200 or 300 acres is earmarked and then there is a clearance around it, but the forest contractor simply goes into the adjacent area and nobody prevents him, he cuts down the trees, stacks them and sells them and makes up his quota. There is a lot of smuggling of sandalwood. I am afraid that with the forest policy as at present and the Indian Forest Service constituted as at present of officers who are in the hands of the lumber contractors and the forest contractors who carry on the duties of the forest policy, as at present, your entire for-

ests in this country, particularly at least as far as my district is known, on my personal experience, are not going to reach 33 per cent. your forests are heading towards extinction and in the process, quite a few people will become fabulously rich. But your whole country and its ecological balance will be distorted and destroyed beyond recognition.

I would, therefore, welcome the Resolution. But will the hon. Minister on such a vital subject which concerns our ecological balance, the rainfall, the monsoons, the timeliness of monsoons and more important the resources which can be multiplied, do something concrete? I think, the per acre yield of forest in this country stands at about Rs. 25 to Rs 30 as compared to about Rs. 350 to 400 in a country like Germany with reserved forests. 1:10 is the ratio. It is possible to make our own forests more productive, give encouragement to those areas in order to protect and preserve their forests by starting forest-based industries. Thank God, we had a very good example of forest-based industries started. But now they are going for want of funds. I hope, the hon. Minister will think in terms of a Forest Development Corporation being ably assisted by Central assistance in order to see that what is taken out is fed back there. If that is done, we can reach 33 per cent and we can have a green India.

DR. V. K. R. VARADARAJA RAO (Bellary): Mr Chairman, Sir I thought it was my duty to take part in this discussion. I had read about this item.

We have been talking a great deal about the forest policy, afforestation and so on and, I think, it was nearly 20 or 2 years ago that *Vanamohatsava* was started if I am not mistaken, by the then Minister of Agriculture, late Mr. K. M. Munshi. Since then, every year there is a ritual when all VIPs. go and plant trees. Some

times they are photographed; sometimes they are not photographed. But nobody hears afterwards about those trees. One day, Mr. Shinde will be in that same position, having to talk about previous history of planting trees. Life is always at a tangent. I was not the Minister in-charge of forests at any time. Mr Shinde happens to be the Minister of Agriculture for the Last 12 years. At least, he should be in a position to say something about what has happened to trees which we have been planting for the last 12 years. He should be able to say at least about some of the trees planted about 10 or 9 years ago.

We have the *Vanamahatsava*. But we have never heard about follow-up, whether after three months or 20 or 15 days, the VIP who planted the tree even enquires as to what has happened to the tree that he had planted. I do not know whether anything like follow-up of the tree plantation programme is there. For a long time I have been feeling that one of the most neglected aspects of Indian agricultural economy is the forests. We have been doing very well as far as foodgrains crops are concerned and also some of the cash crops even though many of the cash crops are wanting in inventive and innovative research. But not enough has been done as far as the forests are concerned.

We have got a very good organisation, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. We have got various research institutes dealing with various crops, various climates, local-based research region-based research and so on. But I do not know whether the kind of research attention which is given to agricultural crops is given to forest crops also. We give a lot of attention to agricultural crops. We are now giving some attention to dairy, not indeed as much as it ought to be. When we come down to forests, we seem to think that it grows by itself. Forests grow by themselves they die by themselves and they regrow by themselves. I know I am caricaturing. But I am doing it deliberately because

it seems to me that one of the most important sources of nation-building, national development in this country is the increase of our forest wealth. It is not merely a question of exploitation of the existing one, but it is a question of adding to our forest wealth, making use of the land which is unfit for anything except as forests. The other day I was talking to a very distinguished scientist. He said that the problem of Rajasthan could be solved when a heavy rainfall was there; they had so many programmes ready, and as soon as there was a heavy rainfall, they would immediately plant millions of trees, and once that was done, later on they would be able to fend for themselves because they only needed so much heavy rains initially. I do not know whether that programme has been fulfilled in Rajasthan or not. I think, this year there has been a lot of rainfall. This was told to me a couple of years ago.

It seems to me that there has got to be a very systematic attempt at afforesting areas which are not afforested now and also at seeing that the forests which exist do not disappear. It is not merely a question of wild animals, tigers and so on. I know, tigers are important. But more than that, the most important raw material base today in the world is forest. There was a time when gas was not a base at all, gas was being burnt away after the oil was found. But now gas has become a most important raw material. As important as mines, even more important than minerals, are forests. And what is the amount of money that we are spending to see that our forest wealth is sustained, maintained, expanded and increased. It seems to me that some kind of an evaluation on the subject, either in this discussion or elsewhere, will be a useful thing to do, because, the country's attention must be focussed on our forest problems and forest policy. It should not be viewed merely from the point of view of spectacular public demonstration effect.

[Dr. V. K. R. Varadaraja Rao]

But taking advantage of the public demonstration effect, we should see to it that we have some time-bound programme of forest development, region-wise, which can be progressed, monitored and evaluated.

I would like to mention something on which I have been very much distressed. A long time back—this again goes back to my previous history, because I was not only a Minister like my friend, Mr. Shinde, but I also happened to be in the Planning Commission before that, I hope, Mr. Shinde will, one day, find himself in that place and then he will know what happens to Plan—in the Planning Commission we had a concrete programme of village forests. Everybody says that villages have no fuel, that the villagers are using as fuel all the manure and so on. The Prime Minister mentioned the other day about the use of bio-gas and so on. This has helped some people, but the poorest people are not only between the Devil and the deep sea but they are getting into the deep sea. It is an economic necessity which drives the village people to use as fuel what, they know, is much more useful as a fertiliser. But what are we doing for their fuel requirements? A long time back we had a programme, in the Ministry of Agriculture, of village forests: we were supposed to take in each village a certain amount of wasteland and there was to be a programme of growing quick-growing fuel-usable woods which would supply the village with its fuel requirements. This programme must be more than 13 or 14 years old. I want the Minister to tell the House what has happened to this programme, how many villages have got the village fuel forests, whether that programme has been successful, whether there have been any difficulties, whether the panchayats have been able to do it or not, what exactly is the position regarding village fuel requirements.

In my state it was during the period of one of the previous Chief Ministers—there was a big programme for planting the State with eucalyptus. There is such a thing as industrial forests. So many things are required for industrial purposes. Have you any Programme for industrial forests? Have you marked out the areas where industrial forests can be planted? Sometimes we get factories on the basis of the existing forests, and after ten years, the factories find that the supply is exhausted and there is no way of replanting. The Minister knows the case I am referring to. Is there a policy regarding industrial forests not merely in words, but in actual details, in terms of plants, regions, commodities, investment, machinery for operation and so on?

I am very glad that my friend, Mr. Daga, referred to bungalows in hill stations. I am not saying that people should not go and live in hill station, but at least when these people go to hill stations, they need not carry the magnificence of Malabar Hill. Why do they want to carry all their urban magnificence to those places?

You can certainly lay down a law. You can say, 'Nobody can build a house in hill area bigger than such and such size and you can tell them that only in these places you can build your house'. Therefore I welcome the suggestion which has been made by my friend that we must have some kind of a good, real and restrictive policy regarding house construction in hill areas, not only to preserve the beauty but also to see that the forests in those hill areas are protected.

I would just like to say one or two words before I finish. Both my friends said

'put forests on the Concurrent List'. Sir, I would like to go on record in this House that putting a thing with which you are not satisfied, in the Concurrent List does not mean that the problem is going to be solved. — I have the greatest respect for the Government of India, having functioned in its midst, but I do not think that the Government of India, located in Delhi, is capable of doing all the things that are prescribed as governmental functions. India is a vast country. It is a big country and this is a very simple answer, 'If anything goes wrong, put it in the Concurrent List'. But have you thought whether the Centre has got all the machinery to implement and all the resources for handling all the problems? I can tell you my experience, both as a Member of the Planning Commission and as a Central Minister. I find the State officials are far more committed because they are much more in touch with the people. The central officials are removed by two or three removes from the people at large whereas your District Officials and the State Officials, the State Agricultural Officer and others are very much more concerned with it. Therefore, I would like to say that this solution of putting every thing in the Concurrent List is no solution at all. I would like to strongly go on record as opposing this suggestion that in order to have a better forest policy you should put it in the Concurrent List. I do not mind having preservation of wild life in the Concurrent List. Certainly put all the lions, tigers, bisons — not buffaloes — and all that kind of wild animals in the Concurrent List and I am sure the Central Government will be able to tackle them, but do not put all the forests in the Concurrent List.

Finally, I just wanted to say how strongly I felt about a very important problem. That is about the catchment areas. Do you know in many of the catchment

areas one of the reasons why we are having this trouble about monsoon — as a matter of fact in the olden days we never had power cuts and reservoirs and rivers not filling up and it is only a matter of the last 15-20 years is that the catchment areas are not being looked after properly.

The Minister knows it very well. We also know that in the case of irrigation the most important thing is the protection of the catchment areas. But all the water comes there but does not go through and flow down properly. If there is no proper forest policy regarding catchment areas, not only you do not get the water there but when you get the water you also get a lot of erosion. The silt is carried, good soil is lost and a great deal of land also gets lost. Therefore, I think a catchment areas forest policy, industrial forest policy and village/wood forest policy and a hill area forest policy — all these are required.

I would like to suggest to the hon Minister. I know there is a book — a fat 13 or 20 Volumes book brought out by the National Commission on Agriculture. But unfortunately, we, the Members of Parliament are all very busy and we have got to do so many things and it is very difficult for us to read the 20 volumes even if one wants to do it. I would suggest: let Mr. Shinde who is a lover of agriculture and a very committed Minister, get a white paper prepared by his Ministry to let us know what the facts are about our forests. I was asking Mr. Deo who was just sitting behind me as to what is the percentage of forests. He says it is only 22.5%. I do not believe it because what is called even a shrub is included in forests. Now *Parthenium* grows wildly in Delhi and after some time,

[Dr. V.K.R. Varadachari Rao]

the Parthenium forests also will form part of the 22.5% forests. As we know, in the olden days, we used to have so much cultivable waste and everybody thought that India has 100 million acres of land and this can be brought under extensive cultivation. But when we went into great detail, we found it was not 100 million acres but it was only 14-15 million acres. Therefore, let us have some proper classification, let us know what our forests are, let us know what is our forest policy, what is the present position, what is the Budget and I think it is possible for us to do. After all, the State Governments are depending on the Central Government for assistance, for technical assistance as well as financial assistance. It seems to me a white paper on these lines can be made. This is the time when the youth of the country are taking to afforestation and to tree-planting in a big way. The country's attention is being focussed on the subject of tree plantation and afforestation. So let us know and I have no doubt that we have all the material in the Ministry. Let a White Paper be brought about quickly about the forest wealth of India, its current status, its utilisation and the policy needed to make the forests a very important, productive and accelerating factor in Indian economic development, rural development as well as employment.

SHRI D. K. PANDA (Bhanjanagar):

I need not go much into the theoretical proposition already placed before the House. In the report, which has been brought out by the Commission on Agricultural Development, there is one volume which is specially devoted to forest development.

It is recognised that it is a renewable natural resource. How this can be developed? This is our main objective. While these recommendations are there, we can repeat them several times, there is no harm; truth can be repeated several

times. But so far as the hon. Minister is concerned, he knows very well what those recommendations are. Members have repeated the same thing. While I do not wish to repeat the same thing, I would like to bring one aspect to his attention.

There are short-term planning and long-term planning. There are many things to be looked into on how to increase forest wealth. Forest industry can be best developed for our industrial development. Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao made certain valuable suggestions from his own experience.

Here what I want to say is this. We are implementing the 20-point programme. Every attention should be bestowed on the needs of the rural sector and the backward sector.

Take Orissa for instance. One-third of the population are adivasis and tribal people and they live exclusively on forest areas. As Mr. Paisrahi has pointed out, there are many jungles there and as far as forest wealth is concerned that is the greatest wealth in Orissa. As Mr. Shinde is fully aware of these aspects, I need not go into them in detail.

One of our aims is to remove poverty and from that point of view, the question now is, what systematic work you are doing in order to remove this poverty existing among the weaker sections of the society. I am sure more than 75% of these weaker sections live in forest areas. They should be released from their slavery under the contract system. There have been cases of pilferage of valuable timber, teakwood and so on. There has been a suggestion made by the Commission saying that labour from neighbouring villages can be directly employed to give them a sense of belonging for avoiding pilferage. It can serve two purposes. In Orissa, after the Kendu leaves nationalisation, we are increasing our revenue. Of course there are many

potentialities and very valuable timber, teakwood and other varieties which can be developed. If there is proper planning, then, definitely, we shall be able to increase our revenue. The main thrust of our economic programme is how we can render real benefits to the adivasis and the tribal people who were exploited day in and day out. They are the people who do not know what to claim.

I had been to an area in Phulbani. In certain areas they merely want drinking water—leave aside the question of road, railway line etc., nothing is there absolutely—and as Shri Panigrahi pointed out since 1945, under the colonial regime, the British regime, there was a plan for the development of a railway line from Gopalpur upto Bolangir via Aska Berampur and Binjanagar—a forest area. This can be developed better if this had been done. I am very sorry that no railway line is taken to that area.

That had been the planning since 1945. We do not know why that had been shelved or why that had not been taken up. For example, there is no proper planning or coordination or anything of that kind by the Centre for Orissa. We have some Forest Corporation there and now it has become a public sector body. In spite of that, there is no allocation of funds from the Centre and it is also not giving proper attention and aid as a result of which we are not able to develop it.

My first point will be this. There must be some systematic planning. Not only that. A wellknit work must also be taken up so as to develop industries there based on forest materials. If this had been done we could have developed the forest wealth.

As far as contract labour is concerned, everybody wants that the contract labour should be abolished. In Orissa, for example, the labour is not being released from the slavery. Some legislation has got to be enacted for the purpose and there should

be some guidelines by the Centre so as to abolish the contract labour system there. There is already a factory coming up. The people there are all technical in the sense that they pluck the sal seeds from the tree as well as pick the same from the ground. In Kalahandi, Phulbani and Bholongir, myloborum is in plenty. This industry has a great potentiality which can provide employment to these people. We are not lacking in policies but we lack only in the proper implementation of them which we lay down. The plan should be such that we are able to reach the target fixed for the purpose. There should be a balance struck as between the requirements and the availability of produce as far as wood industry is concerned.

My suggestion is this. As far as industrial materials are concerned, they should be properly utilised. Guidelines should also be issued by the Centre to the States and central fund should be allocated for the purpose what will contribute to our national economy.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO (Koraput): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise two or three points. I want to know from the hon. Minister what is the forest policy in the tribal areas.

It was discussed in different committees, in the Planning Commission and also in the Ministry of Home Affairs. The tribals had been deprived of the forest land by the Forest Act, 1956. Maharajas got compensation but no compensation was given to the tribals for having been deprived from the forest land.

You will find that still deforestation is going on in the tribal areas. Shifting and podu cultivation are also still going on in Orissa and other States. They have not completely stopped it. The tribals have to be brought from the hill tops to the bottom, to the plains, not to the place

[Shri Giridhar Gomarg]

in between. In the plains, they must be given cultivable land. As it is, the tribals are born in the forest, they live in the forest and they die in the forest. When we are adopting a new policy, giving a new dimension to the economy and planning, why not give more emphasis to stopping deforestation? I belong to the tribes. In the forest, there is large-scale cutting down of trees. Government is giving money and land to the tribals to settle on that land.

Priority should be given to those who are doing Podu cultivation. They should be brought to the plains and settled on land in the plains. They should be taught the techniques of modern cultivation. You will be surprised to know that tribals grow five or six crops in a year in the forest, whereas if they are given land in the plains, they can grow only one or two crops. That is why they prefer to be in the forest land. So Government should give them cultivable lands in the plains and then provide them with all technical facilities for cultivation.

There is a lot of forest wealth in the Koraput district. There there is the Dandakaranya project. A large part of the forest was cut down. Because there are two or three electrical lines there, an irrigation project and so on, large-scale deforestation was taking place. There are 300 kilometres of area in the Koraput district where there was a proposal by the Government of Orissa, to which the Government of India had also agreed, to undertake afforestation. It was proposed to provide some money for the afforestation of this area. But the report has not yet reached the Government of India. I would request the Minister that this district should be taken as a priority basis and large-scale plantation should be undertaken. Podu cultivation should also be stopped. The Planning Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture should make the necessary provision for this project.

I conclude by saying that though forest is the land of the tribals now, they should not be left in the forest, but should be brought to the plains and should be taught to live on the land in the plains.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNA-SAHEB P. SHINDE). I am thankful to Shri P. K. Deo for moving this Resolution in this august House, for because of this Resolution interest has been evinced in this matter, which is one of the very important aspects of our national life.

Many Members have participated in this debate; I am particularly happy that one of our very senior members, Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao, has found time to come here and also participate in the debate and make very valuable suggestions for our consideration.

It is known to all, and it is a matter of concern to all, that all is not well with the forests in our country. The specific importance of forests from the points of view of ecology, soil conservation, protection of the catchment areas and of fodder, fuel and timber resources, all this is known.

But unfortunately what has been happening. Perhaps this is not confined to India. Quite often we may draw an inference or gain an impression that only we in India are doing something very wrong; that is not so. I am not justifying what is happening. If we look to the history of civilisation, we find the more the so called civilisation developed, the more the forests were destroyed. One of the very renowned areas of forests, Mesopotamia, was at one time so dense a forest area that it produced the best timber in the world which was so much in demand for ship building industry. What has happened to that now? Middle East is a desert area now. Major warfares also involving largescale destruction of forests led to such a situation.

Therefore, while we claim that we are advancing we are bringing about imbalances in our habitat and in the ecology established on this globe, and thus reduce or destroy some of the favourable aspects which make life in this globe happier and fuller. This is happening in many other countries also but fortunately in some countries at least there has of late been an awareness and they have started developing forests. This realisation came to us a little late; we were a colonial country and as soon as we attained independence, the late K.M. Munshi who was the Agricultural Minister at that time, as Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao mentioned, put forward a forest policy resolution which led to an awareness that something positive has to be done to protect forests. The enlightened public of our country supported that policy resolution but even after that between 1951 and 1973 almost 3.4 million hectares of forests were denuded or destroyed. If statistics are worth anything, that is what we have; technically this much land has been taken out of the forest area. There may be other areas which may be categorised technically as forest area but trees will not be there and if we included that area also, the total area would come much larger. We see this when we move around the country. The Himalayas in certain regions were so dense forests; denudation had taken place there. So much so we find that the Bhakra system which we have constructed at such an enormous cost is getting silted at a fast rate. In the plains again soil erosion is taking place at a very fast rate. We are a monsoon country and one of the characteristics of a monsoon country is that we have torrential rains and a lot of the top soil is carried to reservoirs that we have built thus reducing the life of those reservoirs. During the 1972 elections, I was on an election tour for the assembly elections and I went to one of the forts called Torna in Maharashtra; it was the first fort conquered by Shivaji and the election meeting which I was to address was organised at the base

of that fort. I found not a single tree on that fort. I asked them, what is the rainfall here? They said 120". But not a single tree was there. Mr. P.K. Deo has laid stress on what is happening in Orissa. This is not confined to any one State, it is really a national problem. Therefore, it is right that many hon. members have expressed serious concern about this phenomenon.

17.00 hrs.

The issues are known. The main thing is, what to do about it. What Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao mentioned is the crux of the matter. There is nothing wrong about *vana mahotsava*. There are some weaknesses in it which have to be removed. Trees were planted but responsibility for looking after the trees was never fixed. I am very clear in my mind that unless a tree planting programme is tied up with individual responsibility being fixed for looking after the trees, no improvement is possible. It is no use fixing responsibility on a whole village for looking after the trees. Responsibility should be fixed on individuals and not merely on paper. It should be done in a realistic way with a sense of responsibility. Fortunately, during the last one year, there has been a debate on afforestation and planting of trees; it is a healthy sign. Previously this matter was being discussed amongst intellectuals without any practical programme. Now a practical programme is coming up. Apart from fixing individual responsibility, the stage has now come when some social conventions have to be developed in this country. If a child is born, why not plant a tree? If somebody dies, why not plant a tree? Instead of merely religious rituals—I am not against them if somebody wants them—we can develop such new conventions which are of vital interest to society.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can say that at every inauguration ceremony or foundation stone laying ceremony, a tree should be planted.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :
Yes, that would be helpful. Now when a VIP comes, we see a race by people coming with costly garlands to make their presence felt. Instead of that, they can take the responsibility for one tree. Then our social life will be healthier.

Although there is some merit in the argument for bringing forests under the concurrent list, it is not so much a question of law. I appreciate the vital point made by Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao. Mr. Daga said that our Forest Act is very old. I agree. We asked the National Commission on Agriculture to examine it. We have come to the conclusion that this Act has to be brought up-to-date. We have also consulted a few States. Since it is a State subject, unless the requisite number of States support us, we shall not be in a position to move the necessary Bill in this House.

DR. V. K. R. VARADARAJA RAO :
Why not call a meeting of the Forest Ministers in Delhi? No such meeting has been called so far.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :
We have got the Central Board of Forestry and also the Standing Committee on Forestry. As far as the Central Board of Forestry is concerned, all the Forest Ministers are members. It meets very regularly. Only recently, about 8 or 9 months earlier, it met at Hyderabad and I presided over the meeting. So far the Standing Committee on Forestry is concerned, I presided over that meeting also at Simla only last June. If it is felt that further meetings are necessary, we will hold them. I am not objecting to it; I am on a slightly different issue. It is not so much the technicality or the organisational set up. I am not saying that the forest department is without fault, or there is no need for improvement. What I am saying is that the social life gets reflected in every walk of life. We, as practical politicians and seasoned citi-

zens of this country, should try to understand the basic milieu of this and not make superficial statements. I am saying this, with due respect to the hon. Member. I hope he will not misunderstand it. It is not so much the legal framework or the penalty, whether it is less or more, or the organisational set up.

No country will succeed in protecting its forest unless there is all-round awareness. Unfortunately, in this country, with due respect to everybody including the poorer sections of the society, that awareness is wanting. If somebody watches closely every cow boy who goes to the forest with his cow herd or the man who goes with a flock of sheep or goat he carries in his hand some tool to fell trees. The other day when I made a statement that everyday at least 25 lakh people are engaged only in cutting trees, the Chief Minister of very important State contradicted me and said that I am making an under-statement, because the number is much larger! In this country unless there is social awareness in all sections of the society, I do not think the forest wealth can be preserved. Here comes the role of the voluntary organisations like Youth Congress. Since it is a non-political issue everybody is welcome to help in this constructive effort for the future of this country, for the ecology of this country, even in the interests of the economy of this country, because forest is so much intertwined with our total wealth and economy. I do not think we can separate the forests from the other sectors of our economy. Therefore, it is all the more necessary to channelise the voluntary effort in whatever way we can to protect and preserve our forests.

As far as the tribals are concerned, we have all sympathy for them. The Constitution provides that the interests of the tribals have to be protected. We cannot pass any law which will go against the interests of the tribals. The forest policy has to be evolved in such a way that the interests of the tribals are protected. At

the same time, we cannot be completely oblivious to the protection of the fore wealth. Take the north-eastern part of India, where there is shifting cultivation. Every year they cut new forests so that they can do agriculture. I do not think we can justify it. We have all our sympathies for them and we have to find a solution to their problem. This uncertain agriculture does not provide them sufficient yield either. I have seen in some areas they grow both paddy and maize together, while the water requirements for both are different. This problem can be solved only if we educate the tribals on scientific farming.

There is talk of decentralisation. In the north-eastern part of the country there are beautiful forests in Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura. There you will find the denudation of forests taking place at a rapid pace. The forests there are not under the State Government, but under the District councils, and the District Councils are not in a position at all to provide any leadership. Do we wait till all forests are destroyed in that area? I think something will have to be done. I am not saying that this is the final answer.

Dr. V. K. R. Varadaraja Rao :
You have Central Universities in the States.
You can have national forests.

Shri Annasaheb P. Shinde : There fore, there are certain anomalies in the present situation and they have to be rectified. How it should be done is a matter which can be discussed.

There is another important aspect. This country has to have an appropriate grazing policy. Recently I was in Srinagar, discussing with Sheikh Abdullah how to protect the Jammu and Kashmir forests. He brought to my notice an important point. Whether the figures he gave are correct or not is a different thing, but the basic point remains. He says that Jammu and

Kashmir can sustain with the present pastures and forests the grazing of only 8 to 9 lakhs of cattle, but the cattle population there is 35 lakhs. Grass is not allowed even to sprout. Before it sprouts, the cattle go and trample upon it. Whatever vegetation is there is also destroyed by them. Cattle, when they starve, like human beings, eat even bitter leaves and survive.

There are two very important issues involved. Shri Panda has left. I am not raising the issue of cow protection, but what is the number of cattle which can possibly and economically be sustained, which will not go against the protection of forests? Basically, all this has to be gone into. This is not a sentimental, religious issue. It has to be decided purely on pragmatic and realistic considerations, and we should have a clear-cut policy.

Recently I was in Chakrata, near Dehra Dun, which has a very good forest. I found cattle grazing in the reserved forest. I asked the U.P. officials who those persons were. They said they were Gujarars from Jammu and Kashmir. Though the cattle did not cause any damage or destruction to the grown up trees, naturally some harvesting is also taking place there and the cattle destroy whatever is newly planted. The U.P. officials told me, and from my Ministry I find that there is some truth in what they said, that Jammu and Kashmir brought pressure on the U.P. Government to allow the Gujarars as they are a very backward community. When the U.P. Government prevented them, there was a protest from Jammu and Kashmir, and they said that these people should be looked upon with sympathy and should be allowed to graze in the forest. What is the result? The result is that ultimately some substantial damage to the forest area is taking place, because we are not following an appropriate grazing policy. I think that politicians in this country, whatever party

[Shri Annasaheb P. Shirde] they may belong to, must arrive at some consensus as to what should be the grazing policy, because it is in the interests of the cattle themselves. Unless grass is allowed to sprout, the total quantity of fodder really gets reduced.

SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHA-PATRA (Balasore) : Cows and buffaloes can live even without grass.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : In many places I find that trees are planted without understanding which particular type of tree should be planted.

I think, one should be very clear about it. In this regard, I am prepared to take the blame on myself. Our Forest Department itself has not made formal studies. Recently, I raised the issue at Simla as to whether they have any priority list of trees from the point of view of economics, which trees are suitable in particular agro-climatic conditions, which trees give more income, which trees have more economic value, more timber value and all that. I asked whether relative studies have been made. Unfortunately, there are no such studies available. We need not wait for those studies. From commonsense, we can take a decision.

In Tamil Nadu, for instance—I am sure, Mr. Chandrappan must be knowing it—there is the *tamarind* tree. A full-grown *tamarind* tree annually gives an income of about Rs. 200. Even a medium sized tree gives an income of about Rs. 100. Then, for instance, there is the *honey locust* tree. It is a species known throughout the world. It can grow in the Himalayan region. I am told and I have read the literature that the *honey locust* tree, in 1 acre, can give 20 tonnes of feed grains from pods for cattle. That means we can have more cattle feeds. As Dr. Rao said, we should really direct our research effort more towards the development of forests. I agree with him. There should be more forest

research activity. There are no two opinions on that. As I said, the *honey locust* tree, in 1 acre, can give 20 tonnes of foodgrains from pods. It is some thing fantastic. I think the humanity has got such a valuable asset at its disposal. But we have not fully exploited it. It is the experience all over the world that some of the species which are found in other parts of the world, under similar climatic conditions can be adapted. Like human beings, the trees also have a lot of adaptability. Many of the trees can be adapted to our conditions.

DR. HENRY AUSTIN (Ernakulam) : I read in a report that due to forest fires, more often than not, artificially created fires, much vegetation, including huge trees, is destroyed in our forests. Has the Ministry thought about it and taken any steps in this regard ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : This problem is there. There are some mischief-mongers and anti-social elements. Apart from accidents and other things, forest fires do take place and there are even deliberate mischiefs committed in order to exploit the local situation. What we have done is that we have alerted the State Governments and we have told the forest Department that village communities should be involved in the programme of preservation and controlling of forests. Unless there is a greater public awareness and the entire community as such stands behind the programme of protecting and preserving the forests, I do not think that this problem can be solved. It is the community involvement and the community awareness which can tackle this problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you have any figures as to how much forest wood goes in as fuel, how much goes in as timber and how much goes in for industrial purposes ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE

I can possibly find out the figures. At the moment, they are not with me. Rough estimates are possible and available.

The point that I was making was that forest programmes are being discussed in the country and there is so much public awareness and public interest about these programmes. The Forest Department, the State Governments, the Agricultural Universities and the Research Institutes should really have a list of species of trees which can be profitably planted in a particular area from the point of fuel value, from the point of view of timber value, from the point of view of industrial uses and all that. If this is done, I think, in the forest programmes, we can have some content and they will be purposeful ones.

We should not blindly plant any tree. Ultimately, we have to take care of it by nursing it, by giving water to it and by putting in some of our resources. I was referring to the *honey locust* tree which, in 1 acre, can give 20 tonnes of foodgrains from pods. It is recorded history that it is not only useful for cattle but in times of drought and famine, even the human beings have tried to survive on pods of *honey locust* tree. The trees of economic value have to be planted, I mean, trees of timber value, fuel value, fodder value and even food value. If this is done, I am quite sure that our programme of afforestation will be much more meaningful and it will be a really very constructive one.

SHRI SYED AHMED AGA (Baramulla): You have mentioned that tree planting should not be done blindly. Do the Forest Department have a list of priorities as to which trees should be planted? In the State of Jammu and Kashmir where you have paid a visit and talked to those people, you may have found that the people have taken to fast-growing trees, the trees which give them quick income.

17.20 hrs.

[SHRI P. PARTHASARATHY in the Chair]

For example, apple trees and other fruit trees which give fruits quickly and which give income quickly. What has been the result of that? The result of that has been that nobody plants walnut trees which give fruit after 15 or 20 years. Walnut, which the country exports and which gets us valuable foreign exchange, is grown only in Kashmir. What I want to bring to your notice and what I want to ask is this. There are large areas with the Government which are lying fallow. Why can the Government not take to Walnut plantation in those areas instead of asking the individuals to do it? Individuals will not do it.

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE: I have understood your question. As far as nursery programmes concerned, we do not want the individuals to take it up; we want the State Governments, agricultural universities and other institutions who know something about it, and the Forest Department to prepare nurseries from the point of view of the economic value and taking into account the agro-climatic conditions in particular areas....

AN HON. MEMBER: What about lumber contractors and forest contractors?

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE: I have already replied to that.

Shri D. K. Panda has said that the contract system should be abolished. We have issued specific instructions to the State Governments that the contract system and the middle-men should be totally abolished. Our policy is to have only one 'contractor', that is the Forest Corporation, a public sector organization, which will operate in the forests, with some adjustments in the interest of tribals;

[Shri Annasaheb P. Shinde]
except that, we have not compromised on that. Unless the middle-men are eliminated from forest operations, we will not succeed in limiting or reducing the destructions which take place.

Another point which was raised by Mr. Naik was about the budget provision—whatever income is received by the State Government is not put in. He is very right on that. We have repeatedly drawn the attention of the State Governments to this. Forest is too valuable a source, forest is too important a sector of our economy which cannot be neglected like this, and, therefore, I have no other opinion but to broadly agree with him.

With these observations, may I express the hope that Mr. P. K. Deo will not insist on his Resolution? As far as sentiments behind it are concerned, he has raised a very important and valuable debate on this, particularly in the present climate when forests are receiving more and more attention from the public. I am thankful to him for that on behalf of the Government and on behalf of myself. But, all the same, because Government is seized of the matter, I would request him to withdraw his Resolution. I am thankful to all the hon. Members who had participated in the discussion and also those who had not participated but who had shown very keen interest.

SHRI P. K. DEO : (Kajahandi) :
I am extremely grateful to all those who have participated in the debate. I have had unanimous support from all the speakers, from the press and also from the reading public—letters to the Editor have appeared in several papers. Therefore, in a subject like this, which is of concern to every person, no persuasion on my part would be necessary for the Government to accept my Resolution. But, as desired by my friend, Shri Annasaheb P. Shinde, I will have to give a second thought to it.

In addition to giving shelter from rain and sun, giving fuel and timber and bringing timely rain, the forests have got very important role, namely to purify the atmosphere by and large and the obnoxious gas by a process which is called photosynthesis by which they absorb the carbon-di-oxide and release oxygen which is so vital for the life; and for the ecological balance it is very necessary that we should try to preserve what little has been left so far as forests are concerned.

Forests are really the lungs of the nation and man is a unique creature of God which has been corroborated after scanning the space and after going to the moon and after landing in the Mars now that there is probably no life or no species like man. So, in this earth humanity has to be preserved at any cost and for the preservation of humanity, forest is very essential. As I pointed out earlier, the rapid space at which the Thar desert has been proceeding—experts say at the rate of about half a mile every year—has to be stopped.

Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao has rightly pointed out regarding the span of life of various multi-purpose reservoirs that have been built at a colossal cost. Their life has also to be preserved for which in the catchment areas we should see that there should be no further denudation of forests, rather afforestation should be taken up in a very vigorous way.

In spite of our pious wish in 1952 that we should have a forest-covered area of 33.3%, our target has reached only 22.7% and that too, is a very big claim, according to me. My friend, Mr. Shinde would agree with me that many of the so-called 'reserve forests' are mere *Namkevas* forests, forests for namesake and hardly there is any tree there. I passed on some photographs to Mr. Shinde so far as the avenue trees in my State are concerned. Even the avenue trees which

have been planted about 100 or 150 years back have been mercilessly cut and nobody has been paying any attention to preserve these avenue trees even though many of the VIPs pass by that road.

Our population has been growing at an annual rate of 2.5% and taking this factor into consideration, it is a good thing that a new awareness has come and especially, I congratulate Mr. Sanjay Gandhi who has given a call for plantation of trees and there has been a circular issued to all the State Governments and even to the district level and the Panchayat level so far as social forestry is concerned. I think some steps will be taken in this regard and all co-operation should be taken from the authorities concerned.

I want just two assurances from the Minister. (1) He should be firm regarding the preservation of the avenue trees and he has been very categorical that the contract system should be stopped. But I know for certain that for the sake of revenue these forest coupes are being auctioned every year and given to the highest bidder.

Various contractors go and steal from the adjoining areas. That is how contractors are primarily responsible for destruction of our forests. Even though the Minister said that there will not be a contract system, I doubt this very much. For the sake of their revenue, State Governments will continue to indulge in such a practice of leasing out forests on yearly basis to various contractors. Now there is emergency and in view of this, I hope that very strict measures will be taken by the Government to implement their afforestation programmes. Unless the forests survive humanity cannot survive. I conclude with a quotation from Mr. Arnold Toynbee, who said :

'The Himalayas have a message to give to man in an age when he is being menaced by the backfire of his latest technological achievements. The message is one of hope. It is still possible for man to regain his original concord with Nature and this will bring him salvation from his present Man-made plight.'

With these words, I think, my purpose has been served, public attention has been drawn, Government has become aware of the fact. So, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is an amendment by Mr. Daga. Although he is not here, it has to be put to the vote of the House. We cannot dispose of the original motion unless the amendment is disposed of. So, I will put Mr. Daga's amendment to the vote of the House.

Amendment No. 1 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the pleasure of the House to allow Shri P. K. Deo to withdraw his Resolution moved on the 14th May, 1976?

HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

17.34 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE. PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR WEAKER SECTIONS OF MUSLIMS

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA (Telli-chery) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful for this opportunity to move my Resolution. I beg to move the following Resolution :—

"This House resolves that in order to further strengthen national integration and promote secularism and ensure that socio-economic and

[Shri C. K. Chandrappan]

cultural rights of muslim minorities are adequately protected, Government may take the following measures :

- (i) provision of credit to weaker sections of muslims at par with other backward classes for purposes of education and employment ;
- (ii) provision of house sites for poor muslims dwelling in urban slums and rural areas ;
- (iii) fixing quota for recruitment of muslims to jobs in Government, quasi-Government services and public sector undertakings ;
- (iv) official recognition to Urdu under article 347 of the Constitution in States where a substantial Urdu speaking population exists ;
- (v) appointment of a Commissioner for muslim minorities at the Centre and cells in the States to supervise and ensure their welfare and protection of their rights."

Sir, while moving this Resolution, I am very certain that all sides of the House, every section of the House, will support the idea of providing better facilities for the muslim minority in our country.

I move this Resolution by making it very clear that our approach to the problem of Muslim minority in this country is not from any communal angle. We take it as a national question; the problem of Muslim minority is to be considered a national question that this nation has to tackle if it has to achieve national unity and integration and if it has to achieve secularism in a meaningful manner.

I am very confident that this House would extend its full support to the resolution because of another reason also that we are going to discuss very soon in this House the amendments to the Constitution whereby it would be inscribed in the Constitution and to make it clear once again that this country is a secular country. The goal of this country will be secularism. It has already been proclaimed by the Government, by the nation. But, we decided still that it should be inscribed in the Constitution itself that this country is secular.

It is in this context that I felt that it was necessary that this House should discuss this matter of the weaker section of the Muslim minority in our country and the House should come forward with concrete suggestions and concrete proposals so that it can put forward before Government those suggestions for action. That is the purpose of this Resolution.

When we say that our country adopts secularism and we stand to protect the interests of the Muslim minority, there are certain facts which are very vital to our country which should also be taken into account. Our country is the third biggest nation in the world where large numbers of Muslims are living, the first and second being Indonesia and Bangladesh. Of course, India is not a Muslim nation in that sense ; it is a country with a big population of Muslims. To put it differently, I can say that we have got 67.2 million Muslims in our country which constitutes 11.2 per cent of our population. That is the significance. It is not a question of a small minority that we are dealing with ; it is a question of a big minority and the question of the people's wellbeing and for whose satisfaction lies the secular character of the State, the security of the country and in which also lies the bringing about of a bright future to our nation and the people. That is the significance of

giving a fair deal to the Muslim minority. When I say this, even for a single moment, I do not doubt that Government has not been doing anything. Government is trying because protection of Muslim minority interests is the deep conviction of the national movement in this country, the ideal cherished by Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and even to-day by our Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, all the democratic parties in this country. All the forces in the country, all of us, cherish that India should be a secular nation in which hundred per cent justice should be given to the Muslim minority. Government is trying, but the fact remains that even today we have not reached that extent where we should have reached. We could not do every thing possible for the Muslim minority in this country. That is why specific measures are suggested in this Resolution.

Before I come to the specific measures, I would like to draw the attention of this House to the fact how Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru looked at this problem, the problem of tension between Hindus and Muslims. He looked at it as a problem of tension between the exploiter and the exploited. There is a socio-economic background for the kind of communal situation, which none of us would like, which is being created in this country. There are people who are trying to exploit that situation. There are people who are seriously thinking that it is not necessary to do justice to Muslims because they consider that Muslims do not belong to India. There are two aspects, two sides, to the picture.

Take, for example, how Golwalkar, one of the stalwarts of the RSS, looked at this problem. He said :

"They came here as invaders to destroy us, to establish their own supremacy and to enslave the local people."

If we start on this premise, one can understand why the RSS is so mad and so desperately fanatic about fighting Muslims. But is it a fact? It is one of the distortions of history. It is not a fact. The Muslims have not come to this country as invaders. Their history does not begin with Mahmud of Ghazni. Their history began, according to the well-known historian, Sirdar K. M. Pannikar, who wrote the History of Kerala, in this way.

"When Islam swept [over Arabia, its influence was felt immediately over Kerala also. In fact, according to a fairly ancient tradition the last Perumal himself became a convert to Islam. That is, Islam began to spread in Malabar early both by conversion and by settlement of the Arab traders. I is clear from a Muslim inscription Pantalayani Kollam in of the North Arcot dated Hajra 166".

They came as traders. They settled in Kerala. There are so many instances one can cite to debunk this argument of the RSS.

There is an article written about the Moplas of Kerala. I am quoting from that.

"They came to the Malabar coast as traders even before the emergence of the Moghuls...."

As traders, not as invaders. This is from "Mopla Muslims of Kerala: A study in Islam trends" by Rolland E Miller, an English writer. So the Muslims in this country came and settled in Kerala at least seven centuries before the Moghuls came to India. Kerala is a State in this country known for communal harmony. You do not have much

[Shri C.K. Chandrappan] problem in Kerala between the Muslims and Hindus. You may also understand what is the meaning of the word 'Mopla'. 'Mopla' in Tamil means 'bridge room'.

DR. HENRY AUSTIN (Ernakulam: In Malayalam also it has more or less the same meaning.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : Yes, in Malayalam also we use that word to mean 'bridegroom.' Historians say that it derived from the fact that traders who came there from the Arab world settled in Kerala coast in Mangalore. Ibn Batuta a famous historian says that large settlements of Muslims were in Mangalore and they married the people of Malabar; without forcibly converting anybody they become part and parcel of the coastal life in that part of the country and they became part of India. This is the tradition of Muslims in India. When we speak of our culture, can we forget that Taimahalis part of Indian culture ?

If we take the view that Muslims are part and parcel of this country and therefore they are part of our people, their wellbeing becomes the responsibility of the entire nation. In an article entitled 'Brief resume of the nationalist organisation.' Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru wrote before Independence :

"Muslims were generally poor. Most of the weavers who had gone to war on account of the British destruction of Indian industries were Muslims in Bengal which has the biggest Muslim population of any Indian province. They were poor tenants or small land holders. Landlords were usually Hindus, as were the village banias who were money lenders and owners of the village stores. Landlord and the bania were this in a position to oppress the tenant and exploit him and they took full advantage of that

position. It is well to remember this fact for in this lies the root cause of tension between Hindu and Muslims".

The exploitation of the poor tenants by landlords who happened to be Hindus—that is what Nehru says. My friend Shri Dharnidar Das had written a book, Economic Base of Communalism, in which he had quoted the concept of Gandhiji on this problem. He writes.

"On the eve of independence, when India became a ghastly scene of mass killings and communal frenzy, Mahatma Gandhi entered the Muslim areas of Noakali and asked Prof. Nirmal Kumar Bose to submit to him an economic survey of the area. The survey revealed a population composition of 18 per cent Hindus and 82 per cent Muslims. But the 18 per cent Hindus were in possession of 75 per cent property of the area and the 82 per cent of the Muslims shared the 25 per cent of the property. They were extremely poor and many of them were landless masses and the Hindu owners were absentee landlords."

The problem of communal tension comes from poverty ; it is used by the exploiters to exploit the masses. That is why Mahatma Gandhi came to the conclusion that the root cause of the conflict lay hidden in the conflict between the exploiter and the exploited.

I have quoted extensively ; coming to the present position, poverty is the problem and exploitation is the problem. Whenever you talk of this, what happens to the biggest minority in our country ? Knowingly or unknowingly they are the worst exploited section in our society ; in the field of education they are the most backward ; in the field of employment, they are the most discriminated and in the field of culture I am sorry to say they are

badly neglected. If things do not improve, what happens? They turn to organisations like Jamiat E Ulema who try to take the Muslim masses out of the main stream of Indian life and put them on communal lines and try to create communal madness and frenzy among them by telling them : You are being exploited by Hindus ; you are to fight for your rights against the the Hindus", This being the case, the Government will have to act with a sense of urgency. It will have to come forward in a big way to help them. The problems I am posing in the resolution have been answered in the other House. The government took the position that there are constitutional guarantees given to avoid discrimination. I fully appreciate the fact that articles 16(1) and (2) provide these guarantees. But is that enough? I think it is not. Even the framers of the Constitution took the view that merely stating or re-stating the fact that there will be no discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, community or religion or sex was not enough. That is why they added sub-clause (4) to article 16 which reads thus :

"Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State."

So, if in the opinion of the State any section of the population is not adequately represented, the State can declare that section as backward. That is our demand. I am not making the unreasonable demand that the entire Muslim community should be declared backward. I only demand that if certain sections have been declared backward communities in any State, their counterparts amongst the Muslims should also get that benefit. For example, a Hindu sweeper, chamar or cobbler or a weaver is a backward class. Why

not Muslim sweepers, Muslim cobblers, Muslim weavers, be treated at par? When we speak of secularism, if we categorise certain sections as backward classes on the basis of certain standards, the same standards should apply to the same sections which belong to another community.

SHRI B.V. NAIK (KANARA) : Do you want to introduce *chaturvarna* among Muslims?

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA : We are not bothered about *chaturvarna* among Muslims. We are bothered about our secularism.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please address the Chair.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA : Nothing should stand in the way of our secularism. The weaker sections like weavers, rickshaw-pullers, biri workers, etc. of the Muslim community should be given adequate financial assistance and their interests should be adequately protected. They should not feel by any chance that they are being neglected, because they do not belong to Hinduism. This is not a Hindu State. That is why we say that the weaker sections among the Muslims should be treated at par with the backward community.

The second demand is about distribution of housing site. When we distribute housing sites for poorer people in the countryside, we reserve a certain portion for the harijans. But there is no reservation for the Muslim community there. The poorer Muslims, who really belong to the counterpart of harijan or backward community, should get reservation in the matter of housing sites.

Even in the cities, for reasons well-known to everybody, the poorer Muslims live together. They cluster together and live together. In those days when communal riots were so frequent in our country,

the Muslims wanted to live together so that there will be some protection. As a result of that, today, there are Muslim slums in the cities, where the Muslims are in majority. When you clear those slums, there should be special consideration given.]

In this context, I want to refer to the Turkman Gate area, which was cleared recently. I would like the Minister to give an assurance that without delay you will provide housing facilities for the Muslims who lost their housing and that they will be resettled. Since this demand for resettlement is in accordance with the Master Plan of Delhi, this area should not be utilised for any purpose other than resettling those Muslims. I hope the Minister will give an assurance on those lines.

SHRI MD. JAMILURRAHMAN (KISHANGANJ) : Since there are a large number of members who want to speak on this, the time allotted to this Resolution should be increased.

MR. CHAIRMAN : In any case, it will not be over today. We will see when it is taken up next. It will depend upon the mood of the House.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA : Coming to employment, I want to quote from a speech made by Shri P.D. Abdul Ghafoor, President of the All India

Muslim Education Society. He is not a Muslim-leaguer or a communal man. In fact, he is sympathetic to the Congress. When he went to Calicut to address the Muslim Education Society meeting, he made certain observations. According to the press :

"He pointed out that the Muslim community, which formed 11.2 per cent of the population of this country; its representation in Government services was as low as 5.2 per cent in IAS, 4.3 per cent in IFS and 3.2 per cent in IPS."

18.00 hrs.

What a plight!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA : I think I will take ten minutes more. It is an important subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then he may continue his speech on the next day.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, August 23, 1976/Bhadra 1, 1898 (Saka).