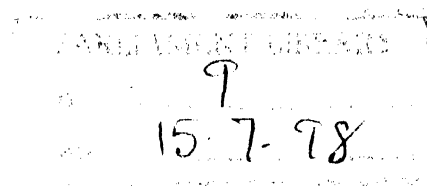


LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session (Part-IV)
(Eleventh Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XIV contains Nos. 1 to 12)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, May 16, 1997/Vaisakha 26, 1919 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Three Minutes Past
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, atrocities are being committed in Uttar Pradesh on large scale. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Not now, after the questions Hour.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : No, not now.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you a chance after the Question Hour.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Even if it is a serious matter, can you not wait for an hour ? What are you saying ?

[English]

When I am saying that I will allow you, I will allow You, I will allow you after the question hour.

[Translation]

Would it make any difference if it is taken after an hour.

(Interruptions)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Cotton Production

+

*581. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :
SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of cotton is more than its demand;

(b) if so, the details of production, demand and consumption of cotton during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(c) whether the Government have launched any incentive scheme in the past to promote optimum consumption of cotton in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the date of its launch and the future plan of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of production, demand and consumption of cotton are given below :

(In lakh bales of 170 Kg.)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Production	121.50	138.50	160.00
Demand & Consumption	127.00	135.04	151.00

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Maharashtra is considered to be the highest cotton producing state. There has been a production of 138.50 lakh bales of cotton during 1994-95 and 160.00 lakh bales during 1995-96.

When the production of cotton is 47 lakh bales in Maharashtra, the permission to export the cotton has been given for four lakh bales only. The hon. Minister's reply is very brief. It does not convey full sense. Maharashtra is the foremost state among the 18 cotton growing states. Maharashtra has produced 30 lakh bales of cotton during 1996-97 whereas the permission to export it has been given only for one lakh bale. In 1995-96, 47 lakh bales of cotton were produced and permission was given to export 4 lakh bales. My request is that even after so much production in 1995-96, permission has been given to export four lakh

bales only and this year too production of cotton is 30 lakh bales whereas permission has been given to export one lakh bales only. I would like to know through you, Sir as to what are the reasons for this ? I request the hon. Minister to give permission to export five lakh bales.

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : For Maharashtra, last year we had given an allotment of 4,20,000 bales, but they had not exported all the quota. So, this year we have given them only 1,00,000 bales. In addition to that, I have permitted them, as a special case, to export the previous spillover also up to 28th February. If any further request comes, I will consider. I am told that the cotton is not coming to the market. . . (Interruptions) If a request comes, we will consider it. . . (Interruptions) We will consider it.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Whether or not you want to ask another question ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Does Bihar not produce cotton ?

SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT : Whether keeping in view large production there, Govt. propose to extend some facilities to farmers ? Permission to export more cotton is not given and as a result thereof Federation has to face great difficulties for making payments to farmers. What are the views of Govt. in this regard ?

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, this is inevitable when they have got the monopoly procurement policy, they may have some problems.

[Translation]

I do not know fully but.

[English]

This is inevitable. Sometimes, they have to face problems.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAOSAHEB PUNDLIK FUNDKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, First of all I would like to say that the hon. Minister had earlier replied that the export quota given last year to Maharashtra has not been used by that state. In this way the hon. Minister is misleading the House. The quota given last year has been released fully by Maharashtra and the entire quantity of cotton was exported. Maharashtra is the largest cotton growing state in the

country. This year, Maharashtra has produced 32 lakh bales of cotton and the central govt. has decided export quota of 15 lakh bales, out of that lowest percentage of quota has been allocated to Maharashtra. The cotton corporation of India has allotted quota of 4 lakh bales to those states, which produced only nine lakh bales whereas Maharashtra has produced 30 lakh bales and its export quota of only one lakh bales has been fixed. Gujarat Federation has got export quota of one lakh bales as against its production of one lakh thirty five thousand bales. Punjab has been allotted export quota of 25 thousand bales against its production of 35 thousand bales. Rajasthan has produced 15 thousand bales and has been given export quota of 15 thousand bales. Similarly, Madhya Pradesh has produced 15 thousand bales and it has also been allotted export quota of the entire 15 thousand bales. In addition to this, Karnataka has produced three thousand bales only and it has been allotted export quota of 25 thousand bales. On what basis Central Govt. has arrived at this conclusion ? There is a cotton monopoly scheme in Maharashtra where cotton is produced in abundance. Maharashtra Govt. provides more rate for cotton to farmers in comparison to the Central Govt.

Last year, we purchased the cotton worth Rs. 2600 crores and paid entire amount due to farmers. About 32000 bales were produced. The farmers have been paid all their dues at the rate fixed by the Central Govt. Besides, this, Maharashtra Govt. has also paid bonus at the rate of Rs. 300/- per quintal. Due to not getting export quota and despite the production of 32000 bales, Central Govt. do not give us the export order for one lakh bales.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the question now. Otherwise, I am going to call the next member.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAOSAHEB PUNDLIK FUNDKAR : Is the Central Government adopting such a policy that Maharashtra state should not be given more quota as there is a coalition government of the BJP, Shiv Sena. Injustice is being done to the farmers of Maharashtra. We have made a demand of five lakh bales for export. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra and our Council have requested several times that we should be allocated five lakh bales quota for export. Will the Hon'ble Minister give us an assurance in this regard ?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Mr. Minister, have you got an answer ?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, I am sorry that the figures that have been provided by my friend are not entirely true. He was talking about Karnataka as if I have done favour to Karnataka. . . (Interruptions) Sir, this is not the way. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, Shri Purohit. I have not allowed you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Are you interested in hearing the answer or not ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do you not want to listen to the Minister's answer ? Why cannot you have patience for one minute and listen carefully to the Minister ? If you are not satisfied, then you can stand up later on. But you are not allowing the Minister to answer. What kind of behaviour is this ?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, if you do not mind, I would like to say something. Let the Minister reply but Shri Fundkar is the Chairman of the Maharashtra State Cotton Growers Association.

MR. SPEAKER : That is why, I have allowed him four minutes to frame a question. Therefore, he is entitled for four minutes to frame a question.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, last year, there was a demand for release of three lakh bales. When I took over charge, there was a demand twice and both the times, I had given it. It is very uncharitable to say like this. When I spoke to your Chief Minister, he was also satisfied with the exports that I had allowed during last year. Actually, during 1995-96, 4,20,000 bales were allowed to be exported but they did not export the entire quota. Only for these people. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : First of all you reply in regard to Maharashtra. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Please listen. Sir, this is not the way to get an answer from a Minister. They should allow me to speak and then they can say whatever they want to say. They are seasoned Parliamentarians. This is not the way, Sir. They do not allow me to speak. They were telling something about Karnataka. What is the quota I have given to them ? It is 25,000 bales and not 25 lakhs bales. But their production is over 9 lakh bales. This year,

in addition to the backlog, I have allowed them to export one lakh bales and out of one lakh bales, they have exported only. . .

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, I think the simple point which they want to know is whether the export quotas are proportionately done according to the production or not. Is it correct or not ? I think this is what you want to know.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes Sir.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : No, Sir. That is not done in proportion to the production. . . (Interruptions). Please listen.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Why don't you provide proportionate quota. . . (Interruptions)

There should be no politics in it. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BHAOSAHEB PUNDLIK FUNDKAR : He is giving a wrong reply. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am helping you. I am trying to help you.

If it is not given, what is the reason for it ?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : I want to give full details.

MR. SPEAKER : you are compelling the Speaker to put the supplementary.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : The Gujarat Federation have been given one lakh bales and they have exported only 43,700 bales. The AP Federation have been given one lakh bales and they have exported only 13,500 bales. . . (Interruptions) If this is the position, I do not want to answer. Let the Members listen first. If I am not allowed to speak, what can I do ? I am giving the details, Please wait and see.

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen carefully.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : The Punjab Spinning Federation have been given 25,000 bales and they have exported only 300 bales. The MP Federation have been given 20,000 bales and they have exported nothing. The MP Export Corporation have been given 5000 bales and they have exported nothing. The Karnataka Federation . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : How much export has been done by Maharashtra. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : I am coming to it. You may wait.

The Karnataka Federation have been given 25,000 bales and they have exported nothing. This year the Maharashtra Federation have been given one lakh bales and they have exported only 60980 bales. They have not completed their export quota. The Haryana Federation have been given 5000 bales and they have exported 4,900 bales. The Rajasthan Federation have been given 15,000 bales and they have exported only 5100 bales. NAFED have been given 50,000 bales and they have exported only 19,000 bales. No federation is given more than one lakh. Almost all of them are given. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am helping you.

I agree with the sentiments being expressed by the Members from different States. Will you help Maharashtra in case other States are not able to fulfil their export quota ?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Even otherwise, ever since my taking over charge, I have twice made allotments to them. This quota would be available to them up to the end of September. Even for last year, I had extended their time up to February this year. I cannot understand why they are so much agitated.

MR. SPEAKER : It is quite enough. The Minister is prepared to consider it even otherwise.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : The Minister has replied giving details about the quota allotted to different States and has said that the State of Maharashtra has exported only 60980 bales. Maharashtra has a surplus production. Today, substantial stocks are available with the marketing federation of the State.

If you have to supply our product in the international market, the main problem today is that the purchasing agencies insist on commitment for a longer period. The Government of India decides quota on a yearly basis. This is the reason why we are not getting good response in the international market. Will the hon. Minister accept the suggestion, which has already been made by the Government of Maharashtra, to give a quota of five to ten lakh bales for a longer period ?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, that is not possible because we are not sure of the production each year. The hon. ex-Chief Minister of Maharashtra knows that two-thirds of our cotton production depends on rainfed areas. If, unfortunately, there are no good rains, we would not be

able to fulfil the commitment undertaken with the foreign buyers. When the quota is more than the performance, what shall we do with that ? In spite of our giving 12,2,000 bales this year, 10,55,000 bales before December, why are we not able to fulfil the quota ? In the previous year, only two lakh bales were given before December. This year I have given 10 lakh bales to see that the farmer gets his price. We are giving encouragement. In spite of our encouragement, why is it that exports could not catch up with the quota ?

In 1994-95 the cotton price was 100 cents per bale and in 1995-96 it was 83 cents. Now it is rating at 72 to 73 cents. It is not remunerative. That is why they are not exporting. If Maharashtra Government wants a quota of one lakh bales I will give it to them provided they give an undertaking that they would export it within two months.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a suggestion given by Shri Sharad Pawar.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : That may not be possible.

MR. SPEAKER : You can examine it.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, 11 states of the country are producing cotton in large quantity and Maharashtra state is also one of them. In regard to the question of exporting cotton, you and also the hon. Minister have said that its quota should be increased, but the responsibility to procure the cotton lies with the Cotton Federation of Maharashtra Government. Maharashtra has produced a large quantity of cotton this year. . . (Interruptions) In spite of producing so much cotton, no procurement centre has been opened in my constituency as yet. Therefore, I request the Central Government, through you, that export quota may be increased.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He has already said that he is willing to increase it. I think this has already been answered.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : Mr. Speakers, Sir he should give clear answer with regard to cotton. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

*Not Recorded.

Growth of Small Scale Industries

+

*582 SHRI ANANT GUDHE :

SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives for speedy and healthy growth of industrial units in small scale sector during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof and results achieved therefrom;

(c) the New Policy evolved by the Government for tackling the problems of growing chronic industrial sickness—details of extent of industrial sickness in small scale sector over the past three years—Statewise and year-wise and for Maharashtra State in particular; and

(d) the details of new policy initiatives including policy on reservation, lower interest on credit etc., proposed during 1997-98 for Small Scale Industrial Sector ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a), (b) and (d) Yes, Sir. Speedy and healthy growth of small scale industrial units is always the objective of the Government. Besides fine-tuning the existing policy, the new initiatives taken in 1996-97 and 1997-98 inter-alia include the following -

- (i) Government have decided to raise investment ceiling in plant and machinery for SSI unit from Rs. 60 lakhs to Rs. 300 lakhs and for a tiny unit from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 25 lakhs to make them more competitive.
- (ii) In order to dispel the apprehensions that bigger ones in the SSI segment will corner the maximum of the credit, 40% credit has been earmarked for units upto Rs. 5 lakhs and another 20% for units from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 25 lakhs.
- (iii) Nine Integrated Infrastructural Development Centres were sanctioned in 1996-97 and eight additional centres have been sanctioned in 1997-98.
- (iv) Products of SSI units were displayed in 7

international exhibitions during 1996-97 at Government costs.

- (v) Technology Development and Modernisation Fund Scheme of SIDBI and Government Scheme for promoting assistance to SSI units to obtain ISO 9000 quality standard were revised to make them more attractive to SSI units.
- (vi) A new scheme of direct assistance of financing activities relating to marketing of SSI products was launched by SIDBI in the year 1996-97.
- (vii) SIDBI has also increased loan limit for the single window scheme from Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 100 lakhs in the year 1996-97.
- (viii) Though Abid Hussain Committee had recommended abolition of reservation policy, this policy continues to remain in force. The list of reserved items is however, reviewed from time to time in accordance with the existing provisions of the Industrial Development and Regulation Act.
- (ix) Two new schemes i.e. export development assistance and small scale industry development fund will be started in the year 1997-98. Adequate provisions for expanding coverage of schemes for assisting SSIs under the scheme for Technology & Training Centres, Sub-contract exchanges, testing centres, International Cooperation etc. for facilitating Modernisation and technology upgradation in the SSI sector have also been made in the budget for the year 1997-98.
- (x) A new scheme for setting up mini tool rooms in association with State Governments/Non-Government Organisations has been initiated.

(c) The present policy to tackle the industrial sickness, include measures like reduced rates of interests for rehabilitation, prompt viability studies/nursing programmes of identified sick units, setting up of Cells at important regional centres and head office to deal with sick industrial units and provision of expert staff, including technical personnel to look into technical aspects, activating State Level Inter-Institutional Committee of the State Governments for revival of sick units.

Details of State-wise industrial sickness in SSI sector in the portfolios of scheduled commercial banks in the country, over the last three years 1994, 1995 and 1996 (latest available) including Maharashtra are given at Annexure.

Annexure*State-wise Classification of Sick Small-scale Industrial Units*

State/Union Territory	No. of sick units as at the end of March		
	1994	1995	1996
1	2	3	4
Assam	14210	17984	19831
Meghalaya	317	367	4985
Mizoram	119	162	62
Bihar	17063	26749	16695
Arunachal Pradesh	123	140	104
West Bengal	56083	50500	56214
Nagaland	1063	1728	1445
Manipur	2350	2370	913
Orissa	17235	20498	7826
Sikkim	77	96	116
Tripura	764	921	1356
A & N Islands	25	28	41
Uttar Pradesh	33915	35988	38349
Delhi	5516	5712	6045
Punjab	2434	2473	2362
Haryana	1669	2339	2332
Chandigarh	179	188	205
Jammu & Kashmir	162	127	3728
Himachal Pradesh	614	649	567
Rajasthan	14665	17205	15668
Gujarat	7812	7728	7476
Maharashtra	21350	21346	20100
Daman & Diu	6	67	5
Goa	710	657	717
D & N Haveli	10	0	11
Madhya Pradesh	9795	11489	11748
Andhra Pradesh	13842	13740	14794

1	2	3	4
Karnataka	15145	11399	11196
Lakshadweep	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	8125	7300	8293
Kerala	10792	8631	8984
Pondicherry	282	234	218
Total	256452	268815	262376

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Hon. Speaker, Sir, due to adoption of liberalisation policies, small scale industries are being adversely affected today in the country. As a result thereof a large number of small scale industries have been closed down or are likely to be closed. Hon. Minister has answered in detail but the raw material which is used in small scale industries is imported from foreign countries. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to whether foreign finished goods are imported in large quantity as compared to the raw material. This raw material, olefine resin used in the manufacture of resin, is also used for several other products. Today, we import it from China but the rates of the finished goods which are manufactured there are lower as compared to the rates of the raw material. The result is that the goods manufactured in India, there is a gap of 30% between the prices of finished goods and the raw material. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister in this regard through you, and I had also addressed a letter to the Minister in this connection. Several industrial organisations and also many Members of Parliament have made a request to you in this regard. I would also like to know whether the government are considering the question of reducing the excise duty imposed on the raw material like olofine resin and whether the government are taking any specific steps to make available at lower rates the raw material which is used for manufacturing the goods ?

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, the hon. Member has made an accusation that because of reform policies, the small scale sector has been affected.

Sir, the truth is different. The small scale industry is very resilient on this. It is withstanding the competition of foreign imports and also local competition. For example, you look at the facts. The growth rate is very impressive. In 1991-92, there was only 3.1 per cent growth rate; in 1992-93, it went up to 5.6 per cent; last year, it was 11.4

per cent; and now, in 1996-97, that is up to September, it has reached the level of 13 per cent. Therefore, we have to appreciate these facts. The history of small scale industries in India is a success story and that success story is continuing.

Sir, the hon. Member has made a reference to olefine resin. He wanted that the excise duty should be reduced. As you know Sir, the Minister of Finance has to deal with it. I will take up the matter with the Minister of Finance.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Hon. Speaker, Sir, he has just said that it is not true that with the adoption of liberalisation policy small scale industries are not closing down. In Maharashtra 21350 small scale industries are lying closed. In 1996-97, about 20,000 small scale industries were lying closed. 5 SSI's are facing many problems and the Hussain Committee had made recommendations in regard to the small scale industries. Will the Government accept these recommendations ? Whether Government are considering to reduce the import duty on imported raw material and on chemical industries or not ?

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : I repeat that I will take up the problems regarding the excise duty and the import duty with the hon. Minister of Finance. I assure him that I will fight for the cause of those small scale industries.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE : In his reply, the hon. Minister of Finance has said that he is thinking about it. It is the usual reply and nothing has been done in the regard. The Minister of Finance is not present here today. I would like to ask the Minister of Industry as to whether the letter that I have sent to him, will be considered or not and whether I would get its reply or not ? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, there is a lot of difference in it. The Minister has given an assurance in this regard and if he fails to fulfil his assurance, then the matter will be taken up by the Committee on Government Assurances.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : I will take it up with the Minister of Finance. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, small scale industry is the main stay of the development

of any country. The contribution of the small scale industries is about 40% in the production of the country. They provide employment to a large number of people. The steps taken by the government have not been fruitful. In 1990, There were 2 lakh and 21 thousand sick small scale industries and till the beginning of 1996, their number has increased significantly.

In your reply you have mentioned the list of sick industries upto March, 1996. West Bengal topped this list, where more than 56000 units are sick. In the North-Eastern States the number of sick units is quite high. As per the reply, number of sick industries in Uttar Pradesh was 33,915 in 1994. It has increased to 33,988 in 1995 and 33349 in 1996. It appears from this reply that even after taking all the measures you are not being able to control this sickness.

Industries are becoming more and more sick. My question has two parts. First is—Whether he will take any special measures in regard to those industries in which this sickness is increasing in Uttar Pradesh and whether he will try to find out as to what are the causes of their sickness. If you know anything about these cause, Please state ? Liberalisation is welcomed by all. It is our first and foremost duty to welcome this but the day from which the multinational companies have started entering in the consumer sector, the small scale industries which are the base of our country have been adversely affected as a result of this their sickness has increased. If it is so, whether you will take any measures in order to check the entry of multinational companies in the consumer sector.

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, the hon. Member says that sickness in small scale industry is increasing. But if you look at it from a different point of view, the percentage of industries affected by sickness is getting reduced year by year. For example, in 1994, the industries affected by sickness was 8.4 per cent. In 1995, it marginally came down to 8.3 per cent. In 1996, it came down to 7.8 per cent. I agree, West Bengal topped the list of sickness. Second comes Uttar Pradesh with 38,349 industries.

There is a mechanism at the State level. It is called State level inter-institutional Committee to deal with the sickness. For example, the Committee includes representatives of the Small Industries Service institute, Small Industries Development Corporation, State Financial Corporation, Industrial Development Bank of India and banks with major involvement in the concerned State. They meet very often and deal with the sickness. They create viability studies and draw up nursing programmes. They

give finance at reduced interest rate for rehabilitation. The interest rate is 1.5 per cent to 3 per cent below the prevailing interest rate. This process is going on.

At the apex level, the Reserve Bank is also having monthly meeting an monitoring the situation.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : I would like to compliment the hon. Minister while putting my supplementary because a number of initiatives were taken during 1996-97 and 1997-98 for the revival of the sick industries. As the Minister himself has promised, he will champion the cause of the small scale industry. Unfortunately, in spite of all these initiatives, the competitive edge of the small scale industry is being reduced in competition with the large scale industry and also with the coming in of the multinational companies

One thing which has escaped the attention of the hon. Minister, which is very helpful for the growth of the small scale industry is the exemption of excise duty. That limit of exemption was Rs. 30 lakh. The Minister has said in his reply that the investment limit has been increased from Rs. 60 lakh to Rs. 3 crore. A proportionate increase in the exemption limit of the small scale industry also is essential. A sufficient thought is not applied to this very point. When one particular industry was mentioned, the Minister has said that he will take it up. Now the excise duty is exempted up to a limit of Rs. 30 lakh. This limit of Rs. 30 lakh was decided 15 years back. Considering the inflation and various other factors contributing to it, will the Government think of increasing the exemption limit to the small scale industry ? Will he give a specific proposal – it is a general case an not specific to any particular industry – from the Government side to the Finance Ministry which only can help it by being very sympathetic to small scale sector ? Will the hon. Minister take up this matter with the Finance Minister and recommend higher exemption limit for small scale industry for central excise ?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : I thank the hon. Member for his comments about the initiatives that we have taken. What he says is a genuine grievance among the small scale industries. But it is too late in the day. Only two days ago, we have passed the Finance Bill.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : We were fighting for that. Even then, what to do ?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : There was an amendment in my name also specifically to do this. The Finance Ministry did not accept it.

MR. SPEAKER : Your mistake was that you did not consult the Industry Minister.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : We take up all these causes regarding excise duty reduction for small scale sector. There is a genuine grievance, We have to do it. Next time, we will see it.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this context the hon'ble Minister has clarified the policy framed for the small-scale industries from one to ten but he forget to feel one thing in regard to which I would like to know. Whether Government propose to formulate a scheme. On the lines of BIFR as has been envisaged earlier for industry where there should be a provision for earmarking separate fund for the small scale industries, so that they could utilise that money ?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the second part of my question is that what efforts are likely to be made by the Govt. for getting approval of the Ministry of Finance in regard to the report submitted by the Parliamentary Committee on Industry about small scale industries ? Mr. Speaker, Sir, the rate of interest on the loan provided to small scale industries is quite high whereas multinational companies are being provided loan on the low rate of interest. I would like to know from the government at to what they are contemplating to do in this regard. Please state.

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, the hon. Member has asked about the BIFR type of mechanism for dealing with the sickness of small scale industries. In fact, such a tribunal was suggested by the Naik Committee, but the Ministry of Finance have not agreed to the recommendation for creation of BIFR type of institution on the ground that the SSI units are scattered all over the country. They are 27 lakh in number. The experience of the BIFR is very sad in the sense that the hon. Finance Minister himself had announced that he was going to bring a new Bill to revamp the SICA. Therefore, that kind of BIFR set up is not possible.

Regarding the other recommendation about fiscal measures, as I have laready mentioned, we will take it up with the Ministry of Finance.

National Jute Manufacturers Corporation

*583. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Jute Manufactures Corporation is incurring losses;

(b) if so, the losses incurred by the Corporation

during the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for revival of NJMC ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) and (b) NJMC has been incurring losses since its incorporation. During the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 it incurred losses of Rs. 80.33 Cr., 86.93 Cr. and 83.06 Cr. respectively. The reasons for losses inter-alia include poor conditions of existing plant and machinery, uneconomic product-mix, lack of working capital surplus workforce, uneven increase in wages cost and variable costs without commensurate increase in selling prices and abnormal price hike of raw jute.

(c) A Revival Package with a total financial outlay of Rs. 253.92 Crores has been prepared by IRBI (Operating Agency) and submitted to BIFR on 2nd August, 1996, which is under active consideration of the Government.

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Sir, the hon. Minister has answered in part (a) that "NJMC has been incurring losses". This has not been happening for the last three or four years, but as the hon. Minister himself has said, it has been incurring losses since its incorporation.

It was not started three or four years back but it was started in 1980. Since its inception in 1980, it has been continuously incurring losses every year and this issue had been raised many times in Parliament wanting to know the causes of the losses and the steps taken by the Government for its revival. But every time the answer comes giving the similar reason as has been mentioned this time. In 1993 a question was asked and similar reasons were given; now this time also the same reasons are given. That shows that the Government is not very serious about reviving this industry.

This year also there is a slump of 15 per cent in demand. I want to specifically ask the hon. Minister, having already incurring losses continuously and again after having a slump of 15 per cent in demand, what exactly the Government is going to do and what kind of steps they have taken in this regard.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, the causes of loss remain same every year. As the hon. Member put it, it has been incurring losses since the very beginning.

The paid up share capital is Rs. 54.80 crore and the accumulated loss is Rs. 873 crore. We have already given the figures of the losses which the hon. Member has asked.

In 1993-94, it was Rs 75.45 crore; in 1994-95, it was Rs. 79.58 crore; in 1995-96, it was Rs. 88.13 crore; and in 1996-97, it was Rs. 83.60 crore. During this year losses have come down.

I had been there and have reviewed the position of all the six mills. I gave them instructions and they have carried out some of the instructions. The man-hour was reduced and because of that the losses could be reduced by Rs. 5 crore during this year.

Sir, the total manpower is 36,000 in the sick mills. I do not think that in any mill anywhere so much of manpower is there. In 1994-95, the manpower that was being used to produce one tonne was 117. In 1995-96, it was 87. In 1996-97, it is 92. In private industries, only 35 to 40 days of manpower is required. So, the manpower is also too much. Unless we reduce the manpower, we cannot run these mills profitable.

Secondly, we have a turn around plan before the Government at a cost of Rs. 253 crore. It may come up before the Cabinet at anytime either within this month or before the 15th of next month. It will be coming up before the Cabinet and a decision will be taken as early as possible.

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : In the second part of my question, I had asked a specific question. Why is there a 15 per cent slump in the demand ? I had asked specifically the reasons for that. He did not even elaborate one single reason for that. If he answers, then I will come to know of it.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : I cannot say why there is a slump in the demand. Probably, there are many other reasons also. Now we have been encouraging this industry. In the Budget that was presented and approved recently by the hon. House, we have given exemption of excise duties for all the jute products. We are also supporting them especially for those diversified goods to be exported outside. We are doing our best.

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : He has not given a single specific reasons. Anyway, I will ask my second supplementary,

Part (c) of the answer says; "A revival package with a total financial outlay of Rs. 253.92 crore has been prepared by IRBI and submitted to BIFR on 2nd August, 1996.". This clearly shows how serious the Government is thinking to revive this industry. The answer says; "It was submitted in 1996 and it is under active consideration by the Government."

Secondly keeping the revival of this industry in mind, today, in fact, a high level delegation consisting of the Chief Minister of West Bengal, other Members of Parliament and many people from industry, is meeting the Prime Minister to specifically request him to be very specific in reviving this industry. One of their suggestions is by way of a mandatory jute packing order. I want to know whether the Government can say in this House at this minute that they are considering mandatory jute packing very seriously. It is because this is the only option for survival of this industry. Many people from the Jute industry are saying that this is the only option for its survival.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : This is not the only answer for survival. For the last three years, cement is not packed in spite of that, the industry has survived. This is not the only reasons why these industries are suffering. As I have already told the House, there is a revival package costing about Rs. 253 crore pending before the Cabinet. It may come up at any time.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, you did not pronounce my name properly. Even then, I am standing up.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay, Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, you would not expect him to cock. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, he is no longer entitled to sit in you Chair . . . (Interruptions).

Sir, if there is a violation of the existing orders and they cannot do anything about it, then why should there be a Government ?

Secondly, you look at the poor condition of the existing plant and uneconomic product mix. Who is responsible ? Why is it that all these machineries are not being renovated in spite of the fact that it had been taken over many years ago ? If one is serious, it is here that the correction has to be sought.

Thirdly, the demand is increasing world-wide because this is considered to be an eco-friendly product. People in various advanced countries are also switching over from plastic to jute because this is bio-degradable. Here the hon. Minister has said that there is a slump. He has to answer that. I think that is what he is suggesting. The raw jute problem is there. The Jute Corporation of India will not

buy the raw jute and will not deliver it because they do not get enough funds. They have to tackle all these problems. Then only the Jute Industry can develop.

I, therefore, request him, as in the case of N.T.C. mills, to agree to the formation of a small Committee of group of M.Ps to make recommendations. If they are prepared to make some massive investments in the Jute sector, which have become from a sunset industry to sunrise industry world over, then only, perhaps, they will be able to handle this. Would he agrees to this ?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : The obsolete machinery could not be replaced for want of funds. . . (Interruptions).

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Why ?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : I cannot explain it. You know it very well. You are here for several years before I came here. I am here only for the last eleven months and you are there for years together. You know it very well.

The Jute Corporation of India's role is to purchase jute whenever the prices go below the minimum support price. It has not gone below the minimum support price for the last four or five years.

The strength of the Jute Corporation of India is 2456. They are not doing a single pie job for the last several years. They are being paid Rs. 18 crore every year whereas the turnover of the Cotton Corporation of India is nearly thousand crore. They are earning Rs. 40 crore to 50 crore net profit every year. Their manpower strength is 1,400.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : But the Jute Corporation of India is not being allowed to participate.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Yes. It is because it has not gone below the minimum support price . . . (Interruptions). Now, in spite of that, after I took over, we have given Rs. 10 crore for the operations. Out of that amount, they have already purchased 60,000 bales. They have to reduce the manpower. They have to cooperate with me. If they reduce the manpower, then only we will be able to give them money. . . (Interruptions).

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : How can the manpower be reduced and also expect increase in production ? Why do you not do that ? . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : I am talking of the Jute Corporation of India. Why should we pay for 2,640 people every month without their doing anything ?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You diversify its activities. . . (Interruptions).

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : The Jute Corporation of India's activities cannot be diversified. They cannot go to the market and sell it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : But the Jute Corporation of India is not being allowed . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Maybe you get some answers in the next question.

Import Duty on Textile Machinery

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*584. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of textile processing units functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Textiles Ministry has suggested a drastic cut in import duty on textile machinery in order to facilitate modernisation of the weaving and processing sectors which would result in production of high value added items; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) With a view to providing access to state-of-the art technology, suggestions for appropriate modifications in fiscal duties in respect of certain items have been made so as to help the Indian textile industry to improve productivity, production and quality and become more competitive.

Statement

Sr. No.	State	No. of Processing Units
1	2	3
1.	Punjab	315
2.	New Delhi	200
3.	U.P.	69
4.	Rajasthan	1746
5.	Haryana	155
6.	Maharashtra	166
7.	Gujarat	511
8.	Madhya Pradesh	31

1	2	3
9.	Tamil Nadu	3403
10.	Pondicherry	13
11.	Kerala	75
12.	Karnataka	184
13.	Andhra Pradesh	117
14.	West Bengal	730
15.	Bihar	560
16.	Orissa	4069
17.	Assam	155
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
19.	Maghalaya	54
20.	Tripura	42

[Translation]

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Part B and C of the reply, given by the Minister are not clear. He said that with a view to provide access to "State-of-the art technology, suggestions for appropriate modifications in fiscal duties in respect of certain items have been made so as to help the Indian Textile Industry to improve productivity, production and quality and become more competitive.

This reply is not correct. What concrete decision has been taken in that. Will the hon'ble Minister be pleased to state about the concrete decision to be taken in this regard ?

My Second question is that whether the Government have any plan to sell the surplus land owned by the Textile Mills. If so, whether the money received as a result thereof will be spent on the same mill of same State ?

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, Selling the properties and investing them in machinery is a different question altogether. That matter pertains to N.T.C. not to this Question. The question is very clear and very simple. I have given the State-wise details about the number of textile processing units functioning in the country. I have also given the answer whether the Textile Ministry has suggested a drastic cut in import duty or not.

MR. SPEAKER : I agree with you.

[Translation]

Have you asked second question ?

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Mr. Speaker Sir, I had only asked that what decision has been taken in this regard.

My second supplementary is that machinery of textile mills is outdated now, with the result production of cloth is now on a declining trend and whether the Govt. propose to take some decision to revive these sick mills if not, the reasons therefor.

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Though it does not pertain to this question, I am prepared to answer it. We have, now, proposed a Technology Modernisation Fund. That is going to come into existence. In the Seventh Plan there was a fund to the tune of Rs. 750 crore for modernisation. It was not there in the Eighth Plan. Now, we are proposing this technology Upgradation Fund.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker Sir, the government in its abruptly taken decision has decided to reduce the customs duty on the machinery imported now a days and during these 25 years there has been a lot of development in the textile machinery manufacturing industry of our country. But their sudden drastic cut has ruined our all imported machinery and textile machinery manufacturing industry. Whether Government has taken a note of this that the way these people are making a drastic cut in the customs duty on the dictates of a particular capitalist lobby that has ruined our whole industry you must take care of the indigenous industries too.

MR. SPEAKER : Whether you have asked your question ?

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, we are not importing machinery at the cost of our indigenous machinery. We are encouraging import of machinery only in those areas where we do not have proper machinery to face the coming onslaught of world competition. Now, I will give you some figures. As regards shuttleless looms Korea has installed 73,584, China has 56,117, Taiwan has 32,812, Indonesia has 25,716, and Thailand has 10,769 between 1985 and 1994. These are the countries which are competing with us in garment industry and also in textile industry in the world market. In India we have only 7,388 such looms. Should we not encourage the import of these machinery?

Regarding Rapier/Projectile/Airjet/Waterjet looms, Ko-

rea has installed 12,910 China has 6,480, Taiwan has 1,507 Indonesia has 3,592, Thailand has 642 and India has only 746. We have recommended to the Ministry of Finance that in order to face the stiff competition in the coming years we should upgrade our technology in the area of weaving, processing and also garment industry.

So, we have recommended to the Finance Ministry to reduce the import duty. We have also recommended to see that at least for one or two years these machineries which are not produced in our country are imported without any import duty.

Disinvestment Commission

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*587. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to empower the Disinvestment Commission to take final decisions with regard to disinvestment in Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith important features of policy of disinvestment;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the recommendations made by the Disinvestment Commission in its first report;

(e) whether his Ministry has referred more PSUs to the Commission; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Disinvestment Commission has been conceived of and is an Advisory Body. No change in its role is considered necessary.

(d) to (f) The Disinvestment Commission in its first report has, inter-alia suggested the strategies for disinvestment in three PSUs, namely, Gas Authority of India, India Tourism Development Corporation and Modern Food Industries Limited. Ten more companies as per Annexure have been referred to the Disinvestment Commission for advice.

Annexure

1. Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Ltd.

2. NEPA Ltd.
3. Electronic Trade & Technology Development Corporation Ltd.
4. Hindustan Prefab Ltd.
5. Ranchi Ashok Bihar Hotel Corporation Ltd.
6. Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd.
7. Central Electronics Ltd.
8. Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.
9. Utkal Ashok Hotel Corporation Ltd.
10. Rehabilitation Industries Corporation.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, I want to know whether the function of Disinvestment Commission is to disinvest or just to advise. The name Disinvestment Commission suggests that it should actually disinvest. But he is not allowing it to disinvest. He is just taking its advice. The advice may or may not be acceptable. As he himself says, he is not going to accept its recommendations.

May, I, therefore, ask him whether he favours that this Disinvestment Commission should actually disinvest and that the power and machinery to disinvest should lie with it. I would also like to know whether the Government has any idea to accept the recommendations of this Disinvestment Commission. Firstly, the Commission has recommended that to the units in the category of 'strong performance', autonomy be granted with respect to investment decisions in case the investment is sought from financial institutions or the resources are generated internally. This is one of the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission. I would like to know whether the Minister is going to accept it. Secondly, the Commission also recommended that the public sector units be restructured before disinvestment. It also recommended that in order to enforce accountability in the public sector units, the MoU system should be revamped in order to measure the performance of PSUs more qualitatively. These are some of the most important recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission.

Will the Minister like to inform the House whether the Government wants to actually use Disinvestment Commission for the purpose of disinvestment or wants to keep it only as an advisory body without any power and without any role to play in actual disinvestment and whether these three recommendations, which the Disinvestment Commission has made, are acceptable to the Government?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : The hon. Member has asked a series of questions. The first question is whether

the Commission is going to be an advisory body or not. I have answered in my main reply itself that it is an advisory body. It has been created to be an advisory body. It was conceived as an advisory body because we have stated like that in the Common Minimum Programme. In the BJP's programme also, there was a mention of Disinvestment Commission.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : In our programme, it is not as an advisory body.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Their Commission is different from our Commission. This Commission is an advisory body. Its job is to give objective and wise advice to the Government. Not only that, we have also given terms of reference and eleven duties have been prescribed for the Commission. I do not want to read any one of them. But they can supervise the overall sale process and take decisions on instrument, pricing, timing etc., as considered appropriate. They can also select the Financial Advisor for the specified PSUs to facilitate disinvestment process. They can also monitor the progress of disinvestment process. So, they have been given wide powers to monitor, supervise and advice. It is for the Cabinet to accept the recommendations or not.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I have specifically asked about the recommendations. What about those recommendations?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It was meant for refugees' rehabilitation by the Government and that is being offered to the private sector. It is very surprising. It is the responsibility of the Government to rehabilitate refugees.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, you ask the second supplementary.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : My first question has not yet been answered.

MR. SPEAKER : Then, there is no time for the second answer.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : He has not answered the first question.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : The hon. Member has asked about the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission. The hon. Finance Minister is here. He had specifically stated in his Budget Speech that he intend to proceed with disinvestment in these companies along the lines suggested by the Commission. This is how, we have accepted their recommendation regarding disinvestment.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I want to know whether they are going to give complete autonomy to those PSUs which are categorised under 'performing category'. My question is very specific.

12.00 hrs.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, my answer is also going to be specific in the sense that we have identified nine companies as 'Navaratnas'. We are considering to give full autonomy to them so that they can compete not only with the private sector in India, but also with the contemporary giants in the outside world.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Investment by NRI

*585. DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total investment expected to be made in 1997-98 by the Non-Resident Indians in the country;

(b) the incentives given to NRIs for investment in the country;

(c) whether the incentives/concessions given to NRIs in the past produced good result; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The figures for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) investments are maintained on a calendar year basis. The inflow of investments from NRIs during 1996 was Rs. 2062.0 crores. Investments by NRIs during 1997 is likely to increase significantly. The actual investments would, however, depend on the response of NRIs to the emerging investment opportunities.

(b) to (d) The policy and facilities for foreign direct investment are fully applicable to Non-Resident Indians. In addition, Government have extended some concessions specially for NRIs/OCBs (Overseas Corporate Bodies, Predominantly owned by NRIs). These include : (i) while no foreign investment is permitted in the real estate sector, NRIs/OCBs are permitted to invest in housing and real estate sector even upto 100%; (ii) NRI/OCB investment in the airlines sector is permitted upto 100%, while foreign investment is limited upto only 40%; (iii) NRIs/OCBs are

permitted to invest upto 40% in the banking sector whereas foreign equity is permitted only upto 20% (iv) while foreign equity and OCB equity is limited upto 24% in the case of SSI units, NRI individuals can invest beyond 24% in such units.

As a result of these measures, the investment from NRIs/OCBs has increased from Rs. 160.2 crores in 1991 to Rs. 2062.0 crores in 1996.

Decline in Industrial Growth

*586. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rate of industrial growth has declined during April to December, 1996 as compared to corresponding period during the previous year;

(b) if so, the details thereof including consumer goods and core sectors;

(c) the main reasons for the decline; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to increase the growth rate ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The overall industrial growth in April-December, 1996 was 8.3% compared to 11.4% in the corresponding period last year. The sectoral growth as per the use based classification of industries during (April-December) 1995-96 and 1996-97 was as follows :-

	1995-96	1996-97
Basic Goods	9.2%	7.0%
Capital Goods	17.9%	11.8%
Intermediate	8.1%	9.6%
Consumer Goods	12.6%	6.2%

(c) and (d) The main reasons for decline in the production has been under performance in crude, electricity and consumer durable goods sector. Sector specific strategies have already been initiated to remove constraints in under performing sectors. The credit policy announced recently by Reserve Bank of India is also expected to provide further impetus to industrial growth. Government has also proposed initiatives in the Union Budget 1997-98 for accelerated industrial growth. Domestic and foreign investment is encouraged in industry and infrastructure sectors.

Sick Textile Mills

*588. SHRI P.V. RAJESHWAR RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sick textile mills in the country, State-wise;

(b) the State-wise number of sick textile mills referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction for suggesting revival and modernisation packages during the last three years;

(c) the number of such packages of BIFR implemented by the Govt., alongwith the details of packages yet to be implemented; and

(d) the number of textile mills closed down during the last three years alongwith the reasons for their closure for each of the sick textile mill State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :
(a) and (b) As per information furnished by Board for industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) as on 31.1.97 there were 301 mills registered with BIFR and there were 45 mills registered with BIFR during the last 3 years. The State-wise details are given below :-

Sl. No.	Name of the State/Union Territory	No. of Mills	No. of Sick Textile Mills Registered during 1994, 1995, 1996
1	2	3	4
1.	Bihar	3	—
2.	West Bengal	12	1
3.	Orissa	5	5
4.	Uttar Pradesh	35	5
5.	Delhi	2	1
6.	Punjab	6	1
7.	Haryana	12	3
8.	Chandigarh	1	—
9.	Rajasthan	14	2
10.	Gujarat	63	9
11.	Maharashtra	56	7
12.	Madhya Pradesh	14	1
13.	Andhra Pradesh	17	2

1	2	3	4
14.	Karnataka	15	2
15.	Tamil Nadu	35	8
16.	Kerala	5	—
17.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3	2
18.	Assam	3	—
Total		301	45

(c) Out of 97 rehabilitation schemes sanctioned by BIFR, 21 schemes have been successfully implemented and these companies have been declared no longer sick. The remaining schemes are being implemented.

(d) The number of Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills reported to be closed and registered with BIFR was 25 as on 28.2.97 during the last 3 years. The Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills were closed mainly due to lockouts, strikes and financial difficulties. The main reason for sickness of mills is financial difficulties.

Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme

*589. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme under the new EXIM Policy which is to replace the Value Based Advance Licence Scheme with effect from April 1, 1997 has not yet been finalised;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay;

(c) the effect of this delay in terms of loss of revenue and the difficulties faced by the exporters; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to tide over the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (a) No, Sir. The Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme has already been finalised and the details of the same is given in paragraph 7.25 to 7.42 of the Export Import Policy (1997-2002) and paragraphs 7.32 to 7.49 of the Handbook of Procedures (Vol.I) 1997-2002.

The Department of Revenue has also issued Notification No. 34/97 Customs dated 7th April, 1997 for operation of the Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme. The credit entitlement rate under DEPB Scheme in respect of 51 items have also been notified. The credit entitlement rate for many more items are under finalisation in

consultation with the Department of Revenue. Exports, however, have not been affected as exports have been permitted under the Scheme pending the finalisation of the Entitlement Rate.

Handloom Industry

*590. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Handloom Industry is facing serious challenges from powerloom sector, and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken to assist the handloom industry to meet the challenges from the other sectors ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b) The Handloom Industry is facing competition from the Powerloom sector. The Government of India has taken following steps to assist the handloom industry :-

1. Eleven Textile articles have been reserved for exclusive production on handlooms.
2. State Government and other implementing agencies have been directed to implement the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 from time to time.
3. The Scheme for Central Assistance to the States/UTs for setting up of Enforcement Machinery in the States/UTs is in operation since 1986.
4. Central Enforcement Machinery with its Head Quarters at Delhi and three Regional Enforcement Offices at Calcutta, Chennai and Ahmedabad has been set up.
5. Under various Handloom Schemes, assistance is provided for supply of inputs, modernisation of looms training, welfare, research & development and marketing etc.

Investment in Public Sector Units

*591. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have increased the capital investment in the public sector industrial units to improve their conditions;

(b) if so, the amount of capital investment made in these industries during the first year of the Eighth Plan;

(c) the estimated amount of capital investment made in the last year of the Plan;

(d) the amount raised as loan through foreign and domestic sources separately;

(e) the amount paid by these industries as interest on the amount raised as loans; and

(f) the total capital investment involved in these units and the percentage it constitute of the total capital investment involved in public sector ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The amount of fresh investment made in 165 such Central Public Sector Units during 1992-93 (1st year of 8th Plan) was Rs. 10715.50 crores and during 1995-96 (4th year of 8th Plan) upto which period only information is available was Rs. 2234.47 crores.

(d) The loans raised by industrial units in the Central PSUs through foreign and domestic sources as on 31.3.1996 was Rs. 25827.97 crores and Rs. 47720.35 crores respectively.

(e) The amount of interest paid by industrial PSEs towards foreign and domestic loans during 1995-96 is given as under :-

(Rs. in Crores)	
Interest on Loan	1995-96
From foreign parties	2003.08
From domestic sources	8867.89

(f) As on 31.3.1996, the total capital investment in 165 industrial PSEs was Rs. 122776.17 crores which constitute 68.7% of the total investment of Rs. 178627.71 crores made in 243 Central PSEs.

Trade Deficit

*592. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether country's trade deficit for the current year has crossed \$ 5 billion mark;

(b) whether imports during February, 1997 have grown substantially;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the trade deficit is likely to cross \$6

billion mark by the year end; and

(e) if so, the steps the Government, contemplate to remove the deficit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Sir, As per the latest available information regarding trade data from DGCI&S, the trade deficit for April-March 1996-97 (Prov.) is placed at US \$5.44 billion.

(b) and (c) As per DGCI&S data imports during February 1997 were valued at US \$ 3551 million while imports during February 1996 were valued at US \$2799 million. This represents a growth of 26.9%.

(d) and (e) No Sir. The trade deficit as per DGCI&S data for April-March 1996-97 (Prov.) is placed at US\$ 5.44 billion.

The key to reducing trade deficit lies in accelerated export growth. Export promotion measures are continuously being taken by the Government through policy and promotional schemes. These include simplification of Export Import Policy and procedures for providing an export friendly environment, involvement of States in export promotion and interaction with industry, trade and other export promotional institutions for initiation of appropriate measures from time to time.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission

*593. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total funds being allocated to KVIC by the Government annually;

(b) whether the Government propose to enhance the grants to KVIC;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission generate more jobs in rural areas of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken to encourage Khadi and Village Industries in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The Government has provided the funds (Plan and Non-Plan) including the grants to Khadi and Village Industries Commission from year to year. The details of the funds released for the last four years and for the year 1997-98 are as under :-

(Rs. in lakhs)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Plan	20800	21600	33700	30820	34999
Non-Plan	32564	34100	32300	30910	31316
Total	53364	55700	66000	61730	66315

The funds are being allocated annually depending upon the proposals and the programmes submitted by the KVIC after the Annual Plan exercise. Over the years, Government is providing more and more grants to the KVIC for various KVIC programmes.

(d) and (e) Khadi and Village Industries Commission is the implementing agency for Khadi and Village Industry activities. KVIC have unique capacity to generate large employment in the rural areas at the lower capital cost per employment as compared to the other sectors responsible for creation of Jobs. It has been estimated that while in the major industries creation of one job required Rs. 10 lakhs, Rs. 3 lakhs in SSI, Rs. 42,000 in Khadi and less than Rs. 26,000 in the Village Industries. The KVIC has provided employment to the order of 60.22 lakhs (provisional) people in 1996-97 and has generated additional employment of about 3 lakhs in the year 1996-97.

(f) Based on the recommendations of the High Power Committee (HPC) on KVI Sector, KVIC has been implementing since 1995-96 a Rural Employment General Programme (REGP). The major constituents of this programme are (i) 125 Block Development Programme; (ii) District Special Employment Programme; (iii) National Programme on Leather, Handmade Paper, Beekeeping and Pottery; (iv) Special Projects in thrust areas; (v) Strengthening normal Village Industries Programme; and (vi) Extension of Khadi Programme.

In addition to this, Government has arranged for Khadi and Village Industries Commission a line of Bank credit of Rs. 1000 crores through a Consortium of Banks headed by State Bank of India.

Solar PV Pumps

*594. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any review on the progress made in generation and utilisation of solar energy during 8th plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; Statewise;

(c) the number of solar PV Pumps installed in different States during 1996-97 and project goal for 1997-98; and

(d) the details of the thrust proposed to be given to generation of solar energy, wind energy and other Non-Conventional Energy Sources during Ninth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPTAIN JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Statewise progress made as regard to installation of various solar energy system during 8th Plan period is given in Statement-I attached.

(c) Under a programme for the use of solar PV pumps for agriculture and related uses, a total of 610 solar PV pumps have been installed in different parts of the country during 1996-97. Under this programme, participating manufacturers, suppliers and financial intermediaries directly market the pumps and no Statewise targets are allocated by the Government. The Statewise details of such installations are given in Statement II attached. The project goal for 1997-98 is to support deployment of 1,000 solar PV pumps.

(d) Detailed proposals have been prepared by the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources for expanding

our renewable energy programmes significantly during the 9th Five Year Plan. Among the thrust areas are : use of biogas, biomass and solar energy for decentralised energy requirements in rural areas and grid quality power generation based on wind energy, solar energy, small hydro power, biomass power and power from urban, municipal & industrial wastes. It is proposed to add a further 3,000 MW of grid capacity from renewable energy during the Plan. Of this figure, 2,000 MW is expected to come from wind energy and the remainder from small hydro, bagasse cogeneration, solar thermal, solar photovoltaic energy and from urban, municipal & industrial wastes. In the important area of solar photovoltaics, it is proposed to increase annual production level of solar cells and modules from 9 MW in 1996-97 to around 30 MW in 2001-2, the last year of the 9th Plan. Over the Plan period, around 100 MW of solar photovoltaic energy systems are proposed to be deployed of which around 10 MW is expected to be for exports. There will be a major thrust on R&D and technology development in all areas of renewable energy. The Plan also focuses on capability and capacity building in technical institutions, industry, utilities, NGOs and on encouraging the development of entrepreneurship. However, the exact physical targets and financial outlays for the 9th Plan have not yet been finalised by Government. They are under discussion with the Planning Commission.

Statement-I

State-wise progress made on installation of solar energy systems during 8th Plan period (1992-93 to 1996-97)

State	Solar Thermal Systems		Solar photovoltaic system		
	Solar Cookers* (No.)	Solar water heating systems* (in sq. m. of collector area)	Lightings (No.)	Power Plants* (KW)	Water Pumps (No.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Andhra Pradesh (NEDCAP)	10267	2012	5459	5.6	380
2. Assam	80	60	908	1.0	45
3. Bihar (BRED A)	730	1008	20520	—	92
4. Delhi (DEDA)	7403	1404	4808	—	42
5. Gujarat (GEDA)	10576	7987	4161	—	19
6. Himachal Pradesh (HIMURJA)	12131	3065	11288	—	1
7. Haryana (HSCST)	8379	1752	8354	4.3	17
8. Jammu & Kashmir (JKRDA)	345	36	6722	—	15

1	2	3	4	5	6
9. Kerala (ANERT)	39	2617	23069	4.74	241
10. Karnataka (KSCST)	—	36140	483	—	103
11. Madhya Pradesh (MPUVN)	96253	6331	6933	249.0	15
12. Maharashtra (MEDA)	14122	11956	1674	110.0	114
13. Orissa (OREDA)	1761	576	2608	3.75	1
14. Punjab (PAIC)	7199	3826	722	2.0	89
15. Rajasthan (REDA)	9245	2569	6422	152.15	146
16. Tamil Nadu (TEDA)	52	7558	2070	187.0	453
17. Uttar Pradesh (NEDA)	14137	6595	56145	322.0	66
18. West Bengal (WBREDA)	3875	9291	3640	39.10	44
19. Manipur	—	128	543	—	1
20. Meghalaya	332	120	2075	27.72	—
21. Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—
22. Tripura	6	104	539	—	—
23. Adaman & NA	68	20	315	110.0	5
24. Arunachal Pradesh	624	58	1957	5.9	—
25. Dadra & NH	—	—	—	—	1
26. Goa (RDA)	415	743	—	—	14
27. Chandigarh (DSC)	790	93	—	—	7
28. Lakshadweep	—	—	890	20.0	14
29. Pondicherry (ORDA)	—	1027	217	—	28
30. Mizoram	48	33	2442	—	—
31. Sikkim	—	154	122	—	—
32. Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—
Total	198877	107260	175086	1244.26	1953

*Based on information received from state agencies.

Statement-II

State-wise PV Water Pumping Systems
Installed during 1996-97

State/UT	No. of Pumps 1996-97
1	2
1. Andhra Pradesh	102
2. Assam	17

1	2
3. Andaman & Nicobar	—
4. Bihar	40
5. Chandigarh	—
6. Dadra Nagar Haveli	—
7. Delhi	18

1	2
8. Gujarat	15
9. Goa	2
10. Haryana	4
11. Himachal Pradesh	—
12. Jammu & Kashmir	4
13. Karnataka	47
14. Kerala	82
15. Madhya Pradesh	4
16. Maharashtra	27
17. Manipur	—
18. Mizoram	26
19. Orissa	—
20. Punjab	29
21. Pondicherry	—
22. Rajasthan	47
23. Tamil Nadu	93
24. Uttar Pradesh	26
25. West Bengal	27
Total	610

Agriculture Service Sector

*595. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the benefits likely to be extended under the Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme in the service sector; and

(b) the fillip given to agricultural export under the new Exim Policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) The benefit of Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme as contained in Chapter 6 of the Export and Import Policy 1997-2002 has already been extended to service provider. The EPCG Scheme has two windows – one Zero Duty Scheme and the other is 10% Duty Scheme. The service providers have been given the benefit of 10% Duty EPCG Scheme as per Customs Notification No. 28/97 – Customs dated 1.4.97.

(b) The agricultural sector has been given special attention in the Export and Import Policy 1997-2002. Zero Duty EPCG Scheme has been extended to the agricultural sector where the value of capital goods involved is Rs. 5 crores or more. Further EPCG licence holder for export of agricultural products are exempted from maintaining the average level of exports. In the case of EOU/EPZ in the field of agriculture, 50% of the production in value terms is allowed to be sold in DTA. For the purpose of recognition as Export House/Trading House/Star Trading House/Super Star Trading House, double weightage is given on the export of fruits and vegetables floriculture and horticulture produce/products. In addition, 1% additional SIL is granted on the total value of exports provided the export of fruits and vegetables, floriculture and horticulture produce/products constitute more than 10% of the exports made by the exporter during the relevant period.

Export made by Export Promotion Zones

*596. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the value of exports made from different Export Processing Zones during each of the last three years, Zone-wise;

(b) the target set for the EPZs during the current financial year, Zone-wise; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the exports from the EPZs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) Value of Exports from different Export Processing Zones and export target set for 1997-98.

(Rs. crores)

Name of the Zone	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Provisional)	Target fixed for 1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
Kandla FTZ	320.03	325.29	374.15	470.00
Santacruz Electronics EPZ	1,549.46	1876.29	2176.30	2580.00

1	2	3	4	5
Noida EPZ	367.00	496.89	586.53	775.00
Madras EPZ	281.38	391.92	992.42	1450.00
Cochin EPZ	102.53	120.31	165.36	210.00
Falta EPZ	32.31	24.04	29.15	100.00
Visakhapatnam EPZ	0.40	0.89	-	15.00
Total	2653.11	3235.63	4323.93	5600.00

(c) The performance of Export Processing Zones (EPZs) is under constant review and improvements in policy and procedure are effected on the basis of feed back from the trade and industry to ensure better performance and to increase exports from EPZs. Recent changes introduced in the Export-Import Policy include grant of additional Special Import Licence of 2% of FOB value of exports linked to achievement of higher level of exports of 25% or more than the stipulated export obligation, facility to supply/sell samples in the domestic market to procure export orders through buying agents and improving flexibility of operations by simplification of sub-contracting procedures.

Amendments in Article 324 of Constitution

*597. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Election Commission has suggested to amend the Article 324 of the Constitution to provide the same immunity and protection to the Election Commissioners in the matter of their removability from office as available to the Chief Election Commissioner;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Election Commission in this regard;

(c) whether the Govt. have considered the suggestion; and

(d) if so, by what time a decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Election Commission has, among others, made the proposal that the method of appointment and the constitutional protection after appointment should be the same for the Chief Election Commissioner and the other Election Commissioners.

(c) and (d) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Supply of Coal

*598. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the annual demand for coal from power plants, steel plants, cement plants and railways during the last three years;

(b) the total quantum of coal supplied to these sectors during those years;

(c) whether adequate quantum of coal is not being supplied to these sectors;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to supply coal as per the requirement of railways, power plants, steel plants and cement plants in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Details regarding annual demand and supply of coal to power plants, steel plants, cement plants and Railways during the last three years are given below :-

(In million tonnes)

	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
	Demand	Supply	Demand	Supply	Demand	Supply
Steel	34.50	34.56*	38.70	35.80*	40.50	34.80*
Power	174.00 (3.00)	166.45 (2.67)	191.00 (4.00)	187.79	210.00	202.71
Cement	13.10	11.12	15.30	11.00	17.50	11.25
Railways	2.20	0.66	0.70	0.27	0.40	0.12

*Includes imported coal.

(c) and (d) Adequate quantity of coal is being supplied to the power sector. As the PLF and the units generated are increasing year to year, decrease in supplies has occurred in some cases because of lack of demand consequent to decrease in power generation and also non-payment of coal supply dues. With regard to the cement sector there has been a sluggish demand and consequently several cement plants have not filed their programmes for lifting the linked quantity. Further, certain coast based cement plants import their coal requirements and these figures are not reflected in the above supply figures. As regards the steel sector, the full demand cannot be met from domestic sources because of quality constraint. Certain amount of coal has to be imported for blending and for direct feed purposes on technical considerations. Supplies to Railways are coming down because of increased conversion to diesel and electric tractions.

(e) The steps being taken to increase production of coal are the following :-

- (i) Increase in production from existing mines and by opening new mines.
- (ii) Increase in efficiency.
- (iii) Increase in investment in the coal sector by enabling coal mining by private companies for captive consumption.

Demand and Production of Paper

*599. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total demand and production of paper in the country during 1996-97 upto March 31, 1997;

(b) the quantity and value of the paper imported during the said period;

(c) efforts made by the Government during the Eighth Five Year Plan to increase the production of paper in the country; and

(d) steps proposed to be taken during 1997-98 and the Ninth Five Year Plan to fill the gap between demand and production of paper in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Total demand and production of paper during 1996-97 (upto February, 1997) is as follows :-

(lakh tonnes)

Year	Demand	Production
1996-97	30.28*	25.52

*Source : Report of the Committee on Action Plan for Pulp & Paper Industry-1996.

(b) During 1996-97 (upto 28.2.1997) 1.65 lakh tonnes of paper was imported at a value of Rs. 646.87 crores.

(c) The Government has taken the following steps to increase the production/availability of paper in the country during the 8th Five Year Plan :-

- (i) Paper units based on minimum 75% pulp derived from non-conventional raw materials are exempted from compulsory licensing subject to locational policy.
- (ii) Low excise duty of 5% is levied on paper manufactured with not less than 75% non conventional raw material.
- (iii) Custom duty on the import of paper has been brought down from 65% to 20%.
- (iv) Excise duty on wood based paper & paper board

wood based has been brought down from 20 to 18% in the current budget.

- (v) Customs Duty on the import of coal and chemicals used in the Paper Industry has been considerably brought down.
- (vi) Customs Duty on the import of wood logs and wood chips has been brought down from 10% to zero.
- (vii) Central Pulp & Paper Research Institute, an autonomous institute under the Government has done significant work in the field of research and development for paper industry like chemical recovery system, raw-material studies and other innovations which have helped to increase the production of paper in the country.
- (viii) As a result of liberalised industrial policy introduced in 1991, 502 Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandums with a capacity of 83.52 lakh tonnes per annum have been filed for the manufacture of paper etc.

(d) Domestic supply of paper is growing in tandem with increase in demand. Domestic industry is geared to meet the broad based and growing demand for paper and paper-boards.

High Cost of Production of Export Items

*600. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cost of production of export items in the country is more as compared to other developing countries;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether obsolete equipments, poor management and low labour productivity are the problems faced by the exporters;

(d) if so, whether it is a fact that exporters are unable to compete their products in the international market due to the above problems; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (e) Sir, export performance is dependent inter alia on international factors such as market conditions, tariff and non-tariff barriers, besides domestic parameters such as the policy framework and procedures, state of domestic infrastructure, export competitiveness of export items etc.

India's export basket contains a large number of items and no specific study has been done by the Government for all the export commodities regarding the cost of production in the country vis-a-vis other developing countries. It might, however, be mentioned that in addition to the cost of production, other factors which influence export competitiveness include inter alia lack of export subsidies, high cost of infrastructure due to inefficiency in energy, transport, ports etc., cost of export credit, productivity of the factors of production etc.

Government monitors the trade performance on a continuous basis and export promotion measures are continuously being taken through changes in policies and procedures to provide for an export friendly environment, involving the States in export promotion, consultations with trade and industry of initiation of appropriate remedial measures to tackle general as well as sector-specific problems as warranted from time to time.

Grants to Disinvestment Commission

6470. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has granted Rs. 1.75 crore to the Disinvestment Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the areas where this amount is likely to be invested ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The I.B.R.D. (World Bank) have indicated their agreement to make to India a grant in an amount not exceeding US \$ 495000. This is meant for the Disinvestment Commission and will mainly finance short-term and long-term consultants for the next 2 years. The concurrence of the Government has so far not been conveyed to the World Bank or the agreement counter-signed.

Public Sector Undertaking

6471. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs have decided to recover the outstandings of around Rs. 15,000/- crores against the Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details of these outstandings, undertaking-wise and state-wise; and

(c) the efforts made so far to recover the amount

and reasons stated by the concerned Public Sector Undertakings for non-payment ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Coal Sector

6472. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of coal mines in Meghalaya alongwith the production of coal during the last three years;

(b) the quantum of coal exported from the State during above period and the countries to whom it was exported;

(c) whether the Government propose to export coal to Bangladesh from the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Coal India Limited (CIL) does not have any working coal mine in Meghalaya. In the only CIL mine at Simsang (Opencast) in Meghalaya, incline drivage is in progress. Coal production in Meghalaya is in the unorganised sector. The estimated coal production in the unorganised sector in Meghalaya during the period from 1993-94 to 1995-96 is given below :

(In Lakh Tonnes)

1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
25.40	32.70	32.50

(b) Coal produced in the unorganised sector in Meghalaya is being exported to Bangladesh. The estimated quantum of coal exported to Bangladesh from the unorganised sector of Meghalaya during the last three years is given below :-

(In Lakh Tonnes)

1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
5.20	8.60	2.19

(c) and (d) With effect from 1.4.1993, the earlier restriction of minimum export price on coal export has been removed and all coal, including coal exported from Meghalaya has become freely exportable without any restrictions. There is no proposal of the Union Ministry of Coal regarding export of coal to Bangladesh from Meghalaya

New Industrial Policy

6473. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to promote private investment (both domestic and foreign) in industries specifically in the North Eastern States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith areas identified for investment ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Industrial development is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, Ministry of Industry is also considering formulation of a new Industrial Policy specific to North Eastern Region to promote private investment.

Modernisation of Textile Mills

6474. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some textile mills in Gujarat are being modernised with the help of foreign assistance;

(b) if so, the names of these textile mills;

(c) the names of the countries and the financial institutions which provided funds for their modernisation; and

(d) the details of the funds made available by them during the last three years, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (d) Ministry of Textiles is not aware of textile mills in Gujarat being modernised with foreign assistance.

[Translation]

Textile Industry

6475. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to chalk out any action plan for textile organisations and Export Promotion Councils to give impetus to weaving and processing sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be finalized ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (c) A proposal is under formulation to facilitate modernisation, through technological upgradation, of the

textile industry including the weaving and processing sector. The intended objective is to improve production and productivity of the Indian textile industry to make it more competitive, including in the export market. Details of a Technology Upgradation Fund for textiles and Jute industries are being worked out in this regard. As regards sericulture and wool, upgradation of processing facilities have been identified as thrust areas to be taken up during the 9th Five Year Plan Period, and schemes for this purpose are presently under formulation.

[English]

Achievements by NRF

6476. SHRI KRISHAN LAI SHARMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Renewal Fund has failed in its objectives of availing jobs for rationalized workmen;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the gist of its achievements during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Assistance from National Renewal Fund which has been set up to provide a social safety net for rationalised workers, affected by industrial restructuring, is being provided at present, for voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) in Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and counselling, retraining and redeployment assistance to rationalised workers in the organised sector.

As on 31.3.97, 1,04,299 workers have opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs). Additionally, 30,433 rationalised workers have been counselled, 22,925 retrained and 5962 redeployed by the Employee Assistance Centres (EACs) set up under NRF.

Exploitation of Catechu Reserves

6477. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Kodarma District of Bihar has huge reserves of Catechu and whether the Government are suffering loss worth lakhs of rupees daily due to the exploitation of Catechu reserves by the Catechu Mafia;

(b) if so, whether the Government are taking any concrete steps to prevent the theft of natural Catechu of this area by the Catechu Mafia;

(c) whether the Government propose to launch any Special Campaign for the export of the Catechu deposited in this area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of Raw Material

6478. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of materials for the utilisation of Non-Conventional Energy Sources in the country;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to make it cheaper and easily available;

(c) whether majority of material have to be imported for the use in this sector;

(d) if so, the amount spent on import of Non-Conventional Energy materials during the last three years; and

(e) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to reduce the import and encourage the domestic production of these items ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (e) Presently, certain raw materials required for the manufacture of high technology based Non-conventional Energy Systems/ devices such as solar PV cells/modules and number of critical components, assemblies and sub-assemblies required for the manufacture of wind turbine equipments, are being imported. These imports are necessary due to the requirement of high-purity and specialised materials and shortfall in actual domestic production of these materials compared to their demand. At present, the import content in solar photovoltaic modules is about 45% and in wind electric generators is 50-60%. It is estimated that the amount spent on the import of materials/components for use by the manufacturers and promoters of Non-conventional Energy equipments/projects in the last three years has been a round Rs. 1500 crores.

In order to encourage domestic production and to ensure cheap and easy availability of various key raw materials and components required for the generation and utilisation of non-conventional energy sources, the Govern-

ment have announced schemes for grant of financial support to take up research and development, technology upgradation and the setting up of pilot plant production facilities. In addition, Government is providing soft loan assistance to industries for the expansion of existing units and the setting up of new units for production of silicon for use in solar cells. The Ministry has taken up a technology development plan for indigenous production of wind energy equipment and to encourage complete indigenisation of wind electric generators.

National Renewal Fund

6479. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have considering to sanction Rs. 10 crore from National Renewal Fund to New Central Jute Mill, Budge Budge, West Bengal as prescribed in the package by BIFR; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Assistance from National Renewal Fund is presently restricted only to Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Central Public Sector Undertakings and to the schemes for counselling, retraining and redeployment assistance to rationalised workers.

Supply of Yarn to Weavers of Assam

6480. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that weavers in Assam are suffering a lot due to non availability of yarn in time; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide yarn to weavers of the State ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b) Though no such reports have been received from Government of Assam, the Government is implementing Mill Gate Price Scheme through National Handloom Development Corporation with the objective to make available quality yarn, at reasonable price to handloom weavers in the country, including the weavers of Assam.

Purchase of Coir Items

6481. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering the request of Government of Kerala to direct all the departments to buy coir products and furnishing items from

the Coir Board/Coir Co-operative societies and other small-scale coir industries in Kerala to save the traditional Coir Manufacturers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and other steps being taken to save the coir industry of Kerala ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) In order to encourage the use of coir and coir products manufactured by small scale manufacturers and cooperative societies, the Government vide its letter dated March 13th, 1996 have requested all the State Governments, Union Territories, Central Government departments, public sector undertakings to instruct the concerned offices/organisations/institutions under their administrative control to make their purchase of coir and coir products from the Coir Board's showrooms and sales depots without inviting tenders/quotations.

(c) Does not arise.

Use of AZO Dyes

6482. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Germany had imposed ban on the printing of cotton clothes in AZO dyes in January, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the textile printing industry of Rajasthan has suffered a jolt as a result of the said ban;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government of Rajasthan had requested for setting up an Eco-laboratory Research and Development Centre for the textile industry; and

(e) if so, the action taken so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) Yes Sir. Germany has banned production and import of textiles dyed and printed with specific AZO dyes which release any of the twenty harmful amines. This ban has already come into force with effect from 1st April, 1996.

(b) to (e) The textile trade, industry and exporters all over the country including Rajasthan are affected by the ban imposed by Germany. However, a proposal was received from Government of Rajasthan for setting up a Research and Development Centre for testing of textiles printed with azo dyes. The Government has taken necessary steps to upgrade the laboratory of Textiles Committee at Jaipur in Rajasthan for providing various eco-testing equipments required by the textile industry in Rajasthan.

Visit of Russian Trade Delegation to India

6483. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Russian Trade delegation visited New Delhi in the middle of October, 1996; and

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed and the outcomes thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir. No Russian Trade Delegation at the Governmental level visited India in the middle of October, 1996.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Export of Jute

6484. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) The steps taken by the Government to promote the export of jute;

(b) the total value of goods made from jute exported during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the target fixed for 1997-98 in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) The steps taken by the Government to promote the export of jute goods inter-alia include implementation of 'External Market Assistance (EMA)' Scheme for the exporters, participation with trade participants in international fairs, organising Buyer-Seller Meets, Workshops, Sponsoring overseas delegations—Market Exploratory Missions etc. in order to generate demand, create awareness and explore new markets.

(b) During the year 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (Upto January 1997) jute goods worth Rs. 487.73 Cr., Rs. 634.71 Cr. and Rs. 417.77 Cr., respectively, were exported.

(c) A target of US \$ 180 million has been fixed for 1997-98.

[English]

Powerloom Service Centre

6485. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the plan outlay for setting up powerloom service

centre in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise; and

(b) the funds earmarked for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) and (b) It has been decided that no new powerloom service centre will be opened in the Ninth Five Year Plan. The existing centres will be strengthened and modernised. Hence, no funds has been earmarked for opening of powerloom service centre in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Coal Mines in Maharashtra

6486. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of coal mines in Maharashtra;

(b) the production of coal from those mines during the last three years;

(c) whether these coal mines are not running in profit; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) There are 49 working coal mines of Western Coalfields Limited (WCL), a subsidiary of Coal India Limited, in the State of Maharashtra.

(b) Production of coal from these mines during the last three years is as under :-

(In million tonnes)	
1994-95	21.07
1995-96	22.83
1996-97	24.86
(Provisional)	

(c) 49 mines of WCL in Maharashtra have been grouped in 38 cost centres for assessment of profit and loss position of the mines. Out of the 38 cost centres, 24 are earning profit while the remaining 14 are incurring losses.

(d) Of the 14 loss making cost centres, 12 are represented by underground coal mines affected by adverse geomining conditions. The remaining 2 cost centres are represented by opencast mines which are incurring losses on account of adverse stripping ratio, that is, the ratio of cubic meters of overburden removal per tonne of coal production.

Self Employment Scheme

6487. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have initiated action for reorientation of self employment schemes following the dereservation of 14 SSI items;

(b) if so, progress made so far in this regard; and

(c) the details of schemes formulated/finalised and broad features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The Government has set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Member, Planning Commission to review and rationalise Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation.

(b) and (c) The Committee has recommended streamlining the existing schemes and rationalisation of norms and procedures for their implementation. The Committee has since submitted its report to the Government.

Electrical Packages by BHEL

6488. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. has emerged as sole supplier of electrical packages to the Indian Railways for EMU;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether BHEL has also supplied such units to foreign countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total foreign exchange earned during the last three years by BHEL on exports of its goods and by contract separately ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Amongst Indian Companies Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) is presently the sole supplier of Electrical Packages to the Indian Railways for Electrical Multiple Units (EMUs).

(b) The details of the Electrical Packages supplied by BHEL to Indian Railways till March'97 are as under :

Type of EMU	Nos.
(i) 25000 Volts AC Broad Gauge EMUs inclusive of Main Line ENUs.	827 sets
(ii) 1500 Volts DC Broad Gauge EMUs	322 sets
(iii) 25000 Volts AC Meter Gauge EMUs	25 sets

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) Question does not arise.

Production of Soft Coke

6489. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad has designed ovens which can produce soft coke with low investment and environment friendly;

(b) whether these ovens require coals of Grade D which are available in plenty in the mines of BCCL; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide coal of Grade D for setting up soft coke plant based on the technology developed by CFRI, Dhanbad ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Central Fuel Research Institute (CFRI) has developed a design for ovens for soft coke production which is environmentally friendly and has low investment cost.

(b) Any non-coking/weakly coking coals (Steam Grade 'C/D', Washery Grade-III, Washery Grade-IV coking coals having caking index 6 to 10 can be used in the ovens for soft coke production. These types of coal are available in the mines of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) and Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL).

(c) As per information received from CFRI, CFRI has entered into agreement with 17 entrepreneurs for giving them licence for manufacturing soft coke by technology developed by CFRI. So far only one entrepreneur M/s Hill Briquette Industries (HBI), Dhanbad has setup ovens on CFRI technology. CFRI has recommended coal linkage for this unit after joint inspection by Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and CFRI. In April '97 the plant of M/s Hill Briquette Industries (HBI), Dhanbad which has been setup on CFRI design after obtaining approval of Department of Industry, Government of Bihar and No objection certificate from Bihar State Pollution Control Board was inspected. The performance of the ovens was found satisfactory. Based on the

inspection report, CIL is considering granting coal linkage to HBI. Coal linkage to other plants shall be considered by CIL as and when the other parties approach CIL.

Pending Cases in Kerala

6490. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of civil and criminal cases pending before the High Court of Kerala for disposal; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for the early disposal of these cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) As on 31.12.1996, 2,10,303 Civil cases and 7,520 criminal cases were pending in the Kerala High Court.

(b) Apart from amending the procedural laws from time to time, Government has taken a series of steps to simplify procedures and speed up disposal of cases on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission. Conference of Law Ministers, Chief Ministers and Chief Justices and other concerned with the administration of Justice are held periodically and the recommendations and conclusions emerging from such exchanges and consultations are implemented and their progress closely monitored.

North-East Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation

6491. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the financial allocation to the NEHDC during each of the last three years and proposed to be allocated during the Ninth Plan period;

(b) the details of achievement of the NEHDC during the last three years;

(c) whether a dye-house was established at Guwahati by the NEHDC in 1984 with financial assistance from the NEC;

(d) whether the activities of the said dye-house was suspended since 1994 for want of working capital; and

(e) if so, the action taken by his Ministry to provide the working capital so that the only dye-house established by the NEHDC in the North East remain functional ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development

Corporation Ltd., Shillong, during the year 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 was allocated a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs each and the proposed allocation during the Ninth Plan period is to the tune of Rs. 5.70 crores.

(b) The turnover of the North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom Development Corporation increased from Rs. 4.09 crores in 1993-94 to Rs. 5.26 crores during 1995-96. During the last three year i.e. 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97, the Corporation held 83 exhibition for marketing of handicrafts and handlooms of the North Eastern Region, in different parts of the country and nearly 1400 artisans were benefitted directly. The Corporation also participated in India International Trade Fair (IITF) 1995 at New Delhi in which total sales generated was to the tune of Rs. 5.44 lakhs and organised a special North East Craft Fair at Bangalore during 1996-97.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Dye House was established with financial assistance from the Government.

(d) The activities of the dye house were suspended since 1994, due to accumulated losses suffered by it since its inception.

(e) Does not arise.

Problems of Textile Mills

6492. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister had convened any meeting of representatives of the Federations of textile sector and the Members of Parliament of various parties for taking steps to solve the problems of textile mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken at the meeting and the time by which these are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (c) Do not arise.

Coal Handling Project

6493. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsreport in the 'Business Standard' dated April 10, 1997 under the caption "Coal handling project to cost Rs. 110 crore more";

(b) if so, the details of the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Surface Transport, the project for mechanised coal handling facilities at Paradip Port was sanctioned by the Govt. in April, 1993 at a cost of Rs. 587.41 crores. The project was scheduled to be completed in April, 1998. However, present anticipated date of completion is December, 1999. The Revised Cost Estimates are yet to be prepared by the Paradip Port Trust after getting a realistic picture. The progress of the project is being monitored regularly by a High Level Steering Committee (HLSC).

[Translation]

Irrigation by Solar Energy

6494. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether irrigation with the help of Solar Energy is being done in the Country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any foreign country has provided financial assistance for these experiments;

(d) if so, the name of the country and the conditions thereof; and

(e) the nature of pilot projects likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During 1993-94 Government have introduced a new programme to support deployment of solar photovoltaic (PV) water pumping systems for agriculture and related uses. Under this programme, till 31 March, 1997 a total of 1953 solar PV water pumping systems have been deployed in different parts of the country, of which 66 have been installed in Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Government have not sought or received any foreign assistance for this operational programme.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Performance of PSUs in terms of MOU

6495. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have evaluated the Performance of Central Public Sector Undertakings for 1996-97 in terms of Memorandum of Understandings signed;

(b) if so, details of emerging trends of Performance by standard parameters and classification, PSU-wise;

(c) the names of top ten PSUs for their outstanding performance for 1996-97 and bottom ten for their failure to perform;

(d) the details of fresh policy initiatives proposed for better performance of Central PSUs and signing of MOUs with revised focus; and

(e) the tentative time schedule for signing of MOUs and progress made for MOUs of 1996-97 in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No Sir, The process is on.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Important policy initiatives undertaken in the MOUs are (i) relatively more emphasis on qualitative parameters like project implementation, R&D, HRD, etc. (ii) The ACRs of the Chief Executives of MOU signing PSEs has been linked to the MOU score in order to improve accountability, (iii) To improve target setting, benchmarking studies are being carried out by professional bodies in respect of various sector. & (iv) 60% of weight in the MOUs has been allocated to financial criteria in order to ensure fiscal discipline.

(e) MOUs are expected to be signed as early as possible with signing by 31st March being considered excellent. So far 99 signed MOUs have been received. Total No. of MOUs expected to be signed is 109.

[Translation]

Solar Energy

6496. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of energy generated from tidal

and solar energy during the Eighth Five Year Plan, Year-wise :

(b) the details of achievements made under the solar energy development programme till March, 1997;

(c) the details of the programme evolved to utilise solar energy for rural electrification/rural telephone exchange and other fields;

(d) the details of the action plan for the development of solar energy in these areas; and

(e) the target fixed in this regard during Ninth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) Solar Energy can be harnessed through (i) generation of electricity through solar photovoltaic (SPV) systems; and (ii) heating/cooling through solar thermal (ST) systems. During the Eighth Five Year Plan period about 33 million kilowatt hours of electricity was generated or saved by deployment of photovoltaic systems for lighting, water pumping and other applications. In addition, solar thermal systems generated about 917 million kilowatt hours of thermal energy during the same period. The year-wise details of energy generated through solar technologies are given in statement-I.

There was no generation of energy from tidal sources during the Eight Plan period.

(b) The details of various solar energy systems deployed under the programmes of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources as on 31 March, 1997 are given in Statement-II attached.

(c) to (e) Solar PV systems are in use for a variety of rural and industrial applications such as home lighting, street lighting, water pumping, village power plants, rural public telephones and battery charging, railway signalling, etc.

Expanded programmes in these areas are envisaged during the Ninth Plan. Deployment of 1 million solar lanterns, 0.5 million home lighting systems, 10,000 water pumping systems and 5 MW of Power Plants and other systems have been proposed by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. In addition, SPV systems are likely to be required for about 2 lakh village public telephones to be installed by the Department of Telecommunications. However, the exact physical targets and financial outlays for the Ninth Plan have not yet been finalised by the Government.

Statement-I

Year-wise Energy Generated or Saved by Solar Energy Systems during the Eighth Plan Period

S. No.	Year	Solar Photovoltaic Systems	Solar Thermal Systems
(in million Kilowatt hours)			
1.	1992-93	4.13	144
2.	1993-94	4.58	160
3.	1994-95	5.61	187
4.	1995-96	7.84	196
5.	1996-97	10.54	230

Statement-II

Solar Energy Systems deployed under the Programmes of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, as on 31.3.97

1.	Solar Lanterns (Nos.)	1,31,190
2.	Home Lighting Systems (Nos.)	52,330
3.	Street Lighting Systems (Nos.)	31,527
4.	SPV Power Plants (Nos./KWp)	184/999
5.	SPV Water Pumps (Nos.)	1,953
6.	Solar Water Heating Systems (Collector area in sq.m.)	3,71,021
7.	Solar Stills (Nos.)	11,072
8.	Solar Timber Kilns (Nos.)	71
9.	Solar Air Heating Systems (Nos./sq.m.)	61/3228
10.	Solar Cookers (Nos.)	4,20,000

Foreign Investment in Rajasthan

6497.DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Asian Breweries Limited, Singapore propose to make heavy investment in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Rajasthan Breweries Limited has proposed any agreement worth Rs. 150 crores with the above company through the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no such proposal

received for joint venture between Asian Breweries Limited, Singapore and Rajasthan Breweries Limited.

[English]

US Trade Law 301

6498. SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US Administration has placed India on its priority watch list under US trade law 301 for India's failure to provide protection to American intellectual property rights particularly its patents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up the issue with World Trade Organisation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) During the 1997 annual review by the US Government under their Special 301 provisions, India has been retained on the 'priority watch list'. Special 301 provisions deal with identification of countries by US Government which in their perception deny adequate and effective protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and fair and equitable market access to US persons who rely on IPRs.

(c) to (e) The USA has taken the matter in a dispute to the World Trading Organisation (WTO) alleging non-compliance by India of certain provisions of the WTO Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. India is contesting the allegations.

PSUs Liquidation Proceedings

6499. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE :
SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Public Sector Undertakings have been facing liquidation proceedings before the court of law;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are determined to take initiative to revive these PSUs under the commitment made in the Common Minimum Programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Investment by Microsoft Corporation

6500. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the Microsoft Corporation has decided to invest in India; and

(b) the project on which they have been agreed to invest ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) M/s. Microsoft Corpn. Pvt. Ltd., has been granted foreign collaboration approval on 15.1.1996 to set up project for manufacture of computer software, training and development, product support services and channel development and microsoft consulting services with foreign equity participation of 100% by Microsoft Corpn., U.S.A. amounting to Rs. 3.53 Crores (approx).

Wages of Coal Workers

6501. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that unrest is growing among colliery workers due to non-implementation of bi-partite wage agreements in coal industry; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve the situation and to implement the said agreements ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) There is no unrest or agitation in CIL or its subsidiary over the issue of implementation of bi-partite wage agreements in the coal industry;

(b) Not applicable in view of reply at 'a' above.

[Translation]

Allotment of Index Number to Voters

6502. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal to allot index numbers to the voters is under consideration of the Government so that there are least chances of any error in the electoral roll;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Coal based Industries

6503. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal for setting up coal based industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have received any request in this regard from the Government of West Bengal and Bihar; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No proposal for setting up coal based industries is under consideration of the Union Ministry of Coal, at present.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (a) of the question.

(c) No request in this regard has been received in the Union-Ministry of Coal either from the Government of West Bengal or from the Government of Bihar.

(d) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (c) of the question.

Development of Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone

6504. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the development of Visakhapatnam as an Export Processing Zone is going on for years but it is yet to take off;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay; and

(c) by what time Visakhapatnam E.P.Z. is likely to become operational fully ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) The Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone has been operationalised with effect from 1.4.93 on completion of basic infrastructural facilities of the first phase covering an area of 163 acres. Development of the Zone has proceeded satisfactorily after transfer of land in a compact block by the State Government. Of the 18 projects approved so far for establishment in the Zone, two units have commenced operation and another seven units are under various stages of implementation.

[Translation]

Target and Achievements

6505. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

SHRI N.J. RATHWA :

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN :

SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for the development of Non-Conventional Energy Sources during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 in the country, scheme-wise, State-wise;

(b) the details of achievements made in the field of Non-Conventional Energy Sources during the above period, State-wise;

(c) the action-plan being implemented by the Government for promotion of the Non-Conventional Energy Sources;

(d) whether any agreements have been signed with the foreign countries and private companies for the development of Non-Conventional Energy Sources; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) Statewise targets are fixed for the installation of biogas plants, improved chulhas, solar photovoltaic (SPV) lighting systems and solar cookers. Statewise targets for SPV lighting systems and solar cookers for the year 1997-98 have not been fixed. The details of schemewise, statewise targets fixed for biogas plants, and improved chulhas for the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98, and for SPV

lighting systems and solar cookers for the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 and statewise, schemewise achievements made in the field of various Non-Conventional Energy Sources during the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 are given in Statement-I (i), (ii) and (iii) attached.

(c) The details of physical targets proposed to be achieved under the Action Plan, being implemented by the

Government, for the promotion of Non-conventional Energy Sources, during the year 1997-98 are given in Statement-II attached.

(d) and (e) The details of bilateral and multi-lateral agreements/Memoranda of Understanding signed by the Government for the development of Non-conventional Energy Sources in the country are given in Statement-III attached.

Statement-I (i)

Programme-wise and State-wise targets and achievements under major Non-Conventional Energy Programmes during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98

S. No.	Name of State	Wind Energy (MW)		Small Hydro Power (MW)		Biomass Power (MW)		SPV Water Pumping (Nos.)	
		1995-96	1996-97	1995-96	1996-97	1995-96	1996-97	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	38.985	9.390	1.00	—	—	—	93	102
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	1.00	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	0.20	—	—	—	12	17
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	0.04	—	—	26	40
5.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	2
6.	Gujarat	51.158	31.137	—	—	—	—	2	15
7.	Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	0.30	0.02	—	—	1	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	1.49	0.02	—	—	7	4
10.	Karnataka	2.025	3.270	1.35	5.40	—	1.0	35	47
11.	Kerala	2.025	—	0.50	3.00	—	—	100	82
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6.300	2.700	1.05	1.00	—	—	8	4
13.	Maharashtra	—	2.770	—	0.74	4.5	1.5	55	27
14.	Manipur	—	—	1.40	—	—	—	1	—
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	2.00	—	—	—	2	26
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Orissa	—	—	0.76	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	—	48	29
20.	Rajasthan	—	—	2.28	—	—	—	61	47

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
21. Sikkim		-	-	2.76	-	-	-	-	-
22. Tamil Nadu		281.680	118.485	-	-	17	27	207	93
23. Tripura		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24. Uttar Pradesh		-	-	0.40	4.26	3.0	7.5	35	26
25. West Bengal		-	-	-	0.52	-	-	3	27
26. A & N Island		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27. Chandigarh		-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-
28. D & N Haveli		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29. Daman & Diu		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30. Delhi		-	-	-	-	-	-	16	18
31. Lakshadweep		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32. Pondicherry		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Statement-I (ii)

S. No.	Name of State	Solar Cooker (Nos.) @				SPV Lighting Systems (Nos.) @				Biomass Gasifier (KW)	
		1995-96		1996-97		1995-96		1996-97		1995-96	1996-97
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Achievement	Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4000	1627	3000	1321	5800	4912	5600	-	17(1700)	54(1320)
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	50	355	50	269	1136	-	1700	-	-	-
3.	Assam	300	-	300	-	200	188	200	100	-	-
4.	Bihar	500	-	500	-	15000	4905	4350	14614	-	-
5.	Goa	250	392	250	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Gujarat	2500	3776	3000	865	3000	1503	2000	1632	5(162)	1(40)
7.	Haryana	2500	500	2500	1800	4197	3285	2150	3097	-	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4000	974	3000	1035	6200	3736	6100	4700	-	-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	250	250	250	-	5530	1815	5750	2840	-	-
10.	Karnataka	500	250	500	-	1000	467	1300	-	-	-
11.	Kerala	250	-	250	-	16765	5843	6050	12081	-	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	17500	17674	17500	13022	-	-	-	500	10(1500)	6(700)
13.	Maharashtra	4000	2818	4000	950	500	-	1000	-	-	1(500)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
14. Manipur		100	72	100	—	500	554	884	—	—	—
15. Meghalaya		50	232	50	—	1000	—	—	655	—	—
16. Mizoram		50	—	50	—	129	328	200	—	—	—
17. Nagaland		50	—	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18. Orissa		1000	589	1000	116	2090	717	600	223	—	—
19. Punjab		2500	2189	2500	1795	—	500	750	—	—	—
20. Rajasthan		2500	770	2500	1295	6600	500	4600	5556	—	—
21. Sikkim		50	—	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22. Tamil Nadu		500	4	500	4	4016	600	2266	1219	1(40)	—
23. Tripura		50	—	50	6	—	598	900	—	—	—
24. Uttar Pradesh		3500	4000	3500	2500	19000	18915	20000	13800	—	—
25. West Bengal		500	2416	1000	700	2200	1606	3950	739	—	5(500)
26. A & N Island		50	—	50	—	—	182	—	38	—	—
27. Chandigarh		350	—	50	—	300	—	200	—	—	—
28. D & N Haveli		50	—	250	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29. Daman & Diu		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. Delhi		3000	203	3000	—	2000	1671	1000	307	—	—
31. Lakshadweep		50	—	50	—	206	236	500	291	—	—
32. Pondicherry		50	74	50	—	—	215	1000	2	—	—

*The State-wise targets for the year 1997-98 have not yet been fixed.

Statement-I (iii)

S. No.	Name of State	Biogas Plants (Nos.)					Improved Chulha (Nos)				
		1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20000	20411	11000	13801	16000	225000	2,87,212	175000	2,04,732	200000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	15	59	40	60	200	5000	1,078	1000	415	30000
3.	Assam	1000	817	1000	343	4000	35000	15,024	20000	4,382	150000
4.	Bihar	3000	1063	2815	682	1320	65000	16,340	60000	6,069	20000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
5.	Goa	200	74	70	123	100	10000	10,050	10000	9,444	5000
6.	Gujarat	38250	25751	19000	18019	12000	63000	70,598	43000	63,721	90000
7.	Haryana	2000	1984	1700	1949	2000	50000	34,488	35000	35,340	50000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1300	1466	1200	1262	1200	35850	36,843	31000	17,390	30000
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	50	38	50	82	250	35000	35,000	30000	30,000	50000
10.	Karnataka	18000	23727	18000	19058	18000	150000	1,11,295	85000	67,588	100000
11.	Kerala	1500	1956	1200	1013	1500	70000	1,01,437	87000	74,234	85000
12.	Madhya Pradesh	19495	17825	18000	18727	20000	245000	3,41,813	235000	2,48,312	235000
13.	Maharashtra	15000	20111	10000	11474	15000	160000	1,78,275	140000	1,69,668	180000
14.	Manipur	150	95	150	201	600	5000	5,012	5000	5,068	30000
15.	Meghalaya	100	—	75	20	300	2000	—	550	—	15000
16.	Mizoram	100	100	120	120	400	3000	3,000	3000	2,950	30000
17.	Nagaland	100	100	200	179	800	5000	600	600	1,850	15000
18.	Orissa	12000	12767	7000	7964	7500	200000	2,12,463	100000	1,72,602	140000
19.	Punjab	3000	3686	4000	3868	4000	55000	64,050	60000	60,000	60000
20.	Rajasthan	5000	5010	1500	1715	1500	180000	2,01,595	170000	1,06,721	100000
21.	Sikkim	150	167	200	201	500	5000	5,208	5000	5,117	5000
22.	Tamil Nadu	8000	8005	4000	3205	2000	200000	3,30,000	225000	2,08,142	100000
23.	Tripura	50	22	50	50	200	2500	4,259	10000	3,188	30000
24.	Uttar Pradesh	10000	10148	11000	11069	15000	300000	3,00,104	240000	2,31,889	215000
25.	West Bengal	6000	7137	8000	8210	10000	100000	1,79,207	160000	1,69,823	290000
26.	A & N Island	5	5	5	7	8	2000	2316	2000	1,740	—
27.	Chandigarh	5	10	10	—	10	2100	1050	2000	1,500	2000
28.	D & N Haveli	3	—	3	2	2	1000	1000	1000	1,000	3000
29.	Daman & Diu	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Delhi	10	5	7	3	5	15500	21673	12000	2,120	—
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	300	581	350	188	—
32.	Pondicherry	15	—	5	1	5	2750	2360	4500	3,508	—

Statement-II*Programme-wise Physical Targets for the year 1997-98*

Sl. No.	Programme/ Sub-Programme	Unit	Physical Targets 1997-98
1	2	3	4
Rural Energy			
1.	Family Biogas Plants	Lakh Nos.	1.80
2.	CBP/IBP/NBP	Nos.	300
3.	Improved Chulha	Lakh Nos.	30.00
4.	Biomass/Standalone Gasifiers	MW	6.00
5.	IREP	Block No.	100
6.	Urjagram	Nos.	50
7.	Special Demonstration Projects	Nos.	25
Solar Energy			
8.	SPV Irrigation Pumps	Nos.	1000
9.	Solar Thermal Energy Programme	Coll. area sq. mtrs.	35000
10.	Solar Cookers	Nos.	35000
11.	Wind Pumps & Hybrid System/Small Aerogenerators	KW (Nos.)	25 (100)
Power Generation			
12.	Wind Power	MW	350
13.	Small Hydro Power	MW	20
14.	A. Biomass Power	MW	45
	(a) Biomass Co-generation		
	(b) Biomass Combustion Power		
	(c) Biomass Gasifier Power		
15.	Solar Power		
	(a) Solar Thermal Power	MW	—
	(b) Solar Photovoltaic Power	MW	0.3

1	2	3	4
Urban & Industrial Energy			
16.	Urban & Industrial Energy Projects	MW (Nos.)	10 (6)
New Technologies			
17.	(a) Alternate Fuels for Transportation	Nos.	200

CBP=Community Biogas Plants
IBP=Institutional Biogas Plants
NBP=Night Soil Based Biogas Plants

Statement-III*List of Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)*

Title of Agreements/ MOU	Date of Signature
1	2

A. Bilateral**Philippines**

Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Republic of India and the Department of Energy, Republic of Philippines for Enhanced Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy. 26.2.1996

Russian Federation

Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Republic of India and the Ministry of Fuel & Energy of Russian Federation for Enhanced Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy. 4.3.1996

USA

MOU between NREL-USDOE, USA, & SEC, MNES India for close cooperation in the field of testing of Solar Thermal and Photovoltaics products, exchange of non-proprietary scientific information, solar radiation data collection, analysis and dissemination, establishment of links between renewable energy information networks in both India and USA etc. 20.12.1995

1	2
Agreement between USAID and IDBI for providing a total assistance of US \$ 19 million with a component of US \$ 12 million for off-season biomass fuels for power generation in sugar industry under Green House Gas Pollution Prevention Project (GEEP).	10.4.1995
Switzerland	
Agreement with Swiss Development Corporation (SDC) for providing US \$ 2 million each as co-financing for Solar Photovoltaic Market Development and Technical Assistance components of RRDP to IREDA	30.9.93
Denmark	
Agreement with Danish Export Finance Corporation (DEFC) to provide tied aid of US \$ 15 million as co-financing for implementation of wind energy component of India : RRD Project.	7.9.95
Technical assistance of DKK 9,77, 300/- to IREDA by Government of Denmark as Technical Assistance programme for IREDA under Danish assistance for Wind Energy.	6.12.1996
B. Multilateral	
International Development Association (IDA)	
Agreement for providing a credit of US \$ 115 million by IDA for implementation of India Renewable Resources Development Project	5.3.1993
International Bank for Reconstruction & Development (IBRD)	
Agreement for providing a grant of US \$ 26 million for wind energy, solar photovoltaic and technical assistance components of India Renewable Energy Development Project	5.3.93
International Bank for Reconstruction & Development (IBRD)	
Agreement to undertake certain obligations of implementing India Renewable Resources Development Project.	5.3.93

1	2
United Nations Development Programme/Global Environment Facility	
Agreements for two GEF assisted projects namely Hilly Hydro Project and Bio-energy Project with GEF assistance of US \$ 7.5 million and US \$ 5.5 million respectively.	15.3.1994
Unesco	
An ISEEK implementation Agreement between UNESCO and GOI/Ministry of Non Conventional Energy Sources for information exchange.	14.2.1996
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	
Agreement between ADB and Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency for providing credit of US \$ 100 million for implementation of Renewable Energy Development Project by IREDA	24.4.1997

[English]

Setting up of Cement Plants

6506.SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been received from abroad for setting up of Cement Plant in the country particularly in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have given clearance to the said proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith total cost to be incurred on the setting up of the cement plant ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Decline in Export of Iron-Ore due to ban on Mining

6507.SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of iron-ore from Karnataka has declined substantially due to shortfall in production as

a result of ban on mining operation in Bellary-Hospet region of the State in recent time;

(b) if so, whether as a result of shortfall in production, the targets fixed for export of the commodity are not likely to be achieved during the current year and the next two years; and

(c) if not, the action taken proposed to be taken to increase the export of iron-ore in the coming years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Exports during the current year may be affected as the mining operations are yet to be resumed by many companies.

(c) Measures to increase export of iron ore include the following apart from efforts to increase the production of iron ore :

1. Review of Infrastructural facilities at Madras and Goa Ports in particular & other Ports in general.
2. Exploring new markets for iron ore.

Mahila Courts in Assam

6508. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the number of Mahila Courts set up in Assam, location-wise so far to deal with the cases related to crimes against women ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): There are no Mahila Courts in Assam.

Joint Venture

6509. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :
SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from States to set up Joint Ventures with some of the foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the countries which are intending to set up Joint Ventures in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Data regarding joint venture proposals

with different States and foreign countries are not centrally maintained.

Export of Marine Products

6510. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :
DR. B.N. REDDY :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
DR. M. JAGANNATH :
SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV :
SHRI L. RAMANA :
SHRI K.S. RAYADU

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of marine and meat products exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, till date, country-wise;

(b) the share of States in contributing to the country's marine and meat exports;

(c) whether any complaints has been received from the foreign buyers regarding the poor quality of marine and meat products.

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is great demand of Indian marine and meat products abroad;

(f) if so, the details thereof, item-wise;

(g) the amount of financial assistance given to the exporters for establishing facilities to maintain the quality of these items; and

(h) the steps taken to improve the quality and boost the export of these items ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The quantity of marine and meat products exported during the last three years and the foreign exchange earned therefrom is as follows :-

Q: Quantity in M.T.		V: Value in Rs. Crores		
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Marine Products	Q:	30337	296277	359730
	V:	3575.27	3501.11	4045.35
Meat Products	Q:	127700	169251	N.A.
	V:	392.93	614.06	832

The country wise details are available in the annual/ monthly number of the Foreign Trade Statistics published

by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliamentary Library. India exported marine products to the tune of 22050 MT worth Rs. 225 Crores in the month of April, 1997-98.

(b) Statewise export statistics of marine and meat products are not maintained. However, exports of marine products are mainly taking place from units located in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Gujarat, Orissa etc. Meat products are mainly exported from Maharashtra. Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, etc.

(c) and (d) A few complaints have been received from the foreign buyers regarding the quality of marine products which are at the different stages of enquiry. No complaints regarding the quality of meat products have been received.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The world trade in marine products during the year 1995 is estimated to be 110 Million Tons valued at US \$ 47 Billion. The world trade in meat and meat products is estimated at about 14 million Tons.

(g) 203 marine products units were assisted by * (MPEDA) investing an amount of Rs. 101.30 lakhs for establishing mini laboratories ** (APEDA) provided assistance for upgradation of public sector slaughter houses/processing plants engaged in export production, to the tune of Rs. 106.88 lakhs in the period from 1994-95 till 1996-97.

(h) The steps taken up for improving the quality and boosting the export of marine products relate to technical assistance to processors and exporters for complying with requisite standards, interaction with health authorities for resolving quality problems, encouraging the industry to upgrade the facilities, organising training/seminars, participation in trade fairs abroad and undertaking promotional measures for increasing market shares in existing as well as potential markets. The steps taken up in respect of meat products relate to prescribing standards for export of raw and processed meat products, providing financial assistance for upgradation of slaughter houses, undertaking market promotion activities in overseas markets and arranging buyer-seller meets as well as participation in trade fair abroad.

*Marine Products Export Development Authority.

**Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority.

Remunerative Price for Rubber and Cardamom

6511. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the prices of cash crop in Kerala especially rubber and cardamom has declined during the recent months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any representation has been received from the Government of Kerala in this regard;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure remunerative prices to the growers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (e) There has been a fall in price of rubber during the recent months. This was due to seasonal arrivals in the market and some what sluggish demand from industry. However of late, prices of rubber have started firming up and as on 8th May, 1997, the price of RSS-IV variety of rubber at Kottayam was Rs. 48 per kg.

The weighted average domestic price of small cardamom has shown a mixed trend in the recent past. The reason for variation has been the imbalance between domestic demand and supply of cardamom.

In respect of cardamom no representation was received from the Government of Kerala. In March, 1997, the Govt. of Kerala had written drawing attention to the low levels of rubber prices and were assured of a careful watch being kept on the price situation. There is now a firm upward trend in prices.

Some of the steps taken by the Government to ensure remunerative prices to the growers of cardamom include production and supply of planting material, assistance for replantation of old diseased plant, subsidy for irrigation and level development, participation, participation in domestic/international fairs, reimbursement of air-freight charges for export in consumer pack by air to middle east destinations and exemption of cess on export of cardamom etc. Further, all concerned customs

authorities and their field formations have been alerted and are vigilant to prevent any smuggling of cardamom from Nepal to India.

[Translation]

Indo-US Trade Relation

6512. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to strengthen Indo-American trade relations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) USA is India's single largest trading partner and constant endeavour is being made for further expanding, strengthening and deepening economic & commercial ties with USA through several bilateral mechanisms such as Indo-US Commercial Alliance, Indo-US Economic and Commercial Sub-Commission, Indo-US Joint Business Council, Indo-American Chamber of Commerce.

[English]

MMTC Favouritism to certain Exporters

6513. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain officials of Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation have been recently found involved in showing favouritism to certain exporters causing substantial loss to the Government ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) There is no commercial decision of the MMTC resulting in substantial loss to the Government Exchequer. However, some complaints against their commercial decisions have

been received which are presently with the investigating agencies. A separate inquiry at the Government level has been conducted in the case of M/s. Pestal Waves, UK in which MMTC has suffered a marginal loss. Disciplinary proceedings have been ordered against the concerned officials.

Textiles Mills

6514. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of NTC, STC and private sector textile mills in the country as on date;

(b) the number of such mills sick as well as closed down during each of the last three years till date, alongwith the number of textile workers rendered jobless due to closure, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the funds allocated and provided for rehabilitation of textile workers during each of the last three years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) As on 31.12.96, management-wise break-up of Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills in the country is as under :

Management	No. of Mills
Public (NTC/STC)	188
Cooperative	146
Private	1251

(b) A Statement is attached.

(c) Since the inception of Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme, as on 31.1.97, Rs. 84.61 crores have been provided to 42461 workers of 28 mills. State-wise details are as follows :

(Rs./Crores)	
State	Amount
Gujarat	66.15
Maharashtra	3.90
Tamil Nadu	2.64
Delhi	11.92
Total	84.61

Statement

States	1996		1995		1994	
	Mills	Workers	Mills	Workers	Mills	Workers
Assam	—	—	—	—	1	569
Gujarat	1	901	3	6035	3	6870
Haryana	1	871	1	847	—	—
Maharashtra	—	—	1	3602	2	2657
Tamil Nadu	3	4739	4	1435	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	—	—	1	1442	2	4917
West Bengal	—	—	1	3687	—	—
Rajasthan	1	933	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	6	7444	11	17048	8	15013

[Translation]

Textile Mills in Rajasthan

6515. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cotton, polyester, synthetic and woollen mills at present in Rajasthan alongwith the locations thereof and the quantum of cloth manufactured by them; and

(b) the efforts being made by the Government for the revival of the mills that have been closed down ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) (i) The number of cotton/man-made fibre textile mills, synthetic yarn/fibre mfg. units & woollen mills in the State of Rajasthan (as on 28.2.97) were as under :

Type	No. of units
Cotton/man-made fibre textile mills	47
Man-made fibre/yarn Mfg. units	8
Woollen units	69

Cotton/Man-made fibre textile mills in Rajasthan are located at Alwar, Jaipur, Ajmer, Banswara, Udaipur, Sirahi, Hanumangarh, Jodhpur, Sikar, Pali Jhalwar, Dungarpur, Bhilwara and Sri Ganga Nagar.

Manmade fibre/yarn manufacturing units in Rajasthan are located at Kota, Bhiwadi, Udaipur, Jaipur RIICO Industrial Areas Jhalwar.

The woollen units in Rajasthan are located at Ajmer, Bhilwara, Bikaner, Alwar, Jaipur & Sikar.

(ii) The cloth produced by the cotton/man-made composite textile mills in Rajasthan during the last two years has been as under :-

Year	Cloth Production (ooo Sq. Mtr)
1994-95	54,682
1995-96	57,313

(b) The Government has enacted a Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act (SICA) 1985 and established a Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), with a view to arranging the timely detection of sick and potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination by a Board of Experts (BIFR) of the preventive, ameliorative, remedial and other measures which need to be taken with respect to such companies. As on 31.1.97, the cases of 5 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills of Rajasthan were registered with the BIFR. The further action in respect of these mills will be taken in the light of the findings of the BIFR.

As per available information, there were 7 cotton man-made fibre/yarn units lying temporarily closed as on 31.3.97 in the State of Rajasthan. Out of these 7 units, 2 units were registered with BIFR as on 31.1.97.

[English]

Production of Coal

6516. SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of coal production in the country during the last three years, subsidiary-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to import the coal from foreign countries, particularly from Australia, to meet its demand; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The details of coal produced from the mines of subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL), Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and captive collieries of TISCO, IISCO & DVC during the last three years are as under :-

(Million Tonnes)

Company-wise/ Subsidiary-wise	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Provisional)
ECL	25.84	27.81	29.65
BCCL	28.75	27.81	27.13
CCL	31.21	30.76	32.21
NCL	32.50	35.20	37.01
WCL	27.24	29.01	31.23
SECL	50.00	53.17	55.30
MCL	27.33	32.70	37.37
NEC	1.99	0.82	0.75
CIL	223.07	237.28	250.65
SCCL	25.65	26.77	28.73
CAPTIVE	5.01	6.08	6.28
COLLIERIES (TISCO, IISCO & DVC			
TOTAL	253.73	270.13	285.66

(b) and (c) Import of coal is under open general licence and import of coal is not made by the Government or the coal companies. Imports of coal are made by the consumers themselves, considering their needs and exercising their own commercial judgement. Mainly low ash coking coal is being imported by the steel plants to bridge the gap between requirement and indigenous availability and to improve overall blend for technological reasons. Some coastal power stations and cement plants are also importing non-coking coal on consideration of transport

logistics and commercial prudence.

Acquisition of land

6517. SHRI GYAN SINGH :

SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. has formulated a plan of action for rehabilitation of people displaced from the sites of newly identified mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise;

(c) the estimates of people likely to be affected as a result of execution of new projects, project-wise and package of rehabilitation formulated;

(d) the progress of land acquisition during the last three years, project-wise and target set for 1997-98; and

(e) the details of investment proposed during 1997-98 in the new projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) In all the projects in Coal India Limited, CIL R&R Policy approved by Government is being followed in conjunction with Govt. of India package dated 19.10.1990 and packages prevailing in the states of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Salient feature of this policy is given in the attached Statement-I.

(c) and (e) Number of families likely to be affected by new projects and details of proposed investment during 1997-98 is given in the Statement-II attached.

(d) Progress of land acquisition is given in the attached Statement-III

Statement-I

Salient features of CIL Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy

1. Persons whose lands are acquired will be given, in addition to the due compensation, employment to the extent feasible.
2. Assistance in purchase of alternative land with the compensation money.
3. Assistance in establishment of non-farm self-employment through provision of infrastructure, petty-contracts of formation of co-operatives.
4. Project Affected Persons (PAPs) with less than two acres of land would receive rehabilitation assistance in the form of subsistence allowance or grant to be used in productive investments provided that his

income from other sources does not exceed Rs. 12,000/- p.a.

5. Persons whose home-stead is acquired will receive replacement cost of his homestead and structure on it. In addition, the subsidiaries acquiring his home-stead will provide :

(a) an alternate house site measuring 100 sq. meters per family

(b) assistance in designing the new house, if so desired by the PAP and

(c) a shifting allowance to cover the full cost of transporting his belongings to the relocation site.

6. Sharecroppers and land losers, tenants and day labourers will be provided with benefit as at (3) above. Alternatively, contractors will be persuaded to give jobs to eligible PAPs on preferential basis where feasible.

7. Landless tribals will be provided benefits as at (3) above. Alternatively, contractors will be persuaded to

give jobs to eligible PAPs on preferential basis, where feasible. In addition, the subsidiaries will shift the tribal community as a unit and provide facilities to meet the specific needs of the tribal community that will allow them to maintain their unique cultural identity.

8. Special attempts will be made to ensure that women will be given adequate access to income generating opportunities offered under this policy.

9. Jobs will be given to eligible landless PAPs on a preferential basis when outside recruitment becomes necessary.

10. The resettlement sites will be provided with the all infrastructural facilities in consultation with the State Government such as school, road, drains, drinking water, community centres, place of worship etc.

11. A base line socio-economic survey will be carried out to identify the PAPs to ensure restoration of income of PAPs. This survey will be conducted prior to notification under the relevant land Acquisition Acts.

Statement-II

The Estimates of people likely to be affected as a result of execution of new projects and proposed investment during 1997-98

Company	Project	Number of families likely to be affected	Investment proposed during 1997-98 (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3	4
Eastern Coalfields Limited	Chitra West	315	1.00
	Dhangajore	Nil	0.10
	Rajmahal C	333	1.50
	Sonepur B	143	0.10
Northern Coalfields Limited	Bina II OC	8	50.00
	Block OC	—	Nil
	Mihar	PR is being formulated	1.00
Western Coalfields Limited	Umrer Expn.	24	2.50
	Telwasa OC	146	12.28
	Pauni OC	85	4.04
	Nirguda OC	132	6.41
	Junadi OC	133	—

1	2	3	4
	Kumbharkaini UG	22	—
	Urban OC	137	1.67
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	Basundhara (W) OC	180	3.00
	Hingula OC	2313	5.44
	Bhubaneshwari OC	5049	2.00
	Chhendipara OC	—	1.00
	Kulda OC	1507	5.00
	Kaniha OC	2993	1.00
	Garjanbahal OC	1500	1.00
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	Kusunda OC Expn.	5	6.00
	Vishwakarma OC	31	Nil
	Salunga-Jeenago RA	48	Nil
Central Coalfields Limited	Topa OC	200	0.40
	Purnadih (E)	—	1.00
	Mantico	PR under finalisation	0.30
	Jharkhand	194	—
	Amlo UG	PR under finalisation	—
	N. Kathara UG	PR under finalisation	—
	Kaveri	160	0.50
	Konar	266	0.50
	Karo-I	260	0.60
	N. Urimari	245	0.50
	Karma OC	PR under finalisation	
	Chani Rikba	PR under finalisation	
South Eastern Coalfields Limited	Amba UG	Yet to be assessed	Yet to be assessed
	Rehar UG	Yet to be assessed	Yet to be assessed
	Dipka Dip Side OC	Yet to be assessed	Yet to be assessed
	Saraipally OC	Yet to be assessed	0.3
	Amadan OC	1100	0.22
	Karkati (E) UG	Yet to be assessed	0.3
	Narabodh OC	Yet to be assessed	Yet to be assessed
	Gevra Dip Side OC	Yet to be assessed	Yet to be assessed
	Ambika OC	Yet to be assessed	Yet to be assessed

Statement-III*Progress of Land Acquisition during Last Three Years*

Project	Progress	Target for current year
1	2	3
ECL		
Chitra West	Applied for acquisition of 72.77 Ha Govt. land. Identified 123.15 Ha of Govt. land for acquisition of forest land.	Possession. Release of forest land.
Rajmahal C	Applied u/s 4 (1) and 7(1) under CBA Act for 310.30 Ha. Applied u/s 4 (1) and 7(1) under CBA Act for 256.04 Ha.	Notification u/s 11 (1). Notification u/s 11 (1).
Dangajore	Proposal for acquisition under CBA Act under preparation.	Submission of proposal.
Sonepur B	Action will be taken after finalisation of the project report.	
NCL		
Bina II OC	MOEF released 250 Ha of forest land.	
Block B	Possession received for 417 Ha of non-forest land. Identification of 536 Ha of Govt. land for acquisition of forest land.	Possession of 110 Ha of Govt. land. Submission of proposal to State Forest Deptt.
Mohar	PR under finalisation.	
WCL		
Umrer Expn.	Proposal for acquisition of 30 Ha of non-forest land submitted to State Govt.	Possession of 38 Ha of land.
Junadi	Submission of application for acquisition of land 163 ha.	Possession of 97 Ha of land.
Telwasa	Submission of application for acquisition of 250 Ha of land.	Possession of 121 Ha of land.
Kumberkaini	Application submitted for acquisition of 60 Ha of land.	Possession.
Pouni OC	Application submitted for acquisition of 106 Ha of land.	Possession.
Urdhan OC	Possession received 10.23 Ha of land against requirement 308 Ha of land.	Possession of 100 Ha.
Nirguda OC	Application submitted for acquisition of 249 Ha of land.	Possession of 98 Ha of land.

1	2	3
MCL		
Hingula OC	Notified u/s 7 (1) under CBA Act for acquisition of 610 Ha of land.	Notification u/s 11 (1).
Kaniha	Notified u/s 4 (1) of CBA for acquisition of 774 Ha of land.	Notification u/s 11 (1).
Kulda OC	Possession received for 284 Ha of land.	Further possession of 101 Ha.
Chhendipara OC	22 Ha of tenancy lahd notified under L.A. Act. Cleared stage I of 24.30 Ha of forest land.	Possession of both tenancy and forest land.
Bhubneshwari	Notified u/s 4 (1) of CBA for acquisition of 833 Ha of land.	Notification u/s 11 (1).
Garjanbahal	PR under formulation	
Basundhara (W)	Possession received for 101.31 Ha of land.	Further possession of 100 Ha.
BCCL		
Kusunda OC	Proposal for acquisition of 0.50 Ha of land is under preparation.	Possession.
Viswakarma	Proposal for acquisition of 10.50 Ha of land is under preparation.	Possession.
CCL		
Jharkhand	Forest land 57.94 Ha released by MOEF by principle. Non-forest land 133 Ha authentication done by CO Mandu.	Possession. Possession.
N. Urimari	Forest land 56.34 Ha- Comp. land identified, inspected and accepted by DFO.	Release by MOEF.
Konar OC	Forest land 88.8 Ha. Application submitted to DFO. Non-forest land 155.46 Ha. acquired under CBA Act.	Identification of Comp. land. Possession.
Kaveri OC	Forest land - 76.28 Ha. Comp. land identified. Non-forest land 151.83 Ha. notified u/s 9 of CBA.	Stage I clearance. Possession.
Karo I	Forest land 73.64 Ha. Application pending with PCCF, Ranchi. Non-forest land 188.43 Ha. acquired under CBA Act.	Stage I clearance. Possession.
Topa OC	Forest land 17.30 Ha. Released by MOEF on principle. Non-forest land 489 Ha. possession received for 129 Ha.	Final clearance. Further possession of 157 Ha.
Purnadi (E)	Forest land 49.34 Ha. Comp. land identified.	Stage I clearance.
Mantico OC	PR under finalisation.	

1	2	3
Amlo UG	PR under finalisation.	
Karma OC	PR under finalisation.	
N. Kathara UG	PR under finalisation.	
Chano Rikba	PR under finalisation.	
SECL		
Amba UG	Yet to be assessed.	
Rehar UG	Yet to be assessed.	
Dipka Dip Side OC	Yet to be assessed.	
Saraipally OC	Forest land 363.50 Ha. proposal is being prepared.	
Amadan OC	Yet to be assessed.	
Karkati (E) UG	Forest land 306 Ha proposal is being prepared.	
Naraibodh OC	Yet to be assessed.	
Gevra Dip Side OC	Yet to be assessed.	
Ambika OC	Yet to be assessed.	

[Translation]

Development of Handicrafts

6518. SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for development of handicrafts in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) and (b) No proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh has been received for the development of handicrafts in the State. However two proposals for holding 25 exhibitions and 5 crafts bazars have been received during 1997-98 from Madhya Pradesh Hastshilp Vikas Nigam Ltd., Bhopal.

(c) No action could be taken, as the proposals have

been received very recently.

[English]

Trade with China

6519. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether bilateral trade relations between India and China has slackened down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made to explore new areas of bilateral trade relations with China ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The total bilateral trade volume between India and China has grown by 20.9% in 1996, as compared to that in 1995. as per annual trade statistics compiled by the Embassy of India, Beijing, furnished below :-

(In US \$ Million)

Year	Imports to India	Exports to India	Trade Balance	Trade volume
1995	765.00	398.00	-367.00	1163.00
1996	689.54	719.16	+29.62	1408.00
Growth in 1996				20.9%

The efforts being made to explore new areas of bilateral trade with China include holding of the meeting of Indo-China Joint Economic Group on Economic Relations, Trade, Science and Technology; increased participation in Trade Fairs to increase awareness in both countries and exposure of China's & India's technological capabilities to each others traders; identification of items, technologies and sectors with scope for furthering exports and initiating appropriate policy initiatives, and disseminating information about China's import requirements to our exporters.

Dues Against NTC

6520. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
DR. G.R. SARODE :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has been repeatedly requesting the Government and the National Textile Corporation for clearance of ever-increasing dues of Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Federation towards purchases of cotton;

(b) if so, the total outstanding dues as on date;

(c) the reasons for delay in payment of arrears; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure regular payment of dues for cotton purchases by NTC ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :
(a) to (d) Cotton is purchased by NTC on credit terms and, therefore, there are bound to be some outstanding dues at any given point of time. The outstanding dues payable by NTC to Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers' Marketing Federations are Rs. 122 crores as on 31.3.1997, including interest and carrying charges. The NTC has not been able to clear the entire outstanding dues on account of acute shortage of working capital, NTC is expected to clear the dues on availability of funds.

NIFT Hyderabad

6521. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the National Institute of Fashion Technology, Hyderabad is incurring heavy losses;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government to make it viable ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Hyderabad is not incurring heavy losses.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Sale of Coal

6522. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of coal sold by Bharat Cooking Coal Limited under road sale from centralised coal dumps, national coal dumps and collieries directly during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for charging Rs.80 per tonne as service charge on the coal sold from national coal dumps despite national coal dumps being not at par with centralised coal dumps;

(c) whether service charge of Rs. 80 per tonne is also collected on the coal sold directly from the collieries;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the objectives for which centralised coal dumps were set up are being fulfilled by selling coal directly through collieries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The quantum of coal sold by Bharat Coking Coal Limited under road sales from Centralised Coal Dumps, Notional Coal Dumps and collieries during the last three years is as under :-

(In lakh tonnes)

Year	Centralised Dump	National Dump	Collieries
1994-95	7.04	10.68	34.12
1995-96	5.68	15.10	36.21
1996-97 (Provisional)	3.97	20.62	29.09

(b) The service charges for sale of coal from Centralised dump and Notional dump have been kept at the same level to ensure price equity amongst consumers drawing coal from the dumps.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) Service charges for coal despatched from collieries have been kept at the same level as service charges for coal despatched from dumps to maintain price parity.

(e) and (f) The objectives for coal sale from centralised coal dumps and that from collieries directly are different. The objective for sale of coal through centralised dumps was to keep the consumers away from the collieries so that influence of vested interests and law and order problems arising out of that is eliminated. However, the objective of selling coal through collieries is to enable the total sales.

[English]

Anti-Dumping Duty

6523. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated November 19, 1996 under captioned 'Plastic woven sacks units plea against duty';

(b) if so, whether the European Union has decided to impose anti-dumping duty on India HDPE/PP woven sacks which resulted adversely affect on the exports in this sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken to negotiate in this regard to protect the domestic industry; and

(e) if not, the reasons and justification therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

The European Union has imposed provisional anti-dumping duties on Indian HDPE/PP woven sacks of a kind used for packaging of goods and weighing 120 gr/m or less. The rates of the provisional anti-dumping duty imposed is 47.2% with the exception of imports manufactured by the following companies which are subject to the following rates :-

- Gilt Pack Ltd.	3.2%
- Kanpur Plastic Pack Ltd.	10.9%

- Shankar Packagings Ltd.	20.7%
- Polyspin Private Ltd. & Polyspin Export Ltd.	22.1%
- Buildmet Private Ltd.	26.7%

Though there is an overall growth in the exports of plastic woven sacks during 1996-97 there is a slight decline in the total exports of this item to the European Union.

(d) and (e) The plastics & Linoleum Export Promotion Council on behalf of Indian exporting units have engaged a consultant M/s. Van Bael & Bellis, Brussels for contesting the anti-dumping case filed by European Union.

Purchasing Committee in NTC

6524. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the textile mills under National Textile Corporation where purchase, Committees have been constituted for supervising purchases, State-wise; and

(b) the value of goods purchased after obtaining the opinion of the Committees during last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Export of Fruit, Vegetables and Flowers

6525. SHRI L. RAMANA :
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :
SHRI ILIYAS AZMI :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of fruit, vegetables and flowers exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years upto March 31, 1997, country-wise;

(b) the details of India's position in respect of exports of the above separately, in comparison to the other countries of the world;

(c) whether there is ample potential for the export of above items;

(d) if so, whether there is any scheme for providing assistance to the growers for increasing the export of these

items; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The total quantity of fruits, vegetables and flowers exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years are as follows :

Qty : In Mts.

Value : Rs. in Crores

	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97 (April-Feb)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1. Fruits	88255	123.88	102778	147.55	NA	216.74
2. Vegetables	459832	248.74	434401	301.19	NA	313.26
3. Flowers	NA*	22.57	NA*	46.48	NA*	55.33

*The Details of quantity of flowers exported are not available as these are also exported by numbers.

The country-wise details of exports are available in the Annual Number of Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, copies of which are supplied to the Parliament Library.

(b) India's exports of vegetables and fruits as a share of world exports has been around 1.7% during 1994 (as per UN statistics). The Indian floriculture industry being a nascent industry, its share of exports in the world trade of flowers is small at present.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Some of the Scheme under which assistance is provided to growers/exporters to enhance exports of agricultural items including fruits, vegetables and flowers are as under :-

- (i) Provision of financial assistance for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/cold storage facilities;
- (ii) Soft loans given for setting upgrading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment;
- (iii) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control;
- (iv) Establishment of walk-in-type cold storages for export consignments awaiting clearance;
- (v) Setting up of Air cargo facilities for cargo booking and customs clearance facilities under one roof;

- (vi) Setting up of dedicated cargo handling facilities for perishables at airports;
- (vii) Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improved acceptability of the products;
- (viii) Implementation of a UNDP Project on floriculture for enhancing productivity and exports of floriculture products particularly cut flowers;
- (ix) Provision of air freight subsidy for selected floricultural, horticultural products and fresh vegetables;
- (x) Organisation of export promotion activities such as buyer-seller meets and participation in International Trade Fairs/Exhibitions.

[English]

Spinning Capacity of the Textiles Mills

6526.JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :
SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of the installed spinning capacity of the textile mills of the country;

(b) if so, the estimated spinning capacity in the country during each of the last three years and the quantum of yarn produced below 40 count and above 40 count;

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment of the requirement of yarn in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :
(a) and (b) (i) The installed capacity of spinning mills during 1994-95, 1995-96 & 1996-97 in the country is as under :-

Year	Non-SSI Sector		SSI Sector
	Spindles (MN.No.)	Rotors (000 Nos.)	Spindles (MN. No.)
1994-95	30.70	186	1.2
1995-96	31.75	226	1.3
1996-97 (Provisional)	32.31	234	1.4

(as on 28.2.97)

(ii) The total quantum of spun yarn during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 in the country is as under :-

Year	count Below 40s	count Above 40s	(mn. kgs.) Total
1993-94	1809	333	2142
1994-95	1876	324	2200
1995-96	2099	386	2485

(c) and (d) The utilisation of spun yarn for 1995-96 has been assessed to be 2466 mn. kgs.

Bharat Leather Corporation

6627. SHRI PRADEEP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have invited tenders or proposed to be invited for the sale of Bharat Leather Corporation Limited, Agra; and

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) No tenders have been invited for sale of Bharat Leather Corporation Limited (BLC) so far.

[Translation]

Development of Handloom Industry

6528. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are ample opportunities for the development of cotton handloom industry in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the assistance proposed to be provided by

the Government in regard to identifying the possibilities and encouraging handloom industry in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :
(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Based on the viable proposals submitted by the State Government of Maharashtra, funds to the tune of Rs. 426.13 lakhs have been released to them during 1996-97 under various Handloom Development Schemes for exclusive development of Handloom Industry. The Schemes include Project Package Scheme, Setting up of Handloom Development Centres/Quality Dyeing Units, Janta Cloth, Market Development Assistance and Margin Money for Destitute Weavers.

[English]

Compensation to Land Losers

6529. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the procedure to provide compensation and job to nominated relatives of the rural people affected by the coal mines in Maharashtra has since been completed;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the number of land oustees affected by coal mines in all the areas and the number of people who have given jobs till date and the number of persons who have not yet been provided jobs;

(d) the time by which the cases of all the nominated candidates are likely to be disposed of;

(e) whether the Government have received any complaints about not providing compensation and jobs in lieu of land acquired; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The procedure to provide compensation and jobs for land losers is continuous process. Compensation for land and jobs are provided promptly to all eligible land losers or their nominees as per the norms of the company on handing over possession of the land.

(b) Delays occur mostly due to dispute amongst the land owners and non-submission of proper nomination.

(c) Details are furnished below :

- A. Number of land oustees in WCL : 7654
- B. Number of land oustees entitled for jobs : 5119
- C. Number of land losers provided employment : 4710
- D. Balance land oustees to be provided employment in WCL : 409

(d) All clear cases have been provided employment. 409 cases are pending on account of non-submission of nomination and disputes among land oustees themselves.

(e) and (f) During 1996-97, 12 such representations were received by the Government. All of these were about not providing compensation and jobs in lieu of land acquired. Company has been advised to take necessary action in the matter. Five of these representations received through VIPs, are being followed up for intimation of action taken.

Information Services Project

6530. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned a project from Bloomberg L.P. USA for 100% Indian subsidiary to operate value-added electronics information services; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) M/s. Bloomberg, L.P., USA, has been granted foreign collaboration approval on 7th August, 1996, to set up a 100% wholly owned subsidiary to operate electronic information services such as data services, audio text services, video text services, with foreign equity participation 100% amounting to Rs. 160.00 lakhs subject to the condition that the company would not undertake any activity which falls within the category of "Value Added Services" as defined under the Policy of Department of Telecommunications. The proposal also involves an agreement with Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) to use a leased network on mutually acceptable commercial terms.

Basundhara Coal Mines

6531. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the grade of coal available in Basundhara Coal Mines at Gopalpur in Sundargarh district of Orissa;

(b) the target fixed for lifting coal from the said coal mines during 1997-98; and

(c) the major consumers identified or proposal before the Government for the disposal of coal from these mines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The grade of coal of Basundhara East project of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL) in Orissa has been assessed as "F".

(b) The target of coal despatches from this project for the year 1997-98 is 0.48 million tonnes.

(c) Presently, road-linked consumers of lb coalfields like Hirakud Power Company Ltd., Hirakud and Jindal Strips Ltd., Raigarh will get coal supply from this mine. Besides, coal is being offered under Liberalised Sale Scheme to any consumer. Maharashtra State Electricity Board and Tamil Nadu Electricity Board may also receive supplies subject to creation of transportation facilities.

Trade with Gulf Countries

6532. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to widen the scope of export and import with Gulf countries during 1997-98; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is trying to widen the scope of bilateral trade between India and Gulf countries through various trade promotion measures including facilitation of establishment of business level contacts between India and the Gulf trading partners exchange of commercial information/delegations, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, diversification of our export basket to include non-traditional items.

(c) Does not arise.

Supply of Coal

6533. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :
DR. M. JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to speed up clearing the supply of washed coal for power project of Hinduja House at Visakhapatnam; and

(b) if so, the action taken so far in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have recently resolved certain issues necessary to enable the finalisation of the Power Purchase Agreement to be entered into between the Power Project of M/s. Hinduja with APSEB and the Coal Supply and Transportation Agreement to be entered into between Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd., South Eastern Railways and the Power Company.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.

6534. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the policy of the Government was tailored more to encourage import of boilers/power generator rather than placing order on BHEL;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the established capacity of BHEL and its utilisation during each of the last three years;

(c) the details of fresh policy initiatives taken to reverse the trend during 1996-97 and result thereof; and

(d) the details of performance of BHEL during 1996-97 targets set for 1997-98 with major expansion/diversification plans ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) No Sir. However, the installed capacity alongwith its utilisation for power generators (TG sets) and boilers and its auxiliaries for the last three years is as under :

Sl. No.	Installed Capacity	Product/Capacity Utilisation MW/MT		
		1995-96	1994-95	1993-94
1.	Boilers & Auxils. Capacity = 165000 MT/Yr.	93802 MT (57%)	77437 MT (47%)	67771 MT (41%)
2.	Power Generators on MW completion capacity = 5845 MW/Yr.	2390 MW (41%)	1382 MW (24%)	2108 MW (36%)

(D) Major performance parameters for 1996-97 are as follows :

Rs./Crs.

	1995-96	1996-97*	Up by
Turnover	4833	5740	19%
Profit Before Tax	582	848	46%

*Subject to Audit.

20% dividend has been paid for 1995-96.

A turnover target of Rs. 6050 Crores has been budgeted for 1997-98.

The major products planned for production in the year 1997-98 under Diversification/Expansion plan include Gas Turbines, Traction Equipment, WH Boilers, Heat Exchangers and Pressure Vessels & certain Defence equipment etc.

Meeting between Tobacco Board & Tobacco Manufacturers

6535. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tobacco Board conducted any meeting for encouraging trading companies engaged in exports and others to buy virginia tobacco lying with farmers in the current season;

(b) if so, the details of such meetings held with traders and manufacturers; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to provide remunerative price to the farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Tobacco Board has held number of meetings with the tobacco traders, manufacturers and exporters wherein issues relating to ongoing tobacco auctions, payment of remunerative prices to farmers and efforts to purchase all tobacco offered on the auction platforms have been discussed. The response of the trade has been positive and they have assured to take all measures to lift the tobacco offered on auction platforms at remunerative prices keeping the international and domestic demand and supply position in view.

(c) Does not arise.

Annual Bio-Gas Seminar

6536. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that in the

Annual Bio-Gas Seminar held in New Delhi recently, it was stated by one of the delegates that 2,000 MW power can be generated from cow-dung;

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

(c) whether the Government are importing cow-dung from Holland; and

(d) if so, the usage, thereof and the amount incurred on its import ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the Annual Biogas Seminar organised by a non-government organisation (NGO), namely Action for Food Production (AFPRO) on March 20-22, 1997 at New Delhi, the 'Biogas Network Journal', volume 2 (1997) was circulated, which contained an article entitled, "Need for a Dung Policy". In this article, it was stated that the conversion into fuel of the entire cattle dung generated in the country would be equivalent to 2000 MW of power. This estimate is theoretical and does not take into account that cattle dung is used in our country mainly as a source of manure and domestic fuel and not for the generation of electrical power.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Cow dung has not been imported from the Netherlands (Holland) during the last three years as per the Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India - Volume II brought out by the Directorate Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta.

[Translation]

Markets for Handloom Weavers

6537. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more markets in the entire country for handloom weavers under Market Development Assistance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise number of these markets proposed to be set up during 1996-97 and 1997-98 and the locations thereof; and

(d) the amount earmarked for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) No Sir. The Government does not set up Market for handloom weavers under Market Development Assistance Scheme.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Reduction of Import Duty on Polyurethane

6538. PROF P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the small scale sector using natural rubber as raw material is facing serious crisis due to reduction in import duty on polyurethane for manufacturing foam;

(b) if so, whether this will further reduce the consumption of natural rubber resulting in reduction of its demand; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Imposition of Anti-Dumping Duty on Unbleached Cotton Fabrics by EU

6539. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the European Union has decided to impose anti-dumping duty on Indian unbleached cotton fabrics;

(b) if so, whether European Union is coming to India to probe the question of imposing of anti-dumping duty on bedlinen also;

(c) if so, whether any efforts have been made by the Government to protect these fabrics from the proposed anti-dumping duties of the European Union; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The European Union has imposed provisional anti-dumping duties on the imports of unbleached cotton fabrics originating in China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Turkey. Final determination, however, is awaited.

(b) An anti-dumping investigation has also been initiated by the European Union against exports of bed linen from various countries including India and as per normal practice they may conduct verification of information furnished by exporters/producers.

(c) and (d) The Government has been providing all

possible assistance to the Indian exporters in the anti-dumping investigation at the diplomatic level.

Closure of Extension Centres in Kerala

6540. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether small industries service institute under Development Commissioner (SSI) have decided to close down their extension centres at shornur, Kozhikode, Muvattupuzha and Attingal in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to review their decision not to close down Extension Centres which are useful for SSI sectors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In 1992, a review of activities of SIDO (Small Industries Development Organisation) was taken up and it was found that SSIs were not using the services of the Extension Centres sufficiently. As such since their utility was not there, 37 Extension Centres were decided to be closed down which include the Extension Centres in Kerala. Respective State Governments were offered to take over these Centres. They were closed only after no State came forward to continue the activities.

(c) and (d) The assets of Extension Centres at Shoranur have already been transferred to Municipal Council, Shoranur, that of Muvattupuzha to Telecommunication and that of Attingal to Science & Technology Development (STED) Project, respectively. As regards Extension Centre Calicut, decision has been taken to transfer the assets to STED and COWD. In order to avoid spreading the resources of SIDO too thinly, it is not feasible to restart or open such centres.

Modernisation of Legal System

6541. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI K.S. RAYADU :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have worked out a comprehensive strategy to modernise and streamline the civil justice through computerisation and adoption of

improved techniques/methods of management practices from drastic improvement in speedy disposal of cases;

(b) if so, the details of the plan under implementation/to be launched during the current year – State-wise and provision of funds therefor;

(c) the status of fresh court cases registered during 1996-97 previous backlog of cases and cases cleared State-wise and new strategies worked out State-wise for disposal of justice; and

(d) other judicial reforms finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of Dry Fruits

6542. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of the dry-fruits exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years; country-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of dry fruits during the Ninth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Total quantity of dry-fruits such as cashewnuts, almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts, figs dried, grapes (dried) and mixture of nuts exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years are as follows :-

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value Rs. (Crores)
1994-95	83480	1305.90
1995-96	77375	1319.71
1996-97 (April-Sept'96)	39428	721.05

The country-wise details of exports are available in the Annual Number of Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) Some of the steps taken to promote exports of agricultural products including dry fruits are :-

(i) Providing financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control;

- (ii) Organising export promotion activities such as buyer-seller meets and participation in International Trade Fairs/Exhibitions.
- (iii) Monitoring of pesticide residues and provision of advisory services for control of pesticide use/residue.

Government Nominees on the Board of Directors of PSUs

6543. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem under the captioned "PSU Boards plagued by Government nominees" appearing in the 'Observer of Business and Politics' New Delhi, dated March 6, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of Public Sector Undertakings which are having more than one Government nominees on the Board of Directors alongwith their names and since when each of them is on the Board of Directors, PSU-wise;

(c) the details of guidelines issued by the Department of Public Enterprises in March, 1992 restricting limit to one nominee and also the recommendations of the Arjun Sen Gupta Committee in this regard; and

(d) the reasons for which these guidelines have not been implemented so far ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The relevant extract of the DPE Office Memorandum dated 16.3.1992 (as amended vide OM dated 13.11.1995) is given in the statement attached. The Arjun Sen Gupta Committee has not made any recommendation in regard to the number of Government Directors to be nominated on the Boards of Directors of Public Enterprises.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Extract from DPE OM No. 18 (6)/91-GM dated 16.3.1992 as amended vide OM dated 13.11.1995.

GOVERNMENT DIRECTORS :

- (i) The number of the Government Directors on the

Boards of Directors of an enterprise should not exceed one-sixth of the actual strength of the board.

- (ii) It will be preferable to have only one Government Director from the concerned Administrative Ministry on each Board. The choice of the nominee Director would vest with the administrative Ministry of the concerned Department.
- (iii) In case of PSEs where it is considered essential to give some representation on the Boards to other concerned Government agencies/Ministries State Governments, only one representative from the Group could also be appointed on the Board as Part-time Government Director.
- (iv) The number of Government Directors on a Board should in no case exceed two.

Fuel Cell Technology by BHEL

6544. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (Research & Development) achieved a break through in power generation technology by successfully developing "Fuel cell technology" for the first time in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the budget amount released so far to develop the "fuel cell technology" in our country;

(c) whether the fuel cell technology has reached commercialised stage of production of non-conventional energy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) had designed, developed, tested and demonstrated an indigenous phosphoric acid fuel cell stack of 1 KW rating in 1991. In 1995 two more stacks of 5 KW and 7.5 KW were demonstrated. The total amount spent till 1996-97 is as under :

Sl. No.	Fuel Cell Rating	Rs./Lakhs		
		Amount spent/Released		
		BHEL	MNES	Total
1.	1 KW, 5 KW & 7.5 KW	184	69	253
2.	50 KW	44	65	109

(c) and (d) After the successful demonstration of the 50 KW unit, BHEL will commercially offer units of 50-200 KW ratings with hydrogen as fuel to industries.

Supply of Coal

6545. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI N.J. RATHWA :
SHRI JAISINH CHAUHAN :
SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of allotment of coal made to various Power Houses and various industries in Gujarat during the year 1994, 1995 and 1996 (upto December) and actually supplied to each power-house and industry-wise;

(b) whether the allotment of coal to each industry

during these years were sufficient as against the demand; and

(c) if not, the industry-wise backlog remains to be fulfilled ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The requirements of coal are assessed Industry/Sector-wise for the whole country. They are not assessed State-wise. However, power house-wise requirements are assessed by Central Electricity Authority based on the generation target fixed for each individual power house and accordingly linkages are provided by the Standing Linkage Committee. Details regarding coal linkages and supplies made to power houses and coal supplies made to various industrial sectors in the State of Gujarat during the year 1993-94 to 1995-96 are given below :-

(In '000 tonnes)

(Data provisional)

Year	Power		Cement	Fertiliser	Paper	Tex/Rayon	Others
	Linkage	Despatches					
1993-94	14235	12845	842	308	70	374	1546
1994-95	15435	12856	554	187	84	318	1086
1995-96	15120	13684	518	201	75	207	1161

(b) and (c) As a result of high priority given for supply of coal to the power sector and as a result of a sharp increase in the demand from this sector, supplies of coal to the industrial consumers has been affected. Coal companies are however endeavouring to meet the requirements of coal of all consumers in the country including that of consumers in Gujarat by increasing production of coal. In addition coal from a number of collieries is being offered under the Liberalised Sales Scheme under which scheme coal is supplied without the requirements of linkage/sponsorships. Option of import of coal is also now available.

Consultations with WTO on India's Balance of Payments

6546. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any consultation with World Trade Organisation on India's balance of payments was held in Geneva;

(b) if so, the details of points raised by India;

(c) whether the consultations will be taken up again in June, 1997; and

(d) if so, the details of issues/points are likely to be raised in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) At the consultations held by the Committee on Balance of Payments Restrictions of the World Trade Organisation with India under Article XVIII : (B) of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (CATT), 1994 in January, 1997, the Indian delegation stated that although the overall balance of payments position had improved and could not be described as critical, there was still need for caution and careful monitoring. The price of crude oil, which represented one quarter of India's imports, had risen significantly, and debt and debt service to exports ratios were too high for comfort. Furthermore, the fiscal deficit still remained high, domestic savings were insufficient to meet investment needs, inflation was inching back up and growth in exports had been volatile in recent months. The Indian delegation pointed out that, in this situation,

precipitate removal of quantitative restrictions could undermine economic stability and the reform process.

After hearing the statements made by India and other Members of the WTO and the International Monetary Fund, the WTC Committee invited India to present a plan to eliminate the quantitative restrictions on imports maintained by India for balance of payments purposes and agreed to resume the consultations in the week beginning 2 June, 1997.

The consultations by the WTO Committee, are now scheduled to be resumed on 10-11 June, 1997.

[Translation]

Agreement with Philippines

6547. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Philippines has signed an agreement to extend economic cooperation in the field of small scale industries and pharmaceuticals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this agreement is likely to come into force ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India and Philippines have signed two Memoranda of Understanding for economic cooperation in the field of small scale industries and pharmaceuticals. The scope of Memorandum in small scale industries includes experience sharing for evolving policy frame-work for evolving policy frame-work for organised growth of SSI, information exchange, cooperation in areas of Human Resource Development, identification of projects, imparting training, exchange of specialists etc. The scope of memorandum in the area of pharmaceuticals includes manpower development/training, collaborative projects on medicinal plants and research and information exchange on new developments on drugs/other pharmaceuticals.

(c) Both the Memoranda of Understanding came into effect from the date of signing viz; 3rd March, 1997.

Sick Textile Mills in Gujarat

6548. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether many textiles mills in Gujarat particularly in tribal areas have been sick for more than five years;

(b) if so, the mill-wise details of the performance of

these sick mills, the steps taken to make them viable, to upgrade them by modernisation during the last three years and the funds allocated for the above purpose;

(c) the details of proposed/finalised action plan to make these sick units viable; and

(d) the number of such units which are likely to be closed and the action plan regarding rehabilitation of the workers ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) As on 31.1.97, there were 63 textile mills registered with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) as sick in Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Government has set up BIFR to enquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, schemes for revival of mills.

(d) BIFR has issued winding up notice in respect of 25 cases in case of Gujarat as on 28.2.97. Government has established Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund for workers rendered jobless due to closure of mills partially or permanently.

Chamber of Lawyers of Allahabad High Court

6549. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether for the efficient and effective dispersal of work, chambers are not available for all the lawyers registered with Allahabad High Court in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Registry of Allahabad High Court and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Handicrafts Fairs

6550. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of handicrafts fairs organised by the Government in the State of Orissa and Other States; and

(b) the criteria being followed for selection of craftsmen to participate in such fairs ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) During 1996-97, two handicrafts fairs were organised by the Government in the State of Orissa and fifty nine other fairs were organised in other States.

(b) Artisans are selected for participation in fairs on the basis of their merit and crafts practised by them. National Award winners, Merit Certificate holders, State Award winners and craftspersons producing crafts which are languishing are generally given preference for participation in the fairs.

Provident Fund to Textile Workers

6551. SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the management of New Egerton Woollen Mills branch Dhariwal has not paid the employee's share of provident fund since July 1993 to its workers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount of provident fund due to the employees till 31st January, 1997 and by what time the payment is likely to be made ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As on 31.1.1997 an amount of Rs. 11.16 lakhs was due to the employees which has since been paid.

France Assistance for Markets of Agricultural Products in E.N.

6552. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether France has offered its help to India to enter European markets for marketing agricultural products;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed or proposed to be signed in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken to implement those agreements ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Royalty on Coal

6553. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry prepared any questionnaire on the revision of royalty rates on coal and circulated to all the State Government for their comments;

(b) if so, whether the comments of the State received have been examined by the Government;

(c) if so, the action taken for the revision of royalty on coal;

(d) whether Lignite which is equivalent to 'E' grade coal was not included in the questionnaire for revision of royalty;

(e) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(f) the number of times the royalty rates revised during the last three years and the amount of royalty given to each state during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The questionnaire was prepared and circulated to the State Governments in February, 1997 by the Study Group constituted by the Ministry of Coal on 28.1.1997 to consider the question of revision of the rates of royalty on coal.

(b) and (c) On consideration of the comments of the State Governments and other aspects, the Study Group is required to submit its report along with the recommendations by 28th July, 1997 to the Government for taking a decision on revision in rates of royalty on coal.

(d) and (e) A separate Study Group to go into the question of revision of royalty rate on lignite was constituted on 15.3.95. Therefore, lignite was not included in the questionnaire circulated to the State Governments by the Study Group on the revision of royalty rates on coal set up on 28.1.1997.

(f) Royalty rates on coal were revised last on 11.10.94. However, in respect of Meghalaya only the royalty rates on coal were further revised on 13.1.95. The details of royalty paid by the Coal India Limited to the coal producing States during the last three years are given below :-

(Rs. in crores)

State	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
West Bengal	9.59	7.82	10.87
Bihar	613.18	658.33	682.77
Orissa	104.08	180.79	185.38
Maharashtra	159.70	217.90	200.29
Madhya Pradesh	438.91	666.77	684.14
Uttar Pradesh	87.39	113.50	121.41
Assam	0.42	21.59	9.92
Total	1413.27	1866.70	1894.73

Coal Quota

6554. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain industries are provided full quota of coal whereas certain industries are deprived of their quota;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise percentage of coal allocated to various industries during the last three years; and

(d) the prescribed norms for allocation of coal to each industry

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) The core sector consumers in the power, steel, cement, fertilizers, defence and railways are provided full quota of coal normally. Supplies of coal for consumers in the non-core sectors are required to be restricted depending upon the coal availability, transport logistic, preference of the consumers for coal of certain types and sources as per the inter-se priority accorded to these consumers.

(c) Details regarding State-wise despatches of coal and percentage of despatches to various industries from CIL during the last three years are given in the attached Statement-I to III.

(d) A well defined policy is being followed for supply of coal to industrial and other non-core sector consumers. Coal supplies are arranged only to actual consumers of coal located in different States as per the linkages established and/or sponsorships issued by the sponsoring authorities.

Statement-I

State-wise despatches and Industry-wise percentage of despatches of coal from CIL during the year 1993-94

State	Total Desptach in 000 tonnes	Percentage of Despatches of							
		Steel	Power	Cement	Fert.	Paper	T/Rayon	C-oven	Others
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Karnataka	1374	—	25.94	42.00	—	25.52	—	—	6.54
Kerala	236	—	—	14.41	—	54.66	—	—	30.93
Madhya Pradesh	37288	10.52	71.27	8.05	—	0.86	1.33	—	7.97
Maharashtra	27407	—	86.44	3.32	—	1.16	1.11	—	7.97
Orissa	11015	23.09	12.78	2.15	6.57	4.31	0.23	—	50.87
Punjab	8284	—	81.74	0.01	11.61	0.15	0.32	—	6.17
Rajasthan	5564	—	59.60	19.35	6.58	—	4.26	0.02	10.19
Tamil Nadu	10273	—	95.59	3.79	—	0.30	0.16	—	0.16
Uttar Pradesh	35629	—	81.51	0.84	1.29	0.40	0.15	—	15.81

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
West Bengal	18655	16.10	72.92	0.02	0.18	0.85	0.52	1.74	7.67
Bihar	19214	25.31	36.32	1.04	3.87	0.05	—	7.08	26.33
Delhi	6201	—	94.18	—	—	—	0.16	—	5.66
Gujarat	15786	—	80.12	5.33	1.95	0.44	2.37	—	9.79
Haryana	3234	—	67.92	3.69	16.19	6.20	0.26	—	5.74
Andhra Pradesh	5647	33.63	52.81	6.90	—	3.29	—	—	3.37
Assam	543	—	43.65	7.18	—	17.86	—	—	31.31
Himachal Pradesh	193	—	—	80.83	—	—	—	—	9.17
Jammu & Kashmir	46	—	—	45.65	—	—	—	—	54.35
Others	726	—	—	0.55	—	0.83	1.52	—	97.11
(Figures rounded)									

Statement-II

State-wise despatches and Industry-wise percentage of despatches of coal from CIL during the year 1994-95

State	Total Despatch in '000 tonnes	Percentage of Despatches of							
		Steel	Power	Cement	Fert.	Paper	T/Rayon	C-oven	Others
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Karnataka	1992	—	34.18	44.23	—	19.13	0.05	—	2.41
Kerala	249	—	—	17.67	—	69.48	—	—	12.85
Madhya Pradesh	39589	8.57	72.04	7.90	—	0.86	1.21	—	9.42
Maharashtra	27650	—	86.29	3.50	—	1.36	0.75	—	8.10
Orissa	12001	21.82	13.00	2.14	3.57	4.07	0.20	—	55.20
Punjab	7547	—	77.77	0.03	13.21	0.16	0.48	—	8.35
Rajasthan	5436	—	61.12	21.09	6.89	—	3.77	0.13	6.98
Tamil Nadu	10633	—	95.11	2.83	—	1.53	0.25	—	0.28
Uttar Pradesh	35791	—	80.88	0.56	1.66	0.40	0.21	—	16.29
West Bengal	21120	14.85	72.22	0.01	—	0.57	0.55	1.28	10.52
Bihar	18503	24.56	34.46	1.13	4.18	0.06	—	6.06	29.55
Delhi	6312	—	97.35	0.02	—	—	0.03	—	2.60
Gujarat	15084	—	85.22	3.67	1.24	0.56	2.11	—	7.20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Haryana	3755	—	74.62	2.26	14.65	5.19	0.05	—	3.23
Andhra Pradesh	7151	28.90	61.47	5.87	—	2.29	—	—	2.29
Assam	567	—	56.08	3.70	—	5.30	—	—	34.92
Himachal Pradesh	295	—	—	94.58	—	—	—	—	5.42
Jammu & Kashmir	34	—	—	61.77	—	—	5.88	—	32.35
Others	240	—	—	—	—	7.17	4.64	—	88.19
(Figures rounded)									

Statement-III

State-wise despatches and Industry-wise percentage of despatches of coal from CIL during the year 1995-96

State	Total Despatch in 000 tonnes	Percentage of Despatches of							
		Steel	Power	Cement	Fert.	Paper	T/Rayon	C-oven	Others
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Karnataka	2803	—	52.95	31.83	—	12.73	0.03	—	2.46
Kerala	167	—	—	27.87	—	58.18	3.03	—	10.92
Madhya Pradesh	41395	8.43	74.52	7.17	—	0.75	0.76	—	8.37
Maharashtra	31286	—	84.82	3.23	—	1.48	0.72	—	9.75
Orissa	14217	18.65	21.04	1.75	4.99	3.64	0.13	—	49.80
Punjab	7645	—	83.26	—	8.83	0.02	0.13	—	7.76
Rajasthan	5860	—	66.72	17.83	6.28	—	3.36	0.13	5.68
Tamil Nadu	10664	—	95.33	2.94	—	1.13	0.26	—	0.34
Uttar Pradesh	40833	—	83.14	0.45	1.04	0.33	0.04	—	15.00
West Bengal	22360	13.65	73.21	0.02	0.13	0.81	0.42	1.30	10.45
Bihar	19645	21.24	41.23	1.08	5.21	0.06	—	6.52	24.66
Delhi	5175	—	90.03	0.12	—	—	0.05	—	9.80
Gujarat	15846	—	86.36	3.27	1.27	0.47	1.31	—	7.32
Haryana	3259	—	78.64	2.76	10.06	2.98	—	—	5.56
Andhra Pradesh	8919	21.85	70.37	4.67	—	1.73	—	—	1.38
Assam	747	—	53.68	4.28	—	18.61	—	—	23.43

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Himachal Pradesh	363	-	-	91.46	-	-	-	-	8.54
Jammu & Kashmir	151	-	-	15.23	-	-	-	-	84.77
Others	799	-	-	-	3.38	1.38	0.75	-	94.49
(Figures rounded)									

GEO-Thermal Energy

6555. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES pleased be refer to the reply given to SQ No. 13 dated November 20 1996 and state :

(a) whether the Government propose to drill to a depth of 1.5 to 2.00 km enabling generating electricity from Geo-thermal energy in Puga in Ladakh;

(b) if not, reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to invite foreign experts especially from China or Italy from producing electricity from Geo-thermal sources in similar topography and climatic conditions as that of Ladakh or advise our Scientists to buy technology in this field; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) No drilling is proposed for producing electricity in Puga in Ladakh. Drilling work was undertaken in 1973 by Geological Survey of India and by Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. However, the drilling could not be completed due to lack of proper equipment, hard and abrasive nature of rock encountered during drilling and inadequate infrastructure.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no proposal to invite foreign experts or buy technology in this field. The Indian Scientists are, however, interacting with scientists/institutes working in the field of geothermal energy in other countries.

[Translation]

Textile Research Fund

6556. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up Textiles Research Fund for the modernisation of textiles industry, and for improving the quality of textile items.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said Fund is likely to be set up; and

(d) the steps taken by the Textiles Research Organisation for improving the quality of textile items including the cotton thread for making them more competitive in international market ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) and (c) There is no proposal to set up a Textile Research Fund. However, it is proposed to create a Technology Upgradation Fund for the textiles and Jute Industries. Details are being worked out.

(d) Textile Research Associations have been carrying out research with a view, inter alia, to improving the quality of textile items, ranging from fibres to fabrics as also of textile machinery.

[English]

Export of Technology

6557. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether our country is involved in the export of technology; and

(b) if so, the details of technology exported during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) As per the merchandise trade data released by DGCI&S, no specific details of export of technology from the country are available since the technologies are generally exported through any one or a combination of the following modes :

(i) Export of Know-how

(ii) Export of Designs & Drawings

(iii) Setting up of Joint Ventures in the host country.

- (iv) Export of Turnkey Projects including export of plant & machinery.
- (v) Consultancy Export including export of technical services and training.
- (vi) Export of capital goods, components and raw materials on long term basis.

Justice Chinnapam Reddy Commission

6558. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have set up Justice Chinnapam Reddy Commission;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have received the recommendations on the above Commission;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

State Election Commission

6559. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Election Commission has approached the Government to change the name of the State Election Commission in order to avoid confusion and harassment to the public in view of the flooded of complaints to local election held throughout the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have discussed the matter with the Election Commission to eliminate the present difficulties arising out of election at the municipal level; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a)

to (d) Yes, Sir. The Election Commission of India has suggested that the State Election Commissions be renamed as, for example, Delhi Election Commission, Kerala Election Commission, etc. or otherwise as deemed appropriate by the respective State Governments to remove the mix up of their roles with that of Election Commission of India. The Proposal is under consideration.

Export of Silk and Carpets

6560. DR. RAMKRISHANA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether export of silk and carpet has fallen recently;
- (b) if so, the main reason for the same; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to stop its further decline in future ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b) There has not been a uniform trend of the exports of silk products of the country during the last three years. While the exports of silk products during the year 1994-95 increased as compared to 1993-94, the exports during the year 1995-96 declined in comparison to 1994-95. This was mainly due to changes in fashion and customers preferences in the International markets, fall/stagnation in the unit export price of silk goods in terms of US \$ and general recession in major markets like USA and Europe.

Similarly, the export of carpets and other floor coverings in dollar terms have declined during 1995-96 as compared to 1994-95 and the exports in 1996-97 have increased as compared to 1995-96. The decline in 1995-96 is mainly due to demand for low value carpets like Gaba and Nepali varieties, which fetches lower price in international market.

(c) In order to increase the exports of silk products, the Government is providing assistance to the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council for undertaking various export promotion activities such as participation in national and international fairs, publicity in foreign trade magazines, publication of magazine "Silk India" and colour forecast card for domestic silk manufacturers, dissemination of overseas trade information among exporters, etc. Besides, the Government has taken several measures to boost silk exports such as the facility of duty free import of raw material under the Advance Licensing Scheme, import of capital goods at concessional rate of duty for export products, etc.

Similarly to boost carpet exports, export promotion measures such as sponsoring sales-cum-study tour abroad, organisation of buyer-seller meet, participation in fairs/festivals including holding of annual Indian Carpet Trade Fair, conducting of seminars/workshops etc. are being taken.

SAARC Trade Fair Held at Lahore

6561. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has participated in SAARC Trade fair held in Lahore in January, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of goods exhibited in the above fair; and

(c) the details of the business transacted by India during the said fair ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) No SAARC Trade Fair was held during January, 1997 in Lahore.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Sick Industries

6562. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of industries declared sick in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for declaring them as sick;

(c) the number of workers affected by these declarations, State-wise; and

(d) the financial assistance given for these sick units, State-wise, during the said period ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Data on sick industrial units assisted by Banks in the country is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). According to the latest RBI data as on 31.3.96, the State-wise details of sick industrial units, both in SSI and non-SSI sectors, are given in the attached Statement.

According to the Reserve Bank of India report, the major causes of industrial sickness in the country relate to project appraisal deficiencies, project management deficiencies, marketing etc.

(c) and (d) This information is not centrally maintained.

Statement

State-wise distribution of Sick SSI and Non-SSI units as at the end of March, 1996

State/Union Territory	No. of sick SSI Units	No. of sick Non-SSI Units
1	2	3
Assam	19831	37
Meghalaya	4985	2
Mizoram	62	—
Bihar	16695	56
Arunachal Pradesh	104	1
West Bengal	56214	225
Nagaland	1445	1
Manipur	913	1
Orissa	7826	53
Sikkim	116	1
Tripura	1356	6
A&N Inlands	41	—
Uttar Pradesh	38349	173
Delhi	6045	26
Punjab	2362	37
Haryana	2332	63
Chandigarh	205	12
J & K	3728	7
Himachal Pradesh	567	20
Rajasthan	15668	61
Gujarat	7476	177
Maharashtra	20100	337
Daman & Diu	5	1
Goa	717	4
D & N Haveli	1	2

1	2	3
Madhya Pradesh	11748	99
Andhra Pradesh	14794	234
Karnataka	11196	114
Tamil Nadu	8293	129
Kerala	8984	69
Pondicherry	218	8
Total	262376	1956

[Translation]

Regional Coal Consumer Council

6563. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Regional Coal Consumers Council has been constituted by the coal companies to solve the problems of consumers;

(b) if so, the number of problems solved along with the nature thereof so far; and

(c) the guidelines issued for providing relief to the consumers in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) For redressal of consumers grievances and Monitoring of complaints received from the consumers, a Regional Coal Consumers Council has been set up for each coal company. An apex body the National Coal Consumers Council has also been set up at Headquarters of Coal India Limited. Grievances are to be first addressed at the Regional Council. In case the complainant does not receive a reply within a month or the complainant is not satisfied with the reply, he may prefer complaint to the National Coal Consumers Council.

(b) There were no specific complaints/problems raised by the attending members in respect of non-core sector consumers served by Eastern Coalfields Ltd. The Regional Coal Consumers Council under SECL resolved the following complaints—

- (i) 5 problems relating to poor/inferior quality of coal at destination.
- (ii) 4 problems relating to miscellaneous coal etc.
- (iii) 2 problems relating to receipt of dusty/lumpy coal at destination.

Information pertaining to other coal companies of CIL is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Apart from constitution of Coal Consumers Councils for redressal of consumers' grievances, a consumer grievance cell has been set up at the Marketing Division of Coal India Limited to look into the Specific problems of the consumers. All the subsidiary coal companies have also been advised for setting up of similar consumer grievance cells. Consumers experiencing difficulties in redressal of their problems may approach the grievance cell with their grievances. If they desire, they can discuss their grievances with the officer-in-charge of the cell who will be reporting to Chief of Marketing. All such grievances will be recorded properly. Depending on the nature of the complaint, the Officer-in-Charge will take up the matter with the concerned section for arriving at a solution. Action taken on the grievances will be reviewed in the fortnightly meeting chaired by Chief of Marketing, Coal India Limited.

[English]

Export of Textile Items

6564. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the potentials of handicraft, handlooms and other textile garments for export purposes from Orissa has not been fully tapped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the export of these items from Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b) Government has been making efforts, on a continuous basis, to tap fully the export potential of handicraft, handlooms, textiles and clothing from different states, including Orissa.

(c) In order to boost the exports of textiles and handicrafts from all parts of India including Orissa, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets; fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

Marketing Service Extension Centre in Noida

6565. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government propose to open marketing and service extension centre for handicrafts in Noida/Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the location-wise details of the proposed marketing service extension centres for handicrafts in Uttar Pradesh as on date ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Four Marketing & Service Extension Centres are already functioning at Saharanpur, Almora, Agra & Barabanki in the State of Uttar Pradesh. The centre at Saharanpur is catering to the needs of craftpersons at Noida and Greater Noida.

(d) No decision has been taken to open more Marketing & Service Extension Centres in Uttar Pradesh.

Survey Conducted by Tobacco Board on Surplus Stocks

6566. SHRI K.S. RAYUDU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tobacco Board has made any survey for surplus stocks of tobacco in West and East Godavari of Andhra Pradesh in the first week of April, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to assist the farmers by way of to procure such huge tobacco stocks lying with them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Some of the steps taken by the Tobacco Board to assist tobacco farmers include :-

(i) Conducting auctions to ensure accurate

weightment, classification and competitive prices;

(ii) Negotiating with tobacco trade for fixation of Minimum Guaranteed Price for Flue Cured Virginia Tobacco which is normally above the Minimum Support Price;

(iii) Opening 3 additional auction platforms in Andhra Pradesh at Vellampalli, Podili and Kandukur.

Janata Cloth Scheme

6567. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received proposal from the Government of Maharashtra requesting for providing funds for Handloom sector under Janata Cloth Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of the action taken thereon; and

(c) the details of package of incentives proposed during 1997-98 for revival of Handloom Sector ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) and (b) Proposals from three agencies viz. Maharashtra State Handloom Corporation Ltd., Nagpur, Vidarbha Weavers Central Cooperative Society, Nagpur and The Western Maharashtra Weavers Central Coop. Association Ltd., Solapur have been recieved for release of funds under Janata Cloth Scheme. Releases would be as per entitlement.

(c) During 1997-98 the Government of India is implementing the following schemes under which assistance is provided for promotion and development of the handloom sector :-

1. Setting up of Handloom Development Centre/ Quality Dyeing Units.
2. Project Package Scheme.
3. Scheme for Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing.
4. Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme.
5. Health Package Scheme.
6. Group Insurance Scheme.
7. Thrift Fund Scheme.

[Translation]

Infrastructure Facilities

6568.DR. G.R. SARODE : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have chalked out any infrastructural facility of some capital nature in all States to safeguard the interests of the Judiciary;

(b) if so, the action taken so far in this regard; and

(c) the funds provided for the purpose in the next financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary is being implemented since 1993-94. The scheme aims at supplementing the efforts of the States Governments and is confined to construction of Court Buildings and residences for the Judges/Judicial Officers. Under this Scheme, Rs. 180.43 crores has been released to various States/UTs from 1993-94 to 1996-97.

(c) A provisional outlay of Rs. 50.00 crores has been provided for this scheme for the current financial year i.e. 1997-98.

[English]

Hindustan Machine Tools

6569.SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for expansion of Hindustan Machine Tools; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) has projected an investment of Rs. 516 crores during the 9th Plan period for the modernisation and expansion of its various business groups.

[Translation]

Production of Bidis

6570.SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise total production of Bidis in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme for increasing the production of Bidis in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Based on information on cess collection, the estimated production of Bidis in the country during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 has been 41533 crores, 40830 crores and 41780 crores numbers respectively. The State-wise break-up of production is not available.

(b) and (c) Facilities and incentives given by the Government are available for growth and development of Bidi industry in Madhya Pradesh also. There is no specific plan for increasing the production of bidis in Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

Use of Restricted Chemicals as Textiles Dyes

6571.SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are planning to ban the use of restricted chemicals in textile sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The handling of 70 azo dyes has been prohibited under clause (d) of sub-section (2) of Section 6 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (26 of 1986) read with rule 13 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 vide Notification No. S.O. 243 (E) dated 26th March, 97. The prohibition on the handling of such azo dyes shall come into force on the expiry of a period of 90 days from the date of issue of the Notification.

[Translation]

Approval for setting up Industries

6572.SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the industry-wise and State-wise approvals accorded by the Union Government to set up industries in various States during the last two years;

(b) the State-wise and industry-wise details of the proposals under consideration; and

(c) the time by which the approval is likely to be given in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Statement I and II showing the number of Letters of Intent (LOIs) issued during the Period 1995-96 and 1996-97 (industry-wise and state-wise are enclosed.

(b) Statement III and IV showing the number of Industrial Licence applications pending as on 31st March, 1997 (industry-wise and state-wise are enclosed.

(c) All steps are taken for the speedy disposal of applications. Actual disposal of applications depend on the sectoral policy adopted by the Administrative Ministry, their recommendations in specific cases and also furnishing of relevant information by the applicants.

Statement-I

The Number of Letters of Intent Issued (Industry-wise) during the period 1995-96 & 1996-97

Sch.Ind. No.	Name of the Scheduled Industry	Total
1	2	3
01.	Metallurgical Industries	20
02.	Fuels	40
05.	Electrical Equipments	19
06.	Telecommunications	18
07.	Transporation	23
08.	Industrial Machinery	11
09.	Machine Tools	1
10.	Agricultural Machinery	2
12.	Misc. Mechanical & Engg. Industries	13
13.	Commercial Office & House hold equpts	1
19.	Chemicals (Other than fertilizers)	96
22.	Drugs & Pharmaceuticals	18
23.	Textiles	220
24.	Paper & Pulp	19

1	2	3
25.	Sugar	202
26.	Fermentation Industry	1
27.	Food Processing Industry	29
28.	Vanaspathi Vegetable Oil & Fats	4
29.	Soap Cosmetics & Toillery	4
30.	Rubber Goods	6
31.	Leather	43
33.	Glass	1
34.	Ceramics	5
35.	Cement & Gypsum Products	23
36.	Timbeer Products	20
37.	Defence Industries	1
38.	Miscellaneous Industries	11
Total		851

Note : Sch.Ind. No. Scheduled Industry Number

Statement-II

The LOIs Issued (State-wise) for the years 1995-96 and 1996-97

S.No.	Name of the State	Total
1	2	3
01.	Andhra Pradesh	91
02.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
03.	Assam	2
04.	Bihar	11
05.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4
06.	Daman & Diu	3
07.	Delhi	2
08.	Goa	3
09.	Gujarat	54
10.	Haryana	40
11.	Himachal Pradesh	4

1	2	3
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
13.	Karnataka	75
14.	Kerala	11
15.	Madhya Pradesh	23
16.	Maharashtra	111
17.	Orissa	15
18.	Pondicherry	10
19.	Punjab	51
20.	Rajasthan	12
21.	Tamil Nadu	182
22.	Uttar Pradesh	120
23.	West Bengal	25
24.	Other States/UTs	NIL
Total		851

Statement-III

*The Pending IL Applications Industry-wise
as on 31.03.1997*

Schedule Industry No.	No.of Applications pending
1	2
Metallurgical Industries	3
Fuels	13
Electrical Equipment	4
Transportation	1
Machine Tools	2
Misc. Mech. & Engg. Industries	1
Commercial Office & House hold Eqpt.	1
Chemicals (Other than Fert.)	29
Drugs & Pharmaceuticals	10
Textiles.	19

1	2
Paper & Pulp	4
Sugar	286
Fermentation Industry	99
Food Processing Industry	5
Soap Cosmetics & Toilet Prep.	1
Leather	3
Glue & Gelatin	1
Cement & Gypsum Products	12
Timber Products	4
Miscellaneous Industries	3
Total	501

Statement-IV

*The Pending IL Applications State-wise
as on 31.03.1997*

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Appl. pending
1	2	3
01.	Andhra Pradesh	36
02.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
03.	Bihar	12
04.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2
05.	Daman & Diu	3
06.	Goa	5
07.	Gujarat	10
08.	Haryana	21
09.	Himachal Pradesh	3
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	2
11.	Karnataka	67
12.	Kerala	4
13.	Madhya Pradesh	44
14.	Maharashtra	45

1	2	3
15.	Manipur	1
16.	Meghalaya	1
17.	Nagaland	1
18.	Orissa	4
19.	Pondicherry	1
20.	Punjab	11
21.	Rajasthan	9
22.	Tamil Nadu	69
23.	Uttar Pradesh	135
24.	West Bengal	12
25.	More Than One State	2
26.	Othrr States/UTs	NIL
Total		501

[English]

**Power project in Nalgonda District of
Andhra Pradesh**

6573.DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Solarex, a US based Company, propose to set up a mini power plant with an estimated power generation capacity of 32 MW in Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total cost of expenditure involved therein; and

(e) the extent, to which the power is likely to be generated by this project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c) As per information received from the State Government, no such proposal has been received from the US-based company Solarex.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Solar Energy

6574.SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indian-Canadian engineer has invented a solar energy device that could help to provide clean and inexpensive power to energy-starved villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c) Prof. Anand Sharan of the Memorial University, New Foundland, Canada has developed a tracking system for use in solar photovoltaic power systems. The system can be used to move solar panels during the day so that they face the sun continuously. He has claimed that this enhances the energy output from the solar panels by about 35-40%. Such tracking systems use motors and electronic circuits and consume a part of the power generated from the solar panels.

At present simple manual tracking systems which consume no energy are already in use in India especially in solar photovoltaic (PV) water pumping systems. These tracking systems are capable of generating about 25-30% extra power compared to the fixed type solar panels. In general tracking systems are not considered very useful for small capacity PV lighting systems normally in use in rural areas.

Export of Steel Wares

6575.SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of Steel Wares exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(b) the details of the countries identified for export of steel wares; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of steel wares during the current year and the Ninth plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The

total quantity of different types of iron ware including stainless steel utensils exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years is given below.

Year	Quantity in Kg. (F.E. equivalent in Rupees Crores)	
	Quantity	Value
1993-94	12063597	128.37
1994-95	14597855	162.61
1995-96	19595714	244.61
1996-97 (April-Feb.)	N.A.	275.41

Source : EEPC/DGCI&S

(b) The major markets for export of iron ware including Stainless utensils are Saudi Arabia, U.K., USA, Canada, Equador, Chile, Japan, Panama, UAE.

(c) Promotion of exports has been the constant endeavour of the Government. Measures taken to boost exports of engineering goods including Iron & Steel Wares consist of various incentives under the Export-Import Policy like Duty Exemption Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Special Import Licence, Duty Drawback Scheme, exemption under Section 80 HHC of Income Tax Act and assistance from Market Development Fund. In addition, the Government through Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) has drawn up various promotional activities such as Buyer-Seller Meets, participation in trade fairs & exhibitions, setting up of information booths at International fairs, sending industry delegations to the thrust countries etc. to boost exports of goods from the engineering sector including steel wares.

Rate of Export Market Assistance for Jute Yarn

6576. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have substantially reduced the rate of export market assistance under its revised scheme for jute yarn;

(b) if so, whether the prospects of jute yarn exports from India are likely, to be jeopardised as the net assistance to Indian exporters is likely to be reduced to 1.5 per cent as compared to 10% available to its competitors in Bangladesh; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the competitiveness of Indian jute yarn exporters ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) to (c) According to the modified Export Market Assistance (EMA) Scheme applicable w.e.f. 1.4.1997 the rates of EMA on export of various items have been fixed after taking into consideration various relevant factors. In the case of export of yarn the rate of assistance has been reduced from 10% to 5%. In addition to EMA, there are other export promotional measures which are undertaken to promote the export of various jute products including jute yarn. These inter alia include participation with trade participants in international fairs, organising Buyer-Seller Meets, Workshops, Sponsoring overseas delegations-Markets Exploratory Missions etc. in order to generate demand, create awareness and explore new markets.

Visit of D.D.G., W.T.O.

6577. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Deputy Director General of World Trade Organisation during his visit to New Delhi had indicated that India would have to take a further leap in liberalisation of economy to realise its objective of 7% growth in GDP in the coming years;

(b) if so, the steps towards further liberalisation of economy were suggested by him; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir. This was mentioned by Mr. Chulsu Kim, Deputy Director General, World Trade Organisation during his address in New Delhi at the Asia Society's 8th Annual Corporate Conference in March, 1997.

(b) The steps suggested, inter-alia, were further liberalisation of foreign investment regime and further opening of trade regimes by elimination of quantitative restrictions in the consumer goods sectors.

(c) Foreign Direct Investment policy is reviewed from time to time with a view to boost foreign direct investment into the country and to make it more dynamic and investor friendly.

As regards elimination of quantitative restrictions, the WTO Committee on Balance of Payments Restrictions will

resume consultations with India in June, 1997. India has been invited to present a plan for elimination of quantitative restrictions under Balance of Payments cover at that meeting. In preparation for this meeting, inter Ministerial discussion and consultations with trading partners are taking place.

Decline in Investment by U.K.

6578. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether British investment in India has declined sharply despite a number of high-powered visits to India by British businessmen;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details regarding its trend during the last three years, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The total amount of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approved from U.K. from 1991 to March 1997 is as under :-

Year	Amount of FDI Approved (Rs. in Million)
1991	321.00
1992	1176.70
1993	6227.30
1994	12991.50
1995	17258.60
1996.	15245.99
1997 (upto March)	24529.41

Investment approvals from U.K. companies have been increasing steadily in the last 6 years except in 1996, when investment from UK declined by 11.60% from the approvals granted in 1995. However, only during the first three months of 1997, the FDI approved from UK has exceeded the highest amount approved in any single year in the last 6 years. UK is the second largest investor country of FDI in India after USA.

Legal Services

6579. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Legal Services Authorities Act of

1987 which makes free legal services a statutory right for poor undertrials has failed to fulfil its objectives;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to uphold its pledge of judicial assistance to the weaker sections of the society and what initiative it is taking to ensure that legal aid and service is a sine qua non ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The legal services under the Legal Services Authorities Act, *inter alia*, are available to undertrials. The criteria for giving legal services is contained in section 12 of the Act which is as under :-

"12. Every person who has to file or defend a case shall be entitled to legal services under this Act if that person is—

(a) a member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe;

(b) a victim of trafficking in human beings or begar as referred to in Article 23 of the Constitution;

(c) a women or a child;

(d) a mentally ill or otherwise disabled person;

(e) a person under circumstances of underserved want such as being a victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster; or

(f) an industrial workman; or

(g) in custody, including custody in a protective home within the meaning of clause (g) of section 2 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, or in a juvenile home within the meaning of clause (j) of section 2 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 in psychiatric hospital or psychiatric nursing home within the meaning of clause (g) of section 2 of the Mental Health Act, 1987; or

(h) in receipt of annual income less than rupees nine thousand or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the State Government, if the case is before a court other than the Supreme Court, and less than rupees twelve thousand or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the Central Government, if the case is before the Supreme Court :

Provided that the concerned Authority is satisfied that such person has prima-facie case to prosecute or to defend [S. 13(1)].

Export of Coffee

6580. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of coffee has declined during the current year;

(b) if so, the details regarding the value and quantity of coffee exported and the reasons for the decline in export; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the export of coffee during the Ninth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) There is a slight decrease during 1996-97 in the export of coffee in quantity (from 170988 tonne in 1995-96 to 169938 tonnes in 1996-97) and in value (from \$ 456 million in 1995-96 to \$ 425 million in 1996-97). However, figures for 1996-97 are provisional and subject to revision.

(c) For boosting export of coffee during the Ninth Plan, Coffee Board is targetting markets like USA, Japan, Russia and Middle East countries. Coffee Board will also participate in selected food fairs/exhibitions abroad in active association with exporters, release advertisements on unique features of Indian coffee in selected overseas trade journals, sponsor trade delegations/invite delegations of roasters from each of the target markets to India, arrange service of Indian Coffee abroad through our Embassies, distribute gift packets of Indian coffee through Indian Embassies on special occasions and festivals, promote logo for Indian coffee and publish and distribute literature on Indian coffee.

The Board is also in touch with AIR India for showing in flight videos on quality Indian coffee and is arranging for marketing teams of importers to come to India to familiarise them with speciality coffee being produced in the country.

Promotion of Sericulture

6581. SHRI N. DENNIS :

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps that are taken by the Government for

the promotion of sericulture in the country particularly in West Bengal; and

(b) the amount spent for the purpose during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Sericulture Departments for the promotion/development of sericulture in the country, the Central Silk Board (CSB) has established a country-wide network of R&D, extension & training units for the propagation of improved races, technologies and sericulture practices evolved/introduced by the Board's research institutes for improving the productivity and quality of silk. The CSB is also providing assistance in the form of training of functionaries, supply of mulberry cuttings, silkworm seed etc. to the States to expand sericulture. Besides the CSB also takes up sericulture development projects in collaboration with the State(s). West Bengal is one of the five traditional sericulture States covered under the recently concluded World Bank/SDC assisted National Sericulture Project. Besides creation of necessary infrastructure for promotion of sericulture in West Bengal, assistance is also being provided by the CSB in the form of R&D, Extension and training support, supply of seeds through its various Research and Infrastructural units in the State.

(b) The details of total expenditure incurred by the CSB for the development of sericulture in the country as a whole and particularly in West Bengal during the years 1993-94 to 1995-96 is as follows :

(Rs. in Crores)		
Year	Country	West Bengal
1993-94	84.90	6.47
1994-95	68.46	6.35
1995-96	76.08	7.28

Guidelines for PMRY

6582. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to review the functioning of the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana and other centrally sponsored programmes in view of the failure of the State Governments to implement them seriously and efficiently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have provided revised guidelines including provisions for imposing penalties;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the revised guidelines issue;

(e) whether the amount sanctioned for the said Yojana is not being utilized fully; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) A Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of the Member, Planning Commission to review and rationalise Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation implemented by the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Ministry of Welfare, Department of Small Scale Industries, Agro & Rural Industries and Department of Women & Child Development.

The Committee has since submitted its report to the Government.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, the Central Govt. releases funds for subsidy to the Reserve Bank of India and for training & other expenses to the State/U.T. Governments. Since 1993-94 to 1996-97 against a budgetary provision (Revised Estimates) of Rs. 347.53 crores for subsidy, Rs. 320.73 crores have been authorised to the Reserve Bank of India for meeting subsidy claims under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana and Rs. 26.80 crores for meeting subsidy claims under the Scheme of Self Employment to Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) subsumed under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana since 1994-95. Out of the budgetary provision (Revised Estimates) of Rs. 72.00 crores for training & other operative expenses, Central Government has utilised Rs. 67.30 crores during 1993-94 to 1996-97.

Textile Mills in Maharashtra

6583. SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of textile mills in Maharashtra are incurring losses and are on the verge of closure;

(b) If so, the number of sick and closed mills in Maharashtra as on date, separately;

(c) the losses incurred by each of those mills during the last three years;

(d) the budgetary support given by the Government for revival of these mills during the last three years; and

(e) the action plan prepared for revival and modernisation of textile mills in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b) As on 31.1.97, 56 textile mills were registered with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) as sick in Maharashtra. BIFR has issued winding-up order in respect of 13 textile mills in case of Maharashtra. 20 closed Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills are closed (12 mills are under liquidation and 8 mills are temporarily closed mainly due to financial difficulties) as on 28.2.97

(c) This data is not maintained centrally.

(d) and (e) Government has set up BIFR to enquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, Schemes for revival of mills.

Industrial Chemical Zone

6584. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Industrial Chemical Zone has been cleared for Amravati district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of the development made in the said Zone; and

(c) the time by which the said Industrial Chemical Zone is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No such proposal is received/under consideration in the Ministry of Industry. Development of industrial estates is primarily the responsibility of State Governments.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Setting Up of Free Port

6585. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have revived its proposal for the development of free port in the country on the lines of Dubai and Singapore and asked the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade to identify the existing Indian ports for the development of free port/suggest a new site for the same purpose;

(b) if so, the details of those States who have offered land for the development of free port in the country;

(c) whether his Ministry had also appointed a Committee for recommending free ports after studying the ports and viable sites in all the coastal States in 1990;

(d) if so, whether any final decision has been taken in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (f) The Advisory Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Raunaq Singh to examine the desirability and feasibility of establishing a Free Port in India has recommended Goa as a suitable location for setting up of a Free Port. The Committee has also suggested Tuticorin as a suitable site for a second Free Port on the east coast. No Specific proposal has been received from any State Government offering land for development of Free Port.

The Report has been examined and the Government has decided to draw up an implementation model of the various steps that have to be taken to set up a Free Port, including changes in laws, simplification of procedures, introduction of differential rates of taxation etc. to enable the Government to take a decision. Since legal, constitutional, financial and policy issues concerning the Free Port are involved, it may not be possible to indicate a time frame for a final decision in this regard.

NTC Mills

6586. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of textile mills in Maharashtra run by National Textile Corporation;

(b) the number of workers working in those mills;

(c) the amount of loss incurred upto 1995-96; and

(d) what steps Government/Corporation is taking to wipe out the loss and running the mills in profit ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) to (c) The NTC has 35 textile mills located in Maharashtra. These mills had 34513 workers as on 31.3.1997. The cash loss incurred by these 35 mills upto 1995-96 is Rs. 1101.10 crores.

(d) On account of the continuous losses and net worth erosion, the NTC (SM) and NTC (MN) controlling these mills have been referred to and declared sick by the BIFR. The Government approved a revised Turn Around Strategy for NTC mills including the mills under NTC (MN) and NTC (SM) and placed the same before the BIFR for approval. The BIFR has published draft rehabilitation schemes in respect of both these subsidiary corporations. In the statement made on the floor of this House on 3.3.1997 the reasons for non-implementation of the Turn Around Strategy for NTC mills approved by the Government in 1995 have been indicated. Since sale proceeds from surplus land are not available and the BIFR has not yet given its approval to the rehabilitation package, the NTC (HC) have submitted a report after reviewing the economic viability of each of the mills by taking into consideration the concessions approved by the Government in 1995 and the concept of net worth becoming positive as per the BIFR norms. This report is presently under consideration of the Government. No final decision has yet been taken. The salient features of the revised Turn Around Strategy would belaid on the Table of the House as and when finalised.

[Translation]

Technical Training to Entrepreneurs

6587. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide technical assistance to the entrepreneurs for industrial development in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of entrepreneurs to whom technical assistance has been provided during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 under the said scheme; and

(d) the expenditure incurred on this scheme during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) For providing technical assistance to small scale entrepreneurs, Government have established

28 SISIs, 30 Branch SISIs, a number of Tool Rooms and specialised institutions located in various parts of the country.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Committee on Restructuring of KVIC

6588. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any committee has been set up to restructure Khadi and Village Industries Commission;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) the steps taken to implement the Report of the High Powered Committee to generate more jobs in KVIC;

(d) whether staffing pattern and pay scales are to be revised as a result of these recommendations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Government has not set up any committee for the restructuring of Khadi and Village Industries Commission. However, the High Power Committee has also made certain recommendations for restructuring the KVIC like setting up of a separate wing in KVIC to supervise the working of silver plants, creation of a separate bank/financial institutions for rural industries authorising KVIC to act as registering authority for export from KVI sector with powers of inspection and certification of the products, various schemes and programmes and delegation of day-to-day functions to the CEO and FA, KVIC. It has further recommended that a separate body similar to State Financial Corporation should be created at the State level which can mobilise the resources for promotion of village industries. The KVIC also had commissioned the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) for undertaking a study on the restructuring of the KVIC set up.

(c) The High Power Committee (HPC) on KVI made a number of recommendations including the recommendation to create additional employment to the tune of 2 million in KVI sector during the remaining period of Eighth Five Year Plan and 5.6 million jobs by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan i.e. (by 2002 A.D.). As a follow up on the recommendations of the HPC, Government have revised the KVI schemes by introducing new schemes such as

margin money scheme in place of the interest subsidy scheme. Exhanded plan outlay is also being provided to KVIC since 1995-96 for implementation of the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP). As part of the REGP, KVIC has launched important schemes such as District Special Employment Scheme in 71 districts, 125 Block KVI Development Programme and National Programme on Leather, Bee-Keeping and Handmade Paper for generating additional employment.

(d) and (e) Recommendations of the High Power Committee and IIPA with regard to restructuring of KVIC offices are being examined by the KVIC/Government and no final decision has yet been taken thereon.

Production of Tea in Southern States

6589. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to increase the tea production in the Southern States;

(b) if so, whether a ten year programme has been proposed in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of such States where these programmes are being implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) No ten year's programme for development of tea industry has been formulated by the Government or Tea Board. The Board has however, placed proposals for the 9th Plan which envisage boosting production of tea and aims at a production target of 1000 million kg by the terminal year of 9th Plan viz. 20001-02. For achieving the production target, various short, medium and long term measures have been suggested involving a total outlay of Rs. 1378 crore for the five year period. The 9th Plan encompasses all the tea growing areas in the country including South India.

Disinvestment of Shares of PSU

6590. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :
DR. M. JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a decline in the amount of dividend to be paid to the Government by the Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the funds likely to be raised from the disinvestment of shares during 1997-98; and

(d) the estimated loss of revenue to the Government on this account ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Increase or decrease in the amount of dividend to be paid to the Government by the PSUs depends upon the rates of dividend declared by the enterprises and the Government shareholding in these PSUs.

(c) and (d) An amount of Rs. 4800 crores is estimated to be raised from disinvestment during 1997-98. The estimated revenue loss to the Government due to decline in dividend which the PSUs pay cannot be quantified as it depends on a number of variable factors.

Quality Based Pricing for Silk Cocoons

6591. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Silk Board has directed the Karnataka Government to adopt quality based pricing for the silk cocoons in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government of Karnataka thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) The Central Silk Board (CSB) has suggested to the Department of Sericulture, Government of Karnataka that quality based pricing of cocoons in markets should be tried.

(b) In the meeting of National Sericulture Project (NSP) Review Committee convened in January 1995, the CSB requested the Directorates of Sericulture in the traditional silk producing States including Karnataka to introduce systems in the cocoon markets to correlate cocoon prices and cocoon quality so that reelers perceive quality in measurable terms.

(c) The Government of Karnataka has established regulated markets where the reeling cocoons are transacted by open auction. Besides the Department of Sericulture in Karnataka has adopted and implemented in select cocoon markets from August 1995, a procedure of quality assessment involving determination of shell percentage & assessment of renditta and display of these details on a particular lot of cocoons.

Renewable Electrification

6592. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have selected some model villages in the country for the development of solar-wind diesel hybrid system for renewable electrification;

(b) if so, the number of model villages identified for the purpose, State-wise;

(c) whether any such model villages have been identified in Orissa;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the scheme of the Government in this directions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) As per the existing policy, specific project proposals are formulated by the States in accordance with the general guidelines issued by the Government from time to time. Such proposals, when received, are examined on merit for possible financial support by the Central Government.

In addition, under a separate scheme, implemented by the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), the commercial financing company of the Ministry, a soft loan scheme for the purchase and installation of hybrid systems, including solar-wind-diesel based systems, has been recently announced.

Jute Mills

6593. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up any more Jute Mills in Bihar;

(b) if so, the proposed locations of the new mills; and

(c) the time by when these mills are likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Textiles Mills in Uttar Pradesh

6594. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the employment generating capacity of 11 NTC and 4 BIC Textiles Mills situated in Uttar Pradesh prior to Voluntary Retirement Scheme (1991-92) and thereafter separately;

(b) the number of employees of 11 textiles Mills TAPCO and Vegetable Oil Corporation in Kanpur rendered jobless; and

(c) the number of employment opportunities generated in Uttar Pradesh with the assistance of National Renewal Fund and the number of persons who have been provided employment and made self employed and the details of amount spent thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Promotion of Handicrafts

6595. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received from Orissa Govt. for promotion of handicrafts in the State during the last three years and the action taken by the Govt. thereof; and

(b) the number of such proposals still pending or under consideration of the Govt. on the date ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) and (b) No proposal has been received from Orissa Govt. for the promotion of handicrafts in the State during the last three years. However, 34 proposals have been received from Orissa State Cooperative Handicrafts Corporation Ltd., Bhubaneswar, out of which 27 proposals were approved and an amount of Rs. 117.13 lakhs have been sanctioned. Seven proposals are pending with the Government.

[Translation]

Pending Writ Petitions

6596. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

SHRI CHATTAR SINGH DARBAR :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of writ petitions lying pending in the Supreme Court and High Courts of the country at present, Court-wise;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for speedy disposal of these writ petitions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) The available information is given in the attached Statement.

(b) and (c) Apart from amending the procedural laws from time to time, Government has taken a series of steps to simplify procedures and speed up disposal of cases on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission. Conference of Law Ministers, Chief Ministers and Chief Justices and other concerned with the administration of Justice are held periodically and the recommendations and conclusions emerging from such exchanges and consultations are implemented and their progress closely monitored.

Statement

Number of Writ Petitions pending in Supreme Court and High Courts

Name of the Court	No. of pending writ Petitions
1	2
Supreme Court (As on 1.11.96)	1089
High Courts (As on 31.12.96)	
1. Allahabad	384155
2. Andhra Pradesh	70202
3. Bombay	9784
4. Calcutta	12074

1	2
5. Delhi	21951
6. Gauhati	14470
7. Gujarat	Not available
8. Himachal Pradesh	1984
9. Jammu & Kashmir	31093
10. Karnataka	97544
11. Kerala	33869
12. Madhya Pradesh**	16908
13. Madras	69890
14. Orissa	21772
15. Patna	29029.
16. Punjab & Haryana @	43457
17. Rajasthan***	31414
18. Sikkim	45

** Pendency as on 31.10.96

@ Pendency as on 30.09.96

*** Pendency as on 31.03.96

[English]

Import of Textile Machinery

6597. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to ban import of second hand textile machinery; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Jute Mills

6598. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Jute Mills owners are converting their composite jute mill into spinning unit;

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

(c) whether the jute mills owners put stress on production of fine yarn instead of traditional products like sacking and hessian; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :
(a) to (d) Some jute mill owners have started manufacture of fine jute yarn in addition to their traditional products like sacking and hessians. Manufacture of fine jute yarn is due to installation of additional capacity and not due to diversion of existing capacity of jute mills for manufacture of traditional products like hessian and sacking. This has been necessitated due to development of new demand for fine jute yarn mainly in the export markets. The Handloom and Powerloom sectors in the country are also now in need of fine jute yarn due to scarcity and very high price for cotton yarns.

[Translation]

Export of Textiles

6599. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the value of cotton yarn, cloth and garments exported during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 separately and foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(b) whether the export of readymade garments is necessary to earn maximum foreign exchange; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to provide incentive to textile industry in order to earn maximum foreign exchange and the prospective plan of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER FOR TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) The details of foreign exchange earned from the exports of cotton yarn, cloth and garments during the last three years have been as follows :

Value in Million US dollars

(Provisional)

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Cotton yarn	832.34	1011.54	1501.50
Cloth	1513.65	1661.06	1870.49
Ready-made garments	4433.83	4453.31	4762.10

(b) and (c) Value added products such as readymade garments, in general, fetch more foreign exchange than yarn or fabrics. However, since there is an international demand for different textile products, viz. yarn, fabrics, made-ups and garments, it has been felt necessary to encourage the exports of all these products.

In order to boost the exports of textiles, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets; fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; Special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

[English]

Special Magistrates to reduce the Petty Crimes

6600. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the State Governments are authorised to utilise the machinery of law under the Criminal Procedure Code which enables them to appoint Special Magistrates to reduce the load of petty crimes;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that the decision to invoke these permission was taken in 1993 at the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices presided over by the Prime Minister;

(c) whether a large number of States have taken any action on this decision;

(d) if so, whether any directives have been issued to all the States in this regard; and

(e) if so, how many of the State Governments have assured to implement the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Most of the State Governments have appointed Special Judicial Magistrates/Special Metropolitan Magistrates or have initiated action to appoint these Magistrates under Section 13 of the Criminal Procedure Code for the Disposal of petty criminal cases. Further, the Supreme Court of India, in the matter of Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 5943 of 1980 – Kadra Pahadiya & Ors. Vs. State of Bihar in its judgement dated 19.3.1997 has given

directions for the appointment of an adequate number of Special Judicial Magistrates/Special Metropolitan Magistrates at an early date for the disposal of petty cases.

EU New Barriers on Indian Rice

6601. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken serious view of the European Union's new barriers on rice imports in the World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, whether India has made it clear that they will not succumb to the European Union's pressure tactics and will challenge the implementation of the CRS (Cumulative Recovery System) at all levels;

(c) whether the European Union has been working on the CRS that would require importers to pay full duty on the rice;

(d) whether the Experts' opinion has been asked for by his Ministry in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (f) The European Commission has notified a new regulation for import of rice to European Union (EU) which would come into effect from 01.07.1997. Under this regulation, an importer in European Union has been given an option either to become a Cumulative Recovery System (CRS) importer or to remain out of it. Importers joining the CRS would be required to pay the import duties as applicable under the regulations and claim refunds of the excess amount paid, if any, at periodic intervals. India has made its position known to EU on the new regulation for import of rice, after consulting the trade.

Transportation of Coal

6602. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of misuse of position of Ex-servicemen for grabbing the coal transportation work in various subsidiaries of Coal India Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) Only agencies owned by Ex-servicemen and sponsored by Director General of Resettlement, Ministry of Defence are offered transport contracts. However, in view of certain complaints received about the operation of such agencies, CIL Board has constituted a High level Committee to review engagement of Ex-servicemen Transport agencies.

**EU New Barriers on Indian Rice
against WTO Norms**

6603. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :

SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that European Union has imposed anti-dumping duties on Indian rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the likely impact on our export of rice to the European Union during this year and the coming years;

(d) whether the Government have taken up the matter with the European Union;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Export of Handloom and Handicrafts Items

6604. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for the export of handloom and handicraft items for the last three years and the extent to which the target has been achieved;

(b) the quantum of foreign exchange earned thereby during the said period;

(c) the target set for the export of the said items during 1997-98 and the quantum of foreign exchange likely to be earned there from;

(d) whether the Government propose to export these items, statewide; and

(e) if so, the action taken so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) and (b) The targets fixed for the exports of cotton handloom textiles and handicraft items for the last three years and the achievements against them have been as follows :

(In Million US dollars)

(Provisional)

Year	Cotton Handloom Textiles		Handicrafts	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1994-95	475	479.19	1234	1321.71
1995-96	500	448.54	1542	1497.87
1996-97	470	495.48	1600	1585.53

(c) For 1997-98, targets of US \$ 520 million and US \$ 1835 million have been fixed for the export of cotton handloom textiles and handicrafts respectively. The targets are likely to be achieved.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Agarbathi Industries

6605. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has delivered an order imposing ban on bamboo felling;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether agarbathi industry is on the verge of a closure as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a number of small scale agarbathi units have already been closed due to lack of bamboo slits; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government for revival of these industries ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Hon'ble Supreme Court had imposed ban on felling of trees in all forests where working plans are not approved by the Government of India as well as ban on transport of timber from seven (07) North Eastern States to the rest of the country vide their interim order dated 12th December, 1996. As bamboo is defined as a tree and cut tree is classified as timber under Indian Forest Act 1927, certain States had banned felling of bamboo and also its transportation. However, Supreme Court in its revised order dated 4th March, 1997 clarified that directions issued vide their interim order dated 12.12.96 are not applicable to minor forest produce including bamboo.

(c) to (f) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

[Translation]

Export activities of various Institutions

6606. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of activities of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited, Export Promotion Council,

India Trade Promotion Organisation and Free Trade Zone working under his Ministry during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) whether the above institutions have been successful in achieving their objectives;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the financial position of the above institutions during the above period, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The main activities of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited (ECGC) are to provide adequate export credit insurance cover to exporters, export credit guarantee to banks and investment insurance to Indian investors with the objective to encourage and accelerate India's export performance.

The main activities of Export Promotion Councils falling under the purview of the Ministry of Commerce are to provide commercially useful information and assistance; offer professional advice in areas such as technology upgradation, quality and design improvement standards and specifications, product development, innovation, etc.;

organise visits of delegations to explore overseas market opportunities; participation in trade fairs, exhibitions and buyer-seller meets in India and abroad; promote interaction between the exporting community and the Government; and to provide statistical information on trade.

The main activities of India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) are to organise trade fairs in India and Indian exhibitions abroad as also buyer-seller meets.

The main activities of Free Trade Zones which in Indian context are termed as Export Processing Zones (EPZs) are to earn foreign exchange through promotion of export oriented industries for which these zones offer basic infrastructural facilities such as ready-built factory premises, development land for construction of factory sheds and other facilities such as power, water, sewerage.

(b) These institutions have been broadly successful in achieving their main objectives.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) As is evident from the details of the activities of the organisations mentioned in Part (a) of the reply, these organisations are basically service organisations and profit making is not the objective of these organisations. Therefore, their performance cannot be judged from financial parameters alone. Moreover, EPZs, are totally Government organisations and their budget is fully met by Government's budgetary allocation. The performance of these EPZs can be considered to be quite satisfactory because the bulk of their budgetary allocation is used for creation of capital infrastructure for export production.

As regard other organisations, their financial performance have been broadly found to be satisfactory with majority of these organisations showing excess income over expenditure.

[English]

Employees of PSUs

6607. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of employees in all the public sector industrial units as on March, 31, 1997, PSU-wise;

(b) whether there has been decline in the number of employees in these industrial units despite increase in capital investment made therein between 1991 to 1997;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor :

(d) whether the Government propose to promote labour oriented technique in these industrial units; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) As on 31.3.1996 upto which period only information is available, 165 central industrial public sector undertakings had a total of 17.52 lakhs employees. The PSU-wise number of employees have been indicated in Statement No. 28 of Public Enterprises Survey for 1995-96 laid on the Table of the House on 5.5.97.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The reasons for decline in number of employees in PSUs can generally be attributed to superannuation, VRS and other mode of separation, etc.

(d) and (e) Promotion of labour oriented technique is an enterprise specific process and guided by broader policies and objectives of the respective PSUs, besides other conditions like the economic viability and feasibility, the types and categories of industries they are operating in and the availability of skilled labour force in respective fields.

[Translation]

Power Plants

6608.SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of coal based power plants in Maharashtra, plant-wise;

(b) whether coal supply to those plants is delayed due to which power generation is affected; and

(c) if so, the steps to be taken by the Government to ensure direct and early supply of coal to those plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Nine coal based thermal power stations are now in operation in the State of Maharashtra. They are—

1. Chandrapur TPS
2. Paras TPS
3. Khaperkheda TPS
4. Nasik TPS
5. Koradih TPS

6. Bhusawal TPS

7. Trombay TPS

8. Dahanu TPS

9. Parli TPS

(b) No, Sir. Coal supplies to the power stations of Maharashtra are made as per the linkages sanctioned by the Standing Linkage Committee (Short-term) within the overall constraints of availability of coal, transportation, unloading facilities of the power stations and timely payment for coal supplies.

(c) Highest priority is accorded for movement of coal to thermal power stations in the country including those in the Maharashtra State. Coal supplies to the power houses are monitored regularly by an Inter-Ministerial Group and remedial measures are taken to increase the supply of coal, wherever found necessary.

[English]

NIFT Branch

6609.SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA :
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted for setting up of branch of NIFT;

(b) the details of new branches of NIFT proposed to be opened during 1997-98, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has made any request to the Union Government to set-up a branch of National Institute of Fashion Technology in Kerala;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The criteria adopted for setting up a NIFT branch is the potential of employment at the professional level in the ready-made garment industry and the textile industry at the relevant centre.

(b) During 1997-98, it has been decided to start a new branch of NIFT at Bangalore.

(c) and (d) The Government of Kerala has requested for the establishment of a branch of the NIFT at Thiruvananthapuram.

(e) Several State Governments, including Kerala have been requesting the Ministry of Textiles to set up centres of NIFT in their States. It is not proposed to set up any new branch of NIFT except at Bangalore during 1997-98.

Export of Pepper

6610. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :
SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of pepper exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years upto March 31, 1997;

(b) the total quantity of pepper produced during the above period, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are aware that there is shortage of pepper due to damage of crop in the international market during this year;

(d) if so, whether India can export pepper which has a comfortable supply position in the country to earn more foreign exchange;

(e) if so, the total quantity likely to be exported during 1997-98; and

(f) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to increase production and export of pepper in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The details of the total exports of black pepper including pepper powder during the last 3 years are given below :-

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1994-95	35,371	225.87
1995-96 (P)	24,223	181.84
1996-97 (E)	47,770	416.52

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta,
Spices Board, Cochin

(b) Statewise details of production of pepper during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are given below :-

(In Tonnes)

State	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Karnataka	790	760	910
Kerala	49850	59260	59930
Tamil Nadu	600	640	670
Pondicherry	NEG	NEG	NEG
Andamans	80	80	80
Total	51320	60740	61590

Source : Dte. of Economics & Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi.

(c) Though no official figures are available there are reports of lesser production this year in Indonesia and Brazil.

(d) and (f) Some of the steps taken by Government to increase the production and export of pepper include :-

- (i) Abolition of core on export of pepper (Except green pepper and brine) to enhance its price competitiveness in the overseas markets;
- (ii) Implementation of Brand Promotion Schemes like Logo Promotion, grant of Spice House Certificate as a recognition of processor/exporter of quality products;
- (iii) Setting up of laboratories for testing of products, technology transfers, process upgradation and product development.

During the 8th Plan a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for development of Spices was implemented for increasing production and productivity of various spices with an outlay of Rs. 125 crores. Under this scheme, measures such like production and distribution of quality planting material, plant protection measures, area expansion, and intensive cultivation practices were being implemented. It is proposed to continue the above programmes during 9th Plan with increased outlay and wider area of operation.

(e) The export projections for the year 1997-98 have not been formulated. The exports will depend upon the international demand and supply positions, the prices in the international and domestic markets and consumer preferences.

Textile Museum

6611. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have decided to set up a Textile Museum at Mumbai; and
- (b) if so, the estimated cost of the project and the time schedule for completion ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :
(a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

Financial Crisis in Newsprint Industries

6612. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Hindustan Newsprint in Kottayam is facing financial crisis;
- (b) if so, details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is any proposal for its expansion;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to make the unit viable and profitable ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) No Sir. However, on account of the market conditions, the production and financial performance of Hindustan Newsprint Limited was affected in 1996-97.

(c) and (d) At present, Hindustan Newsprint, Limited is not considering any programme for its expansion.

(e) 10% customs duty has been levied on imported newsprint since October '96 and "Actual User Condition" has been imposed from January '97.

Central Investment Subsidy

6613. SHRI P.C. CHACKO :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government of Kerala has sent a memorandum to the Union Government for the Central Investment Subsidy Reimbursement claim;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether inspite of Supreme Court's decision for the grant of Central Investment Subsidy no action has been taken by the Union Government till date;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the total amount of Central Investment Subsidy outstanding for Kerala; and

(f) by when a final decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (f) The Central Investment Subsidy Scheme which was introduced in August, 1971 for promoting industrialization of backward areas, ceased to exist on 30th September, 1988. As a sequel to Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order dated 5.12.1995 which laid down the principles for consideration of applications for Central Investment Subsidy, the Kerala Government had indicated their requirement of funds to the extent of Rs. 11 crores as against which they had submitted specific claims worth Rs. 14.37 crores for reimbursement. Subsidy to the extent of Rs. 11.11 crores has already been reimbursed to the Government of Kerala on 31st March, 1997. The balance subsidy will be reimbursed to the State Government on availability of funds.

Imposition of Conditions on Indian Tea by Russia and E.C.

6614. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL :
PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether tea export from India has received a severe set back during the recent months due to a number of restrictive regulations imposed by Russia, Germany and other European countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the actual export performance of tea for the last twelve months in comparison to the corresponding period of last year; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) While export of Indian tea to countries like UK and Ireland have increased during 1996-97, exports have shown a slight decline to countries like Russia, Germany and the

Netherlands. This has, however not been on account of any restrictive regulation by these countries.

A major reason for the larger decline in exports to Russia has been problems relating to delayed allocation of funds under the debt repayment mechanism.

(c) Requisite information is given below :-

Year	Export of tea	
	Qty. Mn. Kg.	Value Rs. Crore
	Qty.	Value
1995-96	163.65	1191.19
1996-97	162.86	1231.85

Source : Tea Board

(d) Government and the Tea Board have been analysing country-wise exports of tea giving special attention to areas offering potential. Tea Board also acts to remove bottlenecks in exports to individual markets whenever these are noticed.

Other steps taken to increase exports of Indian tea include (i) participation in major trade fairs/exhibitions abroad; (ii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness of speciality of Indian tea and campaign to popularise the Tea Board marketing symbol which stands for pure Indian tea.

Foreign Direct Investment

6615. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry has express concern over the growing mismatch between approvals and the actual flow of foreign direct investment into the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether FICCI also felt that the target set for inflow of \$ 10 billion may not be achieved in view of the present level of investment inflow; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to remove the errors likely to be occurred in the expectation of economic growth and the generation of employment and income ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. FICCI has issued a note

on 10th January, 1997 titled "Slow FDI Flow Cause of Concern".

(c) and (d) Sir, there are no targets fixed by the Government for foreign investment. However, in view of the fact that the Common Minimum Programme states that the nation needs and has the capacity to absorb at least US \$ 10 billion a year as Foreign Direct Investment, Government is committed to substantially increasing the inflows of Foreign Direct Investment into the country. The steps taken by the Government include revamping of Foreign Direct Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), Constitution of Foreign Investment Promotion Council (FIPC), organising global investment promotion summits like "Destination India", taking up country specific investment promotion initiatives, issue of guidelines for the purpose of bringing transparency in FIPB approval process, expansion of list of industries for automatic approval etc.

[Translation]

Industrial Licences

6616. SHRI N.J. RATHWA :

SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the position regarding issue of industrial licences as on 31st March, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith industrial licences cleared during 1996-97 and pending as on 31st March, 1997 Sector-wise and State-wise in general and Maharashtra State in particular;

(c) the reasons for delay in issuing industrial licences;

(d) whether the Government have worked out to simplify and streamline the licencing procedure; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The Government periodically reviews the position regarding issue of industrial licences.

(b) Statement I and II showing the Letters of Intent issued during 1996-97 (Industry-wise and State-wise) are enclosed. Statement III and IV showing the number of Industrial Licence applications (Industry-wise and State-wise) pending as on 31.03.97 are enclosed.

(c) to (e) All steps are taken for the speedy disposal

of applications. Actual disposal of applications depend on the sectoral policy adopted by the Administrative Ministry, their recommendation in specific cases and also furnishing of relevant information by the applicants. It is the endeavour of the Government to simplify and streamline the licensing procedure and recently the Government has simplified the licensing procedure for consideration of applications for industrial licences in the sugar sector.

Statement-I

The Number of Letters of Intent Issued (Industry-wise) during the period 1996-97

Sch.Ind. No.	Name of the Scheduled Industry	Total
1	2	3
01.	Metallurgical Industries	12
02.	Fuels	14
05.	Electrical Equipments	07
06.	Telecommunications	11
07.	Transporation	10
08.	Industrial Machinery	04
09.	Machine Tools	01
12.	Misc. Mechanical & Engg. Industries	07
13.	Commercial Office & House hold equpts	01
19.	Chemicals (Other than fertilizers)	50
22.	Drugs & Pharmaceuticals	07
23.	Textiles	99
24.	Paper & Pulp	09
25.	Sugar	183
26.	Fermentation Industry	01
27.	Food Processing Industry	12
28.	Vanaspathi Vegetable Oil & Fats	02
29.	Soap Cosmetics & Toilery	01
31.	Leather	14
33.	Glass	01

1	2	3
34.	Ceramics	03
35.	Cement & Gypsum Products	19
36.	Timbeer Products	07
38.	Miscellaneous Industries	09
Total		484

Note : Sch.Ind. No. Scheduled Industry Number

Statement-II

Statement showing the LOIs Issued (State-wise) for the year 1996-97

S.No.	Name of the State	Total
1	2	3
01.	Andhra Pradesh	54
02.	Assam	2
03.	Bihar	11
04.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
05.	Daman & Diu	2
06.	Delhi	1
07.	Gujarat	29
08.	Haryana	16
09.	Himachal Pradesh	3
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
11.	Karnataka	53
12.	Kerala	02
13.	Madhya Pradesh	13
14.	Maharashtra	62
15.	Orissa	12
16.	Pondicherry	03
17.	Punjab	19
18.	Rajasthan	06
19.	Tamil Nadu	92

1	2	3
20.	Uttar Pradesh	85
21.	West Bengal	17
22.	Other States/UTs	NIL
Total		484

Statement-III

*The Pending IL Applications Industry-wise
as on 31.03.1997*

Schedule Industry No.	No. of Applications pending
1	2
Metallurgical Industries	3
Fuels	13
Electrical Equipment	4
Transportation	1
Machine Tools	2
Misc. Mech. & Engg. Industries	1
Com. Office & H. hold Eqpt.	1
Chemicals (Other than Fert.)	29
Drugs & Pharmaceuticals	10
Textiles	19
Paper & Pulp	4
Sugar	286
Fermentation Industry	99
Food Processing Industry	5
Soap Cosmetics & Toilet Prep.	1
Leather	3
Glue & Gelatin	1
Cement & Gypsum Products	12
Timber Products	4
Miscellaneous Industries	3
Total	501

Statement-IV

*The Pending IL Applications State-wise
as on 31.03.1997*

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Appl. pending
1	2	3
01.	Andhra Pradesh	36
02.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
03.	Bihar	12
04.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2
05.	Daman & Diu	3
06.	Goa	5
07.	Gujarat	10
08.	Haryana	21
09.	Himachal Pradesh	3
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	2
11.	Karnataka	67
12.	Kerala	4
13.	Madhya Pradesh	44
14.	Maharashtra	45
15.	Manipur	1
16.	Meghalaya	1
17.	Nagaland	1
18.	Orissa	4
19.	Pondicherry	1
20.	Punjab	11
21.	Rajasthan	9
22.	Tamil Nadu	69
23.	Uttar Pradesh	135
24.	West Bengal	12
25.	More Than One State	2
26.	Other States/UTs	NIL
Total		501

[English]

Development of Sambhar Salt Area

6617. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sambhar Salt area in Rajasthan was leased to M/s. Hindustan Salts Ltd. for the integrated development; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith steps taken by the Hindustan Salt Ltd. for integrated development of the area ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Sambhar Salt area was leased to Sambhar Salts Ltd., a subsidiary of Hindustan Salts Ltd.

(b) A sum of Rs. 3.51 crores has been invested in the shape of loans and interest due for various development works including construction of Gudha/Jhapog dam, borewells, installation of equipment, conversion of MG railway line into BG line and setting up of salt washery.

Export of Cotton

6618. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quota allotted for export of cotton during 1996-97;

(b) the actual shipments upto the March, 1997; and

(c) the reasons for shortfall in export of cotton ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) An export quota of 12.41 lakh bales of cotton has been released so far in the 1996-97 cotton season.

(b) As against the export quota of 12.41 lakh bales of cotton, the actual shipment upto 25th March, 1997 was 3.96 lakh bales.

(c) In respect of most of the agencies to which export quota has been allotted, the shipment period has been given upto September, 1997. It is too early to say that there has been a shortfall in export of cotton.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme in STC

6619. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation (STC) has identified some staff as surplus;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Trading Corporation has introduced Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for these surplus staff;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of persons so far opted for the Voluntary Retirement Scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) In the wake of decanalisation of commodities for export and import earlier canalised through STC and the resultant drop in the turnover, STC engaged National Productivity Council (NPC), New Delhi in 1991 to make a detailed personnel audit to identify the surplus manpower. NPC identified nearly 29% of the total manpower of 2560 in STC as surplus.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. STC introduced Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for a limited period at different intervals of time to achieve optimum manpower utilisation as a result of which 676 persons have so far taken voluntary retirement.

Export from North-East Region

6620. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry have formulated any plan to give a thrust on promoting exports from the North-East region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry is considering at least two other proposals to focus on the region; and

(d) if so, the details of these two proposals and by what time these proposals are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) As a part of an on-going effort, the Ministry of Commerce takes appropriate steps to give thrust for promotion of exports from the country as a whole and also specifically from the North Eastern Region. The Ministry also proposes to draw out a specific export plan for the North Eastern Region and a study has been entrusted to the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade in this regard. Further, as per the EXIM Policy 1997-2002, Export Houses, Star Trading Houses, etc. will be given special import licence at 1% of

the total turnover if such Export Houses etc. Source at least 10% of total export turnover from North Eastern States.

(c) and (d) In addition to the schemes implemented by the various Commodity Boards, the Commerce Ministry has two schemes, namely, Export Promotion Industrial Parks and Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme. While no proposal has been received under the Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme, two proposals for Assam, Meghalaya under the EPIP Scheme have been cleared. Rs. 5 crores and Rs. 4.5 crores have already been disbursed for Assam and Meghalaya respectively. No other proposal has been received under the EPIP scheme from the North East.

Loss Suffered by BHEL

6621. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of theft of various products of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. detected during each of the last two years;

(b) the total loss suffered by the BHEL during the above period;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action being taken by the Government against guilty officers/employees ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) There was no theft of any product of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) during the last two years.

(b) to (e) Questions do not arise.

ECGC Branches

6622. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India proposes to raise its Capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of branches of ECGC which are functioning at present, location-wise;

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of branches; and

(e) if so, the details thereof; location-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) In order to strengthen Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) and also encourage India's export promotion efforts, the Government had decided in October 1995 to augment the equity base of ECGC from Rs. 50 crores to Rs. 500 crores in a gradual manner over a period of few years.

In pursuance of the same, the Government has already raised the equity base of ECGC from Rs. 50 crores to Rs. 75 crores during 1996-97. Moreover, there is a budgetary provision for raising it further to Rs. 150 crores during 1997-98.

(c) ECGC has presently 18 branches and four Regional offices in the country in the locations indicated below :-

Regional Offices : Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, New Delhi.

Branch Offices : Bhubaneswar, Bangalore, Cochin, Hyderabad, Coimbatore, Madurai, Ludhiana, Kanpur, Moradabad, Jaipur, Agar, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Pune, New Delhi, Ahmedabad and Varanasi.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. ECGC proposes to open new branches at the following locations :

(i) Central Business District (CRD) in South Mumbai :

(ii) Salem in Tamilnadu;

(iii) Indore in Madhya Pradesh; and

(iv) Panipat in Haryana.

Review Petitions

6623. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of review petitions pending with the Supreme Court;

(b) whether the Government propose to drop review petitions in those cases where the Supreme Court itself has given judgement; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Wool Growers

6624. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign wool growers seek India's help to tap the vast Japanese market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) As far as the Ministry of Textiles could ascertain, no specific group of foreign wool growers has sought India's help to tap the Japanese market.

(b) and (d) Does not arise.

Vacant Posts

6625. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees of Grade-I and II in the offices of Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals, Department of supply and National Test House as on December 31, 1996 separately;

(b) the number of SCs/STs/OBCs amongst them;

(c) the reasons for not fulfilling the quota reserved for them; and

(d) the efforts made during the last three years to fill up the quota reserved for the above categories ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The requisite details are furnished below :-

Directorate General of Supplies & Disposals

Group 'A' (i.e. Grade-I)-226; SC-37: ST-7: OBC-Nil
Group 'B' (i.e. Grade-II)-605; SC-65: ST-8: OBC-Nil

Department of Supply

Group 'A' (i.e. Grade-I)-17; SC-5: ST-1: OBC-Nil
Group 'B' (i.e. Grade-II)-54; SC-4: ST-1: OBC-1

National Test House

Group 'A' (i.e. Grade-I)-64; SC-15: ST-1: OBC-Nil
Group 'B' (i.e. Grade-II)-159; SC-15: ST-Nil: OBC-2

(c) Wherever there is a shortfall in the quota, it is due to non-availability of candidates where Direct Recruitment is involved and due to non-availability of eligible feeder grade officials, where promotion is involved.

(d) For Direct Recruitment Quota, requisitions have been placed with the UPSC/SSC, indicating the reservation position as applicable under the Rules. Similarly for promotion quota, all Departmental Promotion Committees have considered the claims of available SC's/ST's, under the Rules.

[Translation]

Production of Coal

6626. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of coal produced by major coal companies-Coal India Ltd., Neyveli Lignite Corporation and Singreni Collieries in India during the last three years; and

(b) the total profit/loss by each company in during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The quantity of coal produced from the mines of Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singreni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) during the last three years are as under :-

	(million tonnes)		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Provisional)
CIL	223.07	237.28	250.65
SCCL	25.65	26.77	28.73

Neyveli Lignite Corporation is producing Lignite. The details of production of Lignite during the last three years are as under :-

	(Millions tonnes)		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (provisional)
	15.41	17.20	17.35

(b) Financial performance of CIL and SCCL for the year 1996-97 can be available only after the finalisation of accounts. However, figures of profit/loss of these companies for the years 1993-94 to 1995-96 are as under :-

Profit (+)/loss(-) (Figs. in Rs. crores) (after CPRA)			
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
CIL	400.32	29.73	611.44
SCCL	16.26	24.99	-190.80
Net profit earned by NCL during last three years is as under :-			
1994-95	= Rs. 176.16 crores		
1995-96	= Rs. 272.58 crores		
1996-97 (Prov)	= Rs. 294.56 crores		

[English]

Coffee Plantation in Non-Traditional

6627.DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether coffee plantation has started in Orissa, North-Eastern region and non-traditional States on experimental basis;

(b) if so, to what extent success has been achieved separately;

(c) the details of future programmes drawn up in this regard; and

(d) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Coffee cultivation in non-traditional states has been taken up since 1976 when a target of 72,000 ha. of Coffee plantation was envisaged in all the non-traditional states. Since then, a total of 20,830 ha. has been brought under coffee cultivation in these states. Coffee Board has continued coffee cultivation in the non-traditional states through its various research and extension programmes. The following are the State-wise details of area under plantation in non-traditional States.

Sl. No.	State	Planted Area (In ha.)	Bearing Area (In ha.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Assam	1709.00	721.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	585.90	579.00

1	2	3	4
3.	Manipur	760.00	400.00
4.	Meghalaya	900.00	900.00
5.	Mizoram	2780.00	1252.00
6.	Nagaland	2650.00	850.00
7.	Tripura	726.40	506.50
8.	Andhra Pradesh	9311.54	8339.82
9.	Orissa	1407.00	356.60

(c) and (d) Coffee Board has proposed a comprehensive programme to support consolidation and expansion of coffee area in North-Eastern region and other non-traditional areas which includes providing 50% subsidy for inputs and planting materials and assistance for marketing support during the Ninth Plan which is under finalisation.

[Translation]

Privatisation of Coal Sector

6628.SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the workers unions engaged in Coal Industry are vehemently opposing the Governments decision regarding privatisation of this industry;

(b) whether coal workers and other workers unions have sent representations to Union Government in this regard and they are resorting to dharnas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) The public sector trade unions affiliated to Centre of Indian Trade Union, All India Trade Union Congress and Hind Mazdoor Sabha had given a notice for a token one-day strike on 2.4.1997 on a charter of demands which included stoppage of privatisation of coal mines. On receipt of the strike notice, the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) was approached to intervene. However, the proposed strike was subsequently called off by the trade unions.

Representations from some trade unions opposing privatisation of coal industry were received. Two demonstrations on 3.3.1997 and 31.3.1997 were also staged at Calcutta on the same issue by the supporters of a few coal employees' unions.

No decision regarding privatisation of the working coal mines of Coal India Limited has been taken by the Government.

[English]

Foreign Trade With Russia

6629. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether volume of foreign trade between India and Russia is steadily on the decline;

(b) if so, whether this matter came up for discussion in the recent summit talks between the Hon'ble Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on his recent Moscow visit;

(c) if so, the details and the outcomes thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in order to correct the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir. The Indo-Russian trade increased in rupee terms by 44.6% and 54.3% during the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively over the previous years. However, there has been a decline of 22.6% in rupee terms in the Indo-Russian trade during the period April-February 1996-97 over the corresponding period of previous year.

(b) and (c) Indo-Russian trade also came up for discussion during the talks between Prime Minister of India and the Russian President in March, 1997 in Moscow. During the meeting, it was acknowledged that the current volume of Indo-Russian trade turnover was not large, and steps are needed to be taken to increase it.

(d) Various steps have been initiated by the Government to arrest the decline and enhance the Indo-Russian trade. These steps include encouraging consignment sales and opening of warehouses, broadbasing the basket of tradable goods, signing of Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs, impressing upon Russian Federation for early allocation of rupee funds, opening of Indian banks, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, enhancing the trade in the area of pharmaceuticals reduction of value addition norms from 100% to 75% in respect of certain hitech items including personal computers for export to Russia under the debt repayment route etc.

Transaction made by STC & MMTC

6630. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the trade undertaken by STC and MMTC during 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

(b) the profit/loss earned by STC and MMTC during the above years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Details of turnover achieved by STC & MMTC alongwith the profit earned during 1995-96 and 1996-97 are given below :-

(Value in Rs. Crore)

	Year	Turnover	Net profit
STC	1995-96	1685	22
	1996-97*	2317	44*
MMTC	1995-96	6224	52
	1996-97*	4678	55*

*(Provisional)

Captive Coal Blocks

6631. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received some representations from the independent power products who had been allotted captive coal blocks are now willing to give up the captive mines and go for cheaper coal supply from public sector coal companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether out of 47 blocks identified for captive operations, 24 blocks have been offered to the private sector and in only three or four blocks mining activities have been initiated; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to come out with some concrete fiscal incentives for private participation in this sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) M/s. Development Consultants Ltd., a private company who had been offered Chuperbita block in Rajmahal area of Eastern Coalfields Limited for captive consumption for power generation have declined the offer and submitted

a proposal for coal linkage.

(c) and (d) So far captive coal blocks have been offered to 19 companies in the private and public sector including power utilities of the State Governments for captive consumption for power generation and production of iron and steel. 9 companies have submitted their mining plans out of which 5 mining plans have been approved. Subject to legislative approval, it has also been decided to allot coal mining blocks to Indian companies on the basis of competitive bidding. The coal so extracted can be sold in the open market.

The Government has no proposal for providing any incentives for private sector in coal mining.

Trade with Germany

6632. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target for trade between India and Germany during 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any loss in import from Germany to India according to Indo-German Commercial Confederation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether India has imported only machinery from Germany; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) While no Specific target has been fixed for trade between India and Germany during 1997, bilateral trade between India and Germany has been increasing in the recent years and efforts are made to further increase the same. The Indo-German two way trade for the past few years is as under :-

Year	Indo-German bilateral trade	
	Rs. crores	US\$ mn
94-95	12354.68	3934.79
95-96	17127.14	5120.62
96-97 (Apr. 96 – Jan. 97)	13926.13	3931.27

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) 'Machinery' forms the largest component of India's imports from Germany. India's import of other products from Germany include chemicals and pharmaceuticals; iron and steel; vehicles; electrical and precision instruments.

Sonepur and Bazari Villages

6633. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the Land losers in Sonepur and Bazari villages have been rehabilitated so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the remaining six villages are likely to be rehabilitated by 1997-98;

(e) if so, details of the steps taken in this respect; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Only 68 families living in Ruidaspara of Sonepur village have been rehabilitated.

(c) Villagers living in other parts of Sonepur and Bazari villages could not be rehabilitated due to their reluctance to shift to alternative sites.

(d) to (f) Out of six villages, Panjabidanga village will be shifted by 1997-98. The rehabilitation site for Panjabidanga in Ningah Mouja is being developed. The shifting of remaining five villages will be taken up later as they do not come within the mining area required by the project in the next five years.

Export and Import of Tea and Coffee

6634. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of tea and coffee imported/exported during each of the last three years; and

(b) the target fixed for the export of these commodities during 1997-98 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The details of export and import of coffee and tea during the last three years is given below :-

COFFEE

(Quantity in tonne)

Year	Export	Import
1994-95	1,37,350	Import of roasted/decaffeinated
1995-96	1,70,990	Coffee was allowed only from
1996-97	1,69,938	1.4.95 and negligible quantity of
(Provisional)		coffee has been imported so far.

Source : COFFEE BOARD

TEA

(Quantity in Million Kg.)

Year	Export	Import
1994-95	152.16	0.20
1995-96	163.65	0.46
1996-97	162.86	0.86
(Provisional)		(April-Sep. 1996)

Source : Tea Board

(b) The targets for export of coffee and tea during 1997-98 are as under :-

Coffee 1,70,000 tonnes

Tea 180 Mn. Kgs.

Weavers Cooperative Societies

6635. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of weavers cooperative Societies in Gujarat at present;

(b) the details of the handloom goods manufactured by these societies during the last one year;

(c) whether any stocks have been accumulated with these societies and also with apex body; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) At present, number of Handloom Cooperative Societies in Gujarat are 1355.

(b) The Handloom goods manufactured by Handloom Cooperative Societies during the last one year are bed-sheets, towels, nepkine, bed-covers, dhoties, sarees, Pachhedies, Dhablas, Woollen shawls, single iket Patola Sarees, Tangails etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Annual Session of ESCAP Member Countries

6636. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has given any assurance to the member countries of the ESCAP of India's firm commitment to the economic integration of the ESCAP region while addressing the 53rd Annual Session of the ESCAP at Bangkok on the April 30, 1997; and

(b) if so, the nature of the help pledged by him for ESCAP region unification ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. In the Statement of the Commerce Minister at the 53rd Annual Session of ESCAP on 29th April, 1997, it was only mentioned that greater regional and sub-regional cooperation has become a necessity in this age of globalisation and regional cooperation is an integral part of successful globalisation. In this connection, it was reiterated in the Statement that India stands firmly committed to a greater role for ESCAP in the Asia Pacific Region.

Setting Up of Centres by Spices Board

6637. SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Spices Board proposes to set up centres for the development and export of spices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total quantum of spices exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last year; and

(d) the efforts being made to promote the export of spices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) As per the Spices Board Act 1986, the Spices Board has

the responsibility of promoting development and export of cardamom and export development of other spices. The Board is implementing a number of schemes aiming at export development of spices such as quality evaluation/ upgradation and promotion of value added spices. The Spices Board has at present four regional offices at Delhi, Bombay, Madras & Calcutta and 5 marketing offices at Tuticorin, Bodinayakannur, Saklespur, Unjha and Sikkim. These Offices are set up at the strategic centres mainly to assist the spice exporters in their effort to increase exports and to implement the export development programmes of the Board. Besides, the Board has main research station at Myladumtara and regional stations at Sikkim, Saklespur and Thadiyantudisai for research activities in respect of cardamom.

(c) The details of export of spices during the last year are given below :-

Year	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. crores)
1996-97	2,19,400	1180.00

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta, Spices Board, Cochin.

(d) Apart from the general trade policy reforms, the steps taken to enhance export of spices are, abolition of cess on export of pepper (except green pepper in brine), cardamom, saffron and spice oils and oleoresins to enhance its price competitiveness in the overseas markets; implementation of brand promotion schemes like logo promotion; grant of spice house certificate as a recognition of processor/exporters of quality products; setting up of laboratories for testing of products; technology transfer; process upgradation and product development.

Bilateral Trade Talks with Russia

6638. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :
PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has urged Russia to speed up the process of auctioning rupee debt in order to improve bilateral trade;

(b) if so, whether Indian delegation accompanied by the former Prime Minister had made a number of agreements to improve the trade between the two countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the extent to which both the countries have agreed to improve the trade;

(e) the barriers that were coming in the way of improving the trade between the two countries;

(f) the action taken by the two countries to remove the barriers; and

(g) the extent to which the trade between the two countries is likely to be improved during 1997-98 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Government of India has impressed upon the Russian Federation for timely allocation of rupee funds to experienced Russian entities to improve Indo-Russian trade.

(b) and (c) Two important bilateral agreements having significant bearing on Indo-Russian trade were interalia signed in the areas of avoidance of Double Taxation and Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters. The details of the above agreements are as under :-

(I) AGREEMENT ON THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION

This Agreement seeks to avoid levying of identical or substantially similar taxes on income of individuals as well as corporate bodies in the two countries.

(ii) AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CUSTOMS MATTERS

This Agreement provides a framework for cooperation between the two countries in the prevention, investigation and prosecution of offences against their customs laws.

(d) The above agreements signed are expected to boost bilateral trade and promote mutual investments in both the countries, ensure accurate assessment of customs duties, taxes and other customs charges, discourage switch trade and ensure proper implementation of the provisions on prohibition, restriction and control over imports and exports.

(e) The barriers coming in the way of improving the trade between the two countries include lack of facilities in terms of financial infrastructure such as absence of Indian banks, time taken for opening of Letter of Credits (LCs), delay in allocation of rupee funds, lack of adequate and reliable warehousing facilities.

(f) and (g) The Government has initiated effective measures to overcome the barriers coming in the way of boosting Indo-Russian trade. These measures include encouraging consignment sales and opening of warehouses, broadbasing the basket of tradable goods, signing of Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs, impressing upon Russian Federation for early allocation of rupee funds, opening of Indian banks, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, enhancing the trade in the area of pharmaceuticals, reduction of value addition norms from 100% to 75% in respect of certain hi-tech items including personal computers for export to Russia under the debt repayment route etc.

It is expected that the aforesaid measures would help in further improving Indo-Russian trade during 1997-98.

Export of Colour TVs

6639. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether sale of colour TV sets is likely to expand at an average of 3.6 per cent annually to 137 million by 2001 AD and the Asian market will grow to 46 million units by the same period;

(b) if so, the details of India's export in terms of number of colour TVs to world market and Asian market, separately, during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have made any plan to increase the export of colour TVs to capture a significant share of this booming world and Asian market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) As per estimates made by the Electronics & Computer Software Export Promotion Council, the colour TV market will grow approximately by 2.5% annually and is likely to reach to 112 million by 2001. The demand in the Asian market is expected to grow to 44 million colour TV sets by the same period.

(b) The details of India's export in terms of number of colour TVs during the last three years is as under :-

Year	Total Exports	Export to Asia
1993-94	45000	12000
1994-95	85000	15500
1995-96	125000	24500

(Source : Electronics & Computer Software EPC)

(c) and (d) Colour TV sets is one of the major items of consumer electronics export basket from India. The various steps taken to boost the export of colour TV sets in order to capture a significant share of booming world and Asian market include participation in exclusive Indian shows/international exhibitions, sponsoring of industry delegations, etc.

Rubber Based Industries

6640. SHRI N. DENNIS :

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Union Government to set up a rubber factory in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu and Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) As per the present policy no permission or Industrial Licence is required to set up a rubber based industry. However, since August, 1991 to 31.03.1997, 380 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda have been filed and 13 Letters of Intent have been issued for setting up various rubber goods industries in India.

(b) Does not arise.

Funds for Weaving and Processing Industry

6641. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJARA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated for modernisation of techniques in weaving and processing sector of textiles industry during the Eighth Plan period and the amount actually spent; and

(b) the funds earmarked for the purpose for Ninth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b) A proposal is under formulation to facilitate modernisation, through technological upgradation, of the textile industry. The intended objective is to improve production and productivity of the Indian textile industry to make it more competitive, including in the export market. Details of a Technology Upgradation fund for textiles and jute industries are being worked out. There was no such fund in the Eighth Plan.

Export of Garments

In Million US dollars

6642. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :

SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL :

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

(Provisional)

Year	Target	Achievement
1994-95	2205.50	2783.14
1995-96	2600.00	3124.99
1996-97	3570.00	3835.38

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the demand of garments in America, the largest importer of Indian garments, has declined;

(b) whether the condition of Indian garments has deteriorated in the recent years and our neighbouring countries China, Japan, Pakistan and even Bangladesh have left us behind in respect of export;

(c) if so, the factors responsible therefor and the remedial steps taken in this regard;

(d) whether India has searched some new markets; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Indian garments are being exported to a large number of countries. The Apparel Export Promotion Council also makes efforts, on a continuous basis, to find new markets for garment exports.

Export of Cotton Textiles

6643. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for export of cotton textiles during the last three years alongwith the target achieved; and

(b) the measures proposed to boost the export of Cotton Textiles ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) The target fixed for export of cotton textiles during the last three years and the achievements have been as follows :

Source : The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council.

(b) In order to boost the exports of textiles including cotton textiles, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets; fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

Production and Export of Tea

6644. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :

SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the target for producing tea during 1996-97 and the achievements made so far, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for short-fall in the production of tea particularly in Southern States during the above period, State-wise;

(c) whether the export of tea has also been declined in comparison to the target fixed during the above period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of tea and the export during the current year and the Ninth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Production of tea during 1996-97 is estimated at 775.31 million kg. as against target of 790 million kg. Statewise details of production of tea are as under :-

(In million kg.)

State	Production during 1996-97
Assam	419.25
West Bengal	160.00
Other North Indian States	9.35
Tamil Nadu	118.42
Kerala	63.42
Karnataka	4.87
All India	775.31

Marginal shortfall in the production of tea vis-a-vis the target has been on account of adverse agro-climatic conditions in the tea growing areas of South and North India.

(c) and (d) Exports of tea in 1996-97 are estimated at 162.86 million kg. as against a target of 180 million kg.

Decline in export in quantity terms has been on account of lower imports of tea by countries like Russia, Poland, Ukraine and Egypt.

(e) In order to increase production of Tea, Tea Board has been operating various developmental schemes to encourage activities such as replantation, extension planting, setting up of new plantations, assistance to small growers in extension activities and research and development.

Government and the Tea Board have been analysing country-wise exports of tea giving special attention to areas offering potential. Tea Board also acts to remove bottlenecks in exports to individual markets whenever these are noticed.

Other steps taken to increase exports of Indian tea include (i) participation in major trade fairs/exhibitions abroad; (ii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness of speciality of Indian tea and campaign to popularise the Tea Board marketing symbol which stands for pure Indian tea.

The 9th Plan proposals for tea inter-alia include programmes to increase production and to promote export with a total outlay of Rs. 1378 crores.

Dues from Central PSU to Karnataka

6645.SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Central Public Sector Undertakings in Karnataka;

(b) the amount due to Karnataka Electricity Board as on date from these Public Sector Undertakings towards power supplied; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to pay the dues to Karnataka Electricity Board by these Undertakings ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) There are 16 Central PSUs which have their registered offices in the State of Karnataka. As per available information; out of these enterprises, no outstandings are pending for payment in respect of 8 Central PSUs. The amount of outstandings keeps on varying from time to time due to the varying agreements between the supplier and receiver of power, which is not monitored by the Central Government. These are settled by the respective parties.

Allotment of Coal Blocks to Power Project

6646.DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Times of India dated December 17, 1997 under caption "First mega power project derailed over coal blocks";

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The earlier North Karanpura STPS later shifted to a site at Nabinagar was originally proposed to come up in the Central sector and at that time coal from captive blocks of North Karanpura Coalfield was identified as the fuel source. The Ministry of Power had asked Power Grid Corporation to call international tenders inviting private parties to set up the power plant alongwith mining of the captive coal block at North Dadhu. This block has over 900 million tonnes of geological coal reserves which is sufficient to meet the requirement of this power plant for a period of 30 years. The Ministry of Coal had been advised

by the Ministry of Power that the prospective investors were disinclined to accept this block as substantial part of the reserves would have to be mined by underground mining techniques. Ministry of Power had, therefore, sought alternate blocks which would have sufficient geological reserves and which could be mined through opencast techniques. Three coal blocks at Dumargarh, Karimati and Sheregarha with geological reserves adequate to meet the needs of this power plant had been identified. The matter is under further consideration of the Ministry of Power.

Trade with Algeria

6647. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Indo-Algerian Joint Committee meeting held recently for the promotion of bilateral trade;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the trade with Algeria ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The 6th Session of the Indo-Algerian Joint Commission was held in New Delhi during March 3-6, 1997.

(b) and (c) Both sides expressed their determination to raise the present level of bilateral trade through various trade promotional activities. Both sides identified areas of cooperation such as drugs and pharmaceuticals, small and medium scale industries, heavy industry, electronics and telecommunications, textiles, leather, railway transport, air-transport, shipping services, etc.

KVIC

6648. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the State-wise amount spent on Apiculture by Khadi and Village Industries Commission and other such agencies during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : Apiculture (Beekeeping) Industry is one of the Village Industries under the purview of KVIC. A statement-I showing the State-wise amount spent on Beekeeping by KVIC during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 is attached.

in addition, the Department of Agriculture and

Cooperation is also implementing a scheme "Development of Beekeeping for improving crop productivity in India" since 1994-95. Funds released for implementing the various components of the scheme to the implementing agencies including State Governments are indicated in the statement-II attached.

Statement-I

Statewise/yearwise Disbursement of Funds by KVIC on Apiculture during 1994-95 to 1996-97

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5
01.	Andhra Pradesh	0.55	1.69	—
02.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
03.	Assam	3.19	6.32	3.60
04.	Bihar	0.33	27.63	13.79
05.	Goa	—	—	—
06.	Gujarat	—	—	—
07.	Haryana	0.50	—	8.00
08.	Himachal Pradesh	4.07	7.36	8.70
09.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	6.38	—
10.	Karnataka	2.23	3.26	—
11.	Kerala	3.18	15.45	10.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.61	0.13	—
13.	Maharashtra	9.61	5.39	3.88
14.	Manipur	—	0.25	4.10
15.	Meghalaya	1.11	—	0.47
16.	Mizoram	—	2.78	0.25
17.	Nagaland	5.63	0.02	—
18.	Orissa	0.14	5.70	0.50
19.	Punjab	1.59	4.61	19.85
20.	Rajasthan	—	—	—
21.	Sikkim	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	16.10	1.67	—

1	2	3	4	5
23.	Tripura	—	0.08	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1.26	40.43	0.27
25.	West Bengal	2.63	15.25	0.47
Union Territories				
01.	A & N Island	—	—	—
02.	Chandigarh	—	—	—
03.	D & N Haveli	—	—	—
04.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—
05.	Delhi	—	—	—
06.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—
07.	Pondicherry	—	—	—

Statement-II

*Statewise Release of Funds by Department of
Agriculture and Cooperation on Development
of Beekeeping since 1994-95 till
31st March 1997*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State	(1994-95 to 1996-97)
1	2	3
01.	Andhra Pradesh	11.67
02.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.75
03.	Assam	3.97
04.	Bihar	11.00
05.	Goa	2.40
06.	Gujarat	2.72
07.	Haryana	21.50
08.	Himachal Pradesh	15.28
09.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.52
10.	Karnataka	29.72
11.	Kerala	6.50
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4.41
13.	Maharashtra	26.70

1	2	3
14.	Manipur	1.75
15.	Meghalaya	0.00
16.	Mizoram	1.75
17.	Nagaland	2.40
18.	Orissa	14.51
19.	Punjab	17.94
20.	Rajasthan	11.50
21.	Sikkim	0.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	18.54
23.	Tripura	4.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	63.79
25.	West Bengal	13.50

Union Territories

01.	A & N Island	0.00
02.	Chandigarh	(covered under Punjab & Haryana)
03.	D & N Haveli	0.00
04.	Daman & Diu	0.00
05.	Delhi	5.28
06.	Lakshadweep	0.00
07.	Pondicherry	2.40

Textile Export

6649.DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are concerned over the sluggish trend in textile exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether relatively lower growth in export during 1995-96 was due to the protectionist measures of the importing countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) and (d) During 1995-96, there was a relatively lower

growth in the exports of textiles, as compared to the immediate preceding years, on account of recession and the slump in the retailing activities in some of the major importing countries, particularly the E.U., and the U.S.A. However, the growth rate has improved from 7.1% in 1995-96 to 10.8% in 1996-97 in dollar terms as per provisional figures available.

In order to boost the exports of textiles, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets; fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

[Translation]

Child Marriage

650. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :
SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of child marriages has not been declining despite the effort of the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some High Courts have recently recommended to the Union Government that penalty prescribed for underage marriages be drastically increased to punish the guilty; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) As per the provisional figures available with the National Crime Records Bureau, 122 and 159 cases of Child Marriage were recorded under the Child Marriage Restraint Act in 1994 and 1995 respectively. Lack of awareness, low status of women, traditional and customary practice in some parts of the country like Rajasthan on the occasion of Akha Teej are the reasons for the child marriage. The Union Government had issued instructions to the State Governments of Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh to take steps to prevent Child Marriages on Akha Teej on 9th May, 1997.

(c) No such recommendations has so far been received.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Production and Export of Sandalwood and its Products

6651. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of sandalwood, sandal oil and other products of sandalwood during 1996-97 upto March 31, 1997 and to be produced in 1997-98;

(b) the total quantity of sandalwood and its export and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period;

(c) the details of the countries with whom India has to face competition in the export of sandalwood and its products;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any scheme or plan to boost the production and export of sandalwood products during 1997-98 and the Ninth Plan;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Data on production of sandalwood, sandal oil and other products of sandalwood is not available as no monitoring of production of these products is done.

(b) The export of sandalwood in its raw form is prohibited under the existing Export-Import Policy. However, to reduce accumulated stocks of sandalwood in State Forest Depots, it was decided on 8.12.95 to allow export of a limited quantity of specified categories of sandalwood and spent dust including deoiled spent dust as a one time measure. As per data available from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, a quantity of 1033.8 MT of sandalwood in the form of chips and dust was exported during April 1996 to February 1997 for a value of Rs. 25.69 crores.

(c) Indonesia, Australia and Fiji are countries which also export sandalwood and its products.

(d) to (f) No specific scheme has been formulated to boost the production of sandalwood. Export of value added

products of sandalwood is freely allowed under the Export and Import Policy with the exception of sandalwood oil which is permitted against export licences. Exporters of these commodities can get the benefit of market development assistance and participate in buyer seller meets, trade fairs and exhibitions through the respective Export Promotion Councils.

CBI Raids on the premises of STC Officials

6652. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated March 28, 1997 under captioned "CBI raids premises of STC officials";

(b) if so, whether STC had been asked to pay damages to certain companies for the losses incurred by them;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the extent of loss caused to the exchequer; and

(e) the action taken against the officials of STC and other Departments involved in the scandal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (e) The Government have noted the news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi of 28th March, 1997 captioned "CBI raids premises of STC officials".

The news-item relates to the case of M/s. Andre & Cie, S.A., Laussane against STC claiming damages of US \$ 3,92,000 plus interest, cost and expenses before the Refined Sugar Association of London for the reported breach of contract in a sugar deal. STC deputed its Director (Law) and General Manager (Law) to attend the Court proceedings at London in Dec. 1996 and appear before the court as witnesses if so advised by the counsel. One Chief Marketing Manager and One Marketing Manager of STC, the two main witnesses of the corpn. were listed as accused persons in a criminal case registered by CBI on 5th Jan. 1996 and are under suspension w.e.f. 10.1.1996. In view of the criminal case, there were difficulties in obtaining valid travel documents and credibility of such witnesses was highly doubtful. Written witness statements of these two witnesses and others were produced before the Court in addition to documents of the Corpn. The Court, however, ruled against STC. CBI after verification of the deal sought Government's concurrence for registration of

a regular criminal case against STC officials. (Necessary approval for registration of a regular case against Director (Finance) STC has been accorded on 11.3.1997 and he is also placed under suspension.

Subsequent to the judgement of the Commercial Court at London, M/s. Andre & Cie raised its claim to US \$ 7,04,612.70, which STC is contesting with Refined Sugar Association of London (RSA). STC has also incurred an expenditure amounting to pound sterling 1,08,321.07 towards the costs and expenses of litigation including costs paid by it to the other party after the Court's judgement went against the Corporation. In addition, STC has also paid an amount of Rs. 10,725 (in Indian Rupees) to its counsel.

Setting Up a Committee on Customs and Excise Issues

6653. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had constituted any Committee to examine the customs and excise issues concerning cent per cent export oriented units/export promotion zones;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details of main recommendations made by the Committee;

(d) whether the Government have implemented any recommendations of the Committee; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and time by which other suggestions made by the Committee are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The main recommendations of the Committee which include simplification of wastage norms for jewellery, sale of finished products which are freely importable in the Domestic Tariff Area, domestic sale of gold jewellery against Special Import Licence, facility to re-export/supply of dead-stock or broken stones/rough diamonds, domestic sale facility for software through data communication link, simplification of sub-contracting procedure, enhanced depreciation for computer-hardware and wider delegation of powers to development Commissioners have been

accepted and reflected in the EXIM Policy/Procedures (1997-2002).

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

6654. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited has developed a pollution control technology for steel plants;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether any public or private sector steel plant has shown interest in the technology; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) has developed an Electrostatic Precipitator (ESP) for controlling air pollution in Steel Plants. These ESPs can be used in Sinter, Dedusting, Sponge Iron Plants and also in Gas Cleaning Equipments.

BHEL is supplying these ESPs for use in Rourkela Steel Plant and Bhilai Steel Plant in the Public Sector and M/s. Prakash Industries in the Private Sector.

Solar Cookers

6655. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of solar cooker manufacturers in the country, State-wise with installed capacity and actual production and sale of solar cookers during the past three years, year-wise alongwith the estimates of energy saved;

(b) whether the Government have formulated a special scheme for R&D, promotion and marketing of solar cookers, particularly in rural and tribal areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof and results achieved thereunder during the tribal areas;

(d) the fresh initiatives taken for promotion and marketing of solar cookers for energy conservation under the Common Minimum Programme during 1996-97 and achievements reported, State-wise; and

(e) the action plan formulated for the promotion of solar cookers during the current year and target set ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) There are 39 solar

cooker manufacturers in the country whose products have been tested by the Solar Energy Centre or the Regional Test Centres of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. The State-wise list of these manufacturers is given in the attached Statement-I. These manufacturers are estimated to have an aggregate production capacity of around 75,000 solar cookers per year. The Year-wise production and sale during the last 3 years with estimates of energy saved are as follows :

Year	Sale (No.)	Energy saved corresponding to this sale (million kg. of fuel wood equivalent)
1994-95	30221	18.13
1995-96	39174	23.50
1996-97	25697*	21.40*

*Subject to finalisation.

(b), (c) and (d) Government is extending financial assistance to State agencies and manufacturers for promotional activities in the respective States including rural and tribal areas. The activities include demonstrations, publicity, assistance in obtaining BIS certification, opening service centres. etc. Among the new initiatives taken during 1996-97 are interest free loan schemes for users through banks and the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). In addition, soft loans are also available through IREDA to manufacturers for purchase of machinery. The State-wise achievements made during 1996-97 are given in the attached statement-II

(e) During 1997-98 it is proposed to achieve a sale of 35,000 No. of solar cooker in the country. Financial assistance is also proposed to be continued to States and manufacturers for promotional activities. In addition, soft loan schemes through IREDA and banks will be expanded. New showrooms and service centres will be established.

Statement-I

Statewise number of solar cooker manufacturers whose products have been tested by the Regional Test Centres or the Solar Energy Centre of MNES

State	No.
1	2
1. Andhra Pradesh	2
2. Bihar	1

1	2
3. Delhi	1
4. Haryana	1
5. Himachal Pradesh	2
6. Madhya Pradesh	13
7. Maharashtra	5
8. Uttar Pradesh	4
9. Gujarat	5
10. West Bengal	4
11. Rajasthan	1
Total	39

Statement-II*Statewise sale of solar cookers during 1996-97*

State	Sale'
1. Andhra Pradesh	1321
2. Gujarat	865
3. Haryana	1800
4. Himachal Pradesh	1035
5. Madhya Pradesh	13022
6. Maharashtra	950
7. Uttar Pradesh	2500
8. Rajasthan	1295
9. Punjab	1795
10. Goa	15
11. West Bengal	700
12. Orissa	116
13. Tamilnadu	4
14. Tripura	6
15. Arunachal Pradesh	269
16. Rest of the States	NIL
Total	25693

* Figures are subject to finalization.

Export of Aspirin by KSSC/MMTC

6656. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kerala State Salicylates and Chemicals Limited having joint venture with Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MMTC) intends to export the 'Aspirin';

(b) if so, whether the Kerala State Salicylates and Chemicals has sent samples of Aspirin to MMTC for approval;

(c) if so, whether the State Government of Kerala has also urged MMTC to take steps in locating a suitable foreign market for their products and also arrange for import of raw materials; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) MMTC does not have any joint venture with M/s. Kerala State Salicylates and Chemicals Ltd. (KSSC). However, on the request of M/s. KSSC, MMTC has been exploring possibilities for export of Aspirin through its foreign offices. For this, samples were obtained from M/s. KSSC which were forwarded to their foreign offices of MMTC. M/s. KSSC has not approached MMTC for arranging import of raw materials for their products.

Performance of Export Promotion Councils

6657. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of various Export Promotion Councils presently operating in the country for export promotion and its functions thereof, separately;

(b) whether performance of Export Promotion Councils has been reviewed recently for the last three years;

(c) if so, the details of the performance in terms of set norms of assessment, Council-wise;

(d) whether the Government are proposed to take any fresh initiative for restructuring the functioning of various Export Promotion Councils and strengthening their network in the country to sub-serve the interests of exporters in various State during 1997-98;

(e) whether any proposals have been received from

the Government of Maharashtra in this regard and the action taken thereon; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) There are in all 20 Export Promotion Council out of which 11 fall under the purview of Ministry of Commerce and 9 under the purview of Ministry of Textiles. A list of these councils is given in Statement-I attached. The functions of all these Councils are of a similar nature with their main function being export promotion. These function are listed in attached Statement-II.

(b) and (c) The performance of these councils is reviewed on a regular basis and wherever necessary the required remedial action is taken.

(d) No specific decision has been taken for restructuring the functions of various Export Promotion Councils. However, efforts are made from time to time to further strengthen these Councils so as to cater to the needs of the exporting community in an effective manner.

(e) and (f) Since no general restructuring of Export Promotion Councils is considered to be necessary, no such proposal is receiving attention of the Government.

Statement-I

List of Export Promotion Councils

- (i) **Apparel** Export Promotion Council (AEPC), New Delhi.
- (ii) Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL), Mumbai.
- (iii) Cashew Export Promotion Council, Kochi.
- (iv) Carpet Export Promotion Council, New Delhi.
- (v) Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXCIL), Calcutta.
- (vi) Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) Mumbai.
- (vii) Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council, New Delhi.
- (viii) Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC), Calcutta.
- (ix) Gems & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) Mumbai.

- (x) Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi
- (xi) Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC), Channai.
- (xii) Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.
- (xiii) Council for Leather exports (CLE), Channai.
- (xiv) Overseas Construction Council of India (OCCI), Mumbai.
- (xv) Plastics & Lenoleums Export Promotion Council (PLEXICIL), Mumbai.
- (xvi) Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta.
- (xvii) Sports Goods Export Promotion Council (SGEPC), New Delhi.
- (xviii) Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.
- (xix) Wool & Woollens Export Promotion Council New Delhi.
- (xx) The Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council (PDEXCIL).

Statement-II

The major functions of the Export Promotion Councils are :-

- (a) To provide commercially useful information and assistance to their members in developing and increasing their exports;
- (b) to offer professional advice to their members in areas such as technology upgradation, quality and design improvement, standards and specifications, product development, innovation, etc;
- (c) to organise visits of delegations of its members abroad to explore overseas market opportunities;
- (d) to organise participation in trade fairs, exhibitions, and buyer-seller meets in India and abroad;
- (e) to promote interaction between the exporting community and the Government both at the Central and State levels; and
- (f) to build a statistical base and provide data on the exports and imports of the country exports and imports of their members as well as other relevant international trade data.

Concession to Handloom Sector

6658. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the year-wise number of representations received by the Union Government from the Cooperative Societies and other organisations of handloom weavers to provide more concessions to them during the last three years till date;

(b) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) the details of concessions being given to handloom weavers at present; and

(d) the number of handloom weavers benefitted by these concessions in various States particularly tribal areas of Gujarat till date ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) and (b) The Union Government keeps on receiving representations from Cooperative Societies and other Handloom Organisations. The concessions/modifications are made under various schemes from time to time on merit of the case.

(c) Concessions to Handloom Weavers are given under the Schemes like Janata Cloth, Mill Gate Price, Market Development Assistance, Handloom Development Centre/Quality Dyeing Units, Project Package, Workshed-cum-Housing, Thrift Fund, Group Insurance, Health Package etc.

(d) The number of Handloom Weavers benefitted during the VIII Five Year Plan under the Schemes: Project Package, Integrated Handloom Village Development, Workshed-cum-Housing, Handloom Development Centres/Quality Dyeing Unit, Group Insurance, Health Package, Thrift Fund & Margin Money for Destitute Weavers are 47,81,250, out of which 1649 weavers have been benefitted in the tribal areas of Gujarat.

Joint Venture on Textile Project between STC and Israel

6659. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation proposes to set up a joint-venture in textile project with Israel at a cost of US \$ 15 million;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have clear the above

proposal of the State Trading Corporation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) STC submitted a proposal for equity participation for setting up a Knitted Fabrics/Garments Unit in Israel with the project cost of US \$ 15 million.

(c) and (d) After detailed examination, it has been conclude not to further process the proposal in terms of overall benefits to the country.

Standing Committee for Promotion of Exports

6660. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has held a series of meeting with all the Chief Ministers to increase their involvement in export;

(b) whether a study cell in this regard was set up in 1994;

(c) whether a Standing Committee for Promotion of Exports has been setup by the States and the Union Territories;

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

(e) whether the Government have asked the States to review and standardise the levies imposed by them on exporters to the extent possible to promote exports; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and to what extent these proposals have helped in boosting exports from the North-East region as well as from other States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Four meetings of Zonal level were convened in Oct.-Nov. 1995 by then Commerce Minister with Chief Ministers/Lt. Governors/Minister/Administrators of States/Union Territories as indicated below :-

(i) Orissa, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands at Hyderabad;

(ii) Assam, Tripura, Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram & Manipur at Guwahati;

(iii) Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu &

Kashmir & UT of Chandigarh at Chandigarh;

- (iv) Maharashtra, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat at Mumbai.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) This Ministry is not aware of the setting up of such Committees by State Governments or the Union Territories. However, some states have created staff positions on export promotion.

(e) and (f) Ministry of Commerce had written to State Governments not to levy some local taxes on inputs used for export production/100% Export Oriented Units. The issue was also emphasised by the then Commerce Minister during the meetings mentioned in reply to part (a). Since the Ministry of Commerce does not maintain State-wise data of exports, the effect of various levies on export promotion from individual states cannot be ascertained.

Decline in Production and Export Cardamom

6661. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production and export of cardamom has declined during each of the last three years in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of its percentage as compared to the above period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the production and the export of cardamom ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The production and export of cardamom (Small) have shown a mixed trend during the last 3 years as may be seen from the details given below :-

Year	% (Tonnes)	Production Increase/Decrease over last year	% Qty. (Tonnes)	Increase/ Decrease over last year	% Value (Rs. Crs.)	Export Increase/Decrease over last year
1994-95	7000	6.06	257	-33.59	7.63	-47.56
1995-96	7900	12.86	500	94.55	12.40	62.52
1996-97 (E)	6750	-14.56	240	-52.00	9.21	-25.73

(E) Estimate

Source : Production - Estimate by the Spices Board

Export - DGCI&S Calcutta/Shipping Bills/ Exporters Returns

The decline in production during 1996-97 occurred mainly due to adverse climatic conditions. The fluctuations in exports have been mainly due to stiff price competition offered by Guatemala in the overseas markets.

(c) Some of the steps taken by the Government to increase production and export of Cardamom include :-

- Production and supply of quality planting material.
- Assistance for replantation of old diseased plants.
- Subsidy for irrigation and land development; and
- Assistance for purchase of plant protection equipment.
- Exemption of cess on export of cardamom.

(vi) Reimbursement of air freight charges at the rate of Rs. 20 per kg. for export of small cardamom in consumer packs by air to middle-east destinations.

(vii) Sponsoring trade delegations and participation in trade fairs.

Disinvestment Commission

6662. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the credit rating agencies engaged by the disinvestment commission to study the future profitability, technology levels, share value and other relevant details of the 40 Public Sector Undertakings referred to it by the Core Group of Secretaries for possible disinvestment by the Government has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) 30 companies out of the 50 PSUs, referred to the Commission have been entrusted to the credit rating agencies, of which reports have been received in respect of 21 companies. The reports by the agencies from one of the inputs, based on which the Commission makes its recommendation to the Government.

[Translation]

Supply of Cotton

6663.SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether inadequate supply of cotton is being made to Handloom Development Centres;

(b) if so, the policy formulated by the Government to deal with this problem; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to supply sufficient cotton to Handloom Development Centres ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) Problem faced by the Handloom Industry is not inadequate supply of yarn but rise in its prices. With a view to protect the handloom industry from the impact of rising prices, the Government of India has been implementing Mill Gate Price Scheme. Under this Scheme, State Handloom Development Corporations, State Apex/ Regional Handloom Cooperative Societies, Handloom Development Centres, Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies, registered societies (NGOs) and any other organisation recommended by the State Governments are eligible for procurement of yarn through the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) at the Mill Gate Price. Adequate supply of cotton yarn is made available to Handloom Development Centres through the implementation of various policies and schemes of Government of India. NHDC has been supplying yarn to Handloom Development Centres Under Mill Gate Price Scheme in addition to their normal business operation and during the last three years 58.715 lacs kg. of yarn has been supplied by the NHDC to 755 Handloom Development Centres.

[English]

Two Stroke Engines

6664.SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Eco-friendly two-strokes mobikes" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 22nd March 1997;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) whether the Government propose to give incentives and financial assistance to complete such work successfully; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The news-item refers to the claim made by some students of Malaviya Regional Engineering College, Rajasthan regarding development of eco-friendly fuel efficient 2-stroke engines for motorbikes. No Proposal for any assistance has been received by the Ministry of Industry in this case.

Share of Multinational Companies in Exports

6665.DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total share of multinational companies in the total export during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the export by both the multinational and indigenous companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) No exporter-wise data is maintained by the Government. Hence separate information on share of exports of multinational companies is not available.

(b) The new Export and Import Policy, 1997-2002, which has been introduced with effect from 1st April, 1997, seeks to further liberalise, deregulate and simplify the EXIM Policy and Procedures with the objective of boosting exports.

Trade with Canada

6666.SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Canada have agreed to form a semi-formal mechanism and a joint ministerial committee for a sustained momentum to bilateral relations and to improve the trade between the two countries;

(b) if so, to what extent both Canada and India has agreed to give a boost to the trade between the two countries;

(c) what is the present level of trade between the two countries; and

(d) to what extent it will improve during the current financial year

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) It has been decided to establish a Joint Ministerial Committee headed by the External Affairs Ministers of the two countries to work towards intensifying cooperation in the economic as well as commercial and political fields.

(b) to (d) Both India and Canada attach great importance to the economic and commercial relations between the two countries and it is hoped that the Joint Ministerial Committee would provide the necessary forum to give momentum to bilateral relations particularly in the economic and commercial fields.

The present level of trade between the two countries as per DGCI&S figures for 11 months period (April '96-Feb. '97) is as follows :

Exports	-	Rs. 1112.04 Cr.
Imports	-	Rs. 1003.47 Cr.
Total Trade	-	Rs. 2115.51 Cr.

Improvement in trade will depend on various factors such as market conditions, international competition promotional efforts etc.

Complaints on Misappropriation of Funds in Purchasing by MTC

6667. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints about misappropriation of funds and bungling in purchasing of articles from Mica Trading Corporation of India Ltd. working under Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action against those officers involved in the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Manpower in Coal India Limited

6668. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of production and manpower in different subsidiaries of Coal India Limited on the date of Nationalisation as compared to that of as on December 31, 1996 per production, Executives, Non-executives, Wagon Loaders, Trammer and U/G Loaders;

(b) whether there is any decline in the manpower in different subsidiaries; and

(c) if so, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The details of production and manpower in different subsidiaries of Coal India Limited on the date of nationalisation i.e. 1.5.73 as compared to that of 31.12.1996 are as under :-

Division	As on 1.5.73		Company	As on 31.12.96	
	Manpower	Production (TPD)		Manpower	Production (TPD)
1	2	3	4	5	6
BCCL	179,781	56,001	BCCL	143,965	99,000
EASTERN	174,606	69,110	ECL	158,918	101,500

1	2	3	4	5	6
CENTRAL	81,188	20,000	CCL	92,250	118,000
			NCL	16,908	119,000
WESTERN	85,592	21,960	WCL	84,860	103,000
			SECL	99,214	177,700
			MCL	23,337	113,500
			CMPDIL	3,924	-
			CIL/NEC	4,783	4,000
			CIL/ (DCC & (CIL Hq)	2,243	-
TOTAL	521,167	167,070	TOTAL	630,402	835,700

*Company-wise – Category wise
Breakup of Manpower as on 31.12.96 is as under :-*

Company	Executive	Non-executives					Overall Total
		Wagon Loaders	Trammers	UG Loaders	Other	Total Non- executive	
BCCL	3,440	5,253	6,226	31,027	98,019	140,525	143,965
ECL	3,361	8,267	13,811	28,693	104,785	155,557	158,918
CCL	3,288	2,153	2,878	12,094	71,837	88,962	92,250
NCL	1,316	-	-	-	15,592	15,592	16,908
WCL	2,441	14,298	215	2,652	65,254	82,419	84,860
SECL	3,099	27	7,332	11,869	76,887	96,115	99,214
MCL	1,221	-	351	2,869	18,896	22,116	23,337
CMPDIL	1,037	-	-	-	2,887	2,887	3,924
NEC	148	-	-	-	4,635	4,635	4,783
DEC & CIL Hq	483	-	-	-	1,760	1,760	2,243
Total	19,834	29,998	30,813	89,204	460,552	610,568	630,402

Since nationalisation, due to reorganisation of subsidiaries of CIL from time to time, company-wise-category-wise figures of manpower at the time of nationalisation are not readily available.

(b) & (c) There is decline in the overall manpower in Coal India Ltd. over the last few years as well as in ECL, BCCL & WCL. NCL, MCL & SECL being expanding companies have no scope for decline in manpower. The main reasons for decline in manpower are as under :-

- i) Natural wastage i.e. retirement and death etc.
- ii) Reduction under Voluntary Retirement Scheme.
- iii) Reorganisation of divisions/subsidiary companies.

NCES-Maharashtra

6669. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) The various programmes of Non-conventional

Energy Sources approved and implemented in Maharashtra during 1996-97;

(b) the details of funds approved, released and actually utilised upto 31.3.97 on schemes executed in Maharashtra;

(c) the performance achieved during 1996-97 as compared with the performance during corresponding earlier period;

(d) the details of funds likely to be made available to the State during 1997-98 under various schemes and target set therefor;

(e) whether substantial number of bio-gas/community biogas are inoperative in Maharashtra, estimates of investment made thereon and steps taken/proposed to be taken for their revival ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) A wide range of Non-conventional Energy Programmes such as Improved Chulha, Biogas, Biomass Gasifiers, Wind Energy, Small Hydro Power, Biomass Combustion and Cogeneration, Solar Lanterns, Solar Water Pumping Systems, Solar Cookers, Solar Water Heating Systems, and Battery Operated Vehicles have been approved & implemented during 1996-97 in the State of Maharashtra.

(b) Details of funds approved and released under various non-conventional energy programmes during 1996-97 upto 31.3.97 on the schemes executed in Maharashtra are given in the attached Statement-I.

(c) The scheme-wise performance achieved, during 1996-97 vis-a-vis performance achieved during 1995-96 under various non-conventional energy programmes are given in the attached Statement-II.

(d) The funds are made available to the States including to the State of Maharashtra under various non-conventional energy programmes, based on the utilisation of funds released in the previous years, the proposals received from the States and the physical targets fixed during the course of the year under those programmes. Targets of installation of 15,000 family type biogas plants, 35 community/Institutional/Night Soil-based biogas plants and 1,80,000 improved chulhas have been set for Maharashtra for the year 1997-98.

(e) It is expected that all the 11470 family type biogas plants and 26 Community/Institutional/Night Soil-

based biogas plants set up during 1996-97 in Maharashtra are functional. All the family type biogas plants are covered under warranty scheme under which free maintenance services for first three years from the date of completion of plants, are available. Community/Institutional/Night Soil-based plants are managed by Institutions who are expected to maintain these plants.

Statement-I

Details of funds utilised upto March, 1997 on the schemes executed in the state of Maharashtra

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of Scheme/ Programmes	Expenditure (1996-97) (upto March, 1997)
1.	Biogas Plants	469.00
2.	CBP/IBP/NBP	30.17
3.	Improved Chulha	75.50
4.	Solar Cookers	8.0
5.	Wind Energy	107.00
6.	Small Hydro Power	34.00
7.	Biomass Combustion & Cogeneration	8.00
8.	Solar Water Pumping Mills	1.71
9.	Battery Operated Vehicles	3.35
10.	Biomass Gasifier	6.72
11.	Solar Lantern	No funds released

CBP = Community Biogas Plants

IBP = Institutional Biogas Plants

NBP = Night Soil based Biogas Plants

Statement-II

Achievements made under various Non-Conventional Energy Programmes during the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 in Maharashtra

S. No.	Name of Programme	Achievements	
		1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4
1.	Biogas Plants (Nos.)	12360	11470
2.	CBP/IBP/NBP (Nos.)*	42	26

1	2	3	4
3.	Improved Chulha (Nos.)	1,78,275,	169668
4.	Bio Mass Gasifier (KW)	NIL	500
5.	Wind Energy (MW)	NIL	2.77
6.	Small Hydro Power (MW)	NIL	0.75
7.	Biomass Combustion and Cogeneration (MW)	NIL	1.5
8.	Solar Water Pumping Systems (Nos.)	55	27
9.	Solar Cookers (Nos.)	2818	950
10.	Battery Operated Vehicles (Nos.)	NIL	2
11.	Solar Lantern (Nos.)	333	NIL

*CBP = Community Biogas Plants

*IBP = Institutional Biogas Plants

*NBP = Night Soil based Biogas Plants

World Bank Observations regarding Coal Sector

6670. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the World Bank, the success of Coal India Limited's (CIL) \$ 1.9 billion revamping programme is likely to depend on the continued restructuring by the Government on the pricing and distribution of coal, private investments and phasing out of the subsidies to loss making coal companies; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Keeping in view the recommendations of the Committee on Integrated Coal Policy, the Government have taken, among others, the following decisions :

- (i) Deregulation of the prices and distribution of D Grade of non-coking coal, hard coke and soft coke with immediate effect.
- (ii) Allowing Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and the Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) to fix the prices of E, F and G Grades of non-coking coal till 1st January, 2000, once every six months by updating the cost indices as per the escalation

formula contained in the 1987 report of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices.

- (iii) Allowing CIL and SCCL to fix the prices of E, F and G grades of non-coking coal in relation with the market prices and to distribute these grades of coal after 1st January, 2000. Budgetary support to Coal India Ltd. already stands withdrawn. The coal sector reform is an on-going process and is expected to facilitate sanction of the World Bank loan for Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project of CIL.

Award/Incentives amount to Exporters

6671. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided any Award/Incentives for making maximum exports to the Public/Private sectors companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of such companies who have Award/Incentives amount given to them during the last year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Government of India is having a scheme under which awards are given every year to manufacturers, exporters and exporting houses who make distinct contribution to the export trade. The awards are in the form of Trophy and Certificate of Merit. No cash amount is given to any awardee. The scheme provides for grant of maximum number of 17 Trophies (5 for small scale and cottage sector exporters) every year whereas for granting Certificate of Merit, no upper limit has been prescribed. The selection of award winners is made by a Committee headed by Commerce Secretary.

(c) A list of awardees who were given Trophies and Certificate of Merit during the last year i.e. on 19.9.96 for their export performance during 1994-95 is attached as a Statement.

Statement

List of Award Winners-Trophy (1994-95)

1. M/s. A.V. Thomas Leather & Allied Products Ltd., Chennai.
2. M/s. Bajaj Auto Ltd., Pune.
3. M/s. Birla Jute & Industries Ltd., Calcutta.

4. M/s. B. Vijaykumar & Company, Mumbai.
5. M/s. Hindustan Lever Ltd., Mumbai.
6. M/s. Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd., Jalgaon.
7. M/s. Karp Diamonds Ltd., Mumbai.
8. M/s. Lupin Laboratories Ltd., Mumbai.
9. M/s. Luxor Exports, New Delhi.
10. M/s. Mac Industries Ltd., Chennai.
11. M/s. Mafatlal Industries Ltd., Mumbai.
12. M/s. Maxwell Exim Ltd., Chennai.
13. M/s. Nahar Exports Ltd., Ludhiana.
14. M/s. Omkar Exports, Ahmedabad.
15. M/s. Phoenix International Ltd., New Delhi.
16. M/s. Tata Engineering & Locomotive Company Ltd., Mumbai.
17. M/s. Vardhman Spinning & General Mills Ltd., Ludhiana.

List of Award Winners Certificate of Merit (1994-95)

1. M/s. Akbar Brass Products, Moradabad.
2. M/s. Allanasons Ltd., Mumbai.
3. M/s. Allen & Alvan (Pvt.) Ltd., Aligarh.
4. M/s. All India Handloom Fabric Marketing Cooperative Society Ltd., Chennai.
5. M/s. Amitara Fabrics Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad.
6. M/s. Arbeits (India) Calcutta.
7. M/s. Ballarpur Industries Ltd., New Delhi.
8. M/s. BPL Ltd., Bangalore.
9. M/s. Century Textiles & Industries Ltd., Mumbai.
10. M/s. Continental Device India Ltd., New Delhi.
11. M/s. Deepak International (Pvt.) Ltd., Ludhiana.
12. M/s. Designed Products Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi
13. M/s. Eastern Spinning Mills & Industries Ltd., West Bengal.
14. M/s. Girnar Exports, Mumbai.
15. M/s. Gitanjali Gems Ltd., Mumbai.
16. M/s. Grand Foundry Ltd., Mumbai.
17. M/s. Grapco Industries Ltd., Calcutta.
18. M/s. Gujarat Ambuja Cements Ltd., Mumbai.
19. M/s. Gupta Dyeing & Printing Mills, Surat, Gujarat.
20. M/s. Harmony Spices Ltd. Cochin.
21. M/s. Indian Rare Earths Ltd., Mumbai.
22. M/s. Industrial Meters Ltd., Mumbai.
23. M/s. K.J. International Ltd., New Delhi.
24. M/s. Kopran Ltd., Mumbai.
25. M/s. KRM International Ltd., Bangalore.
26. M/s. Lakshmi Machine Works Ltd., Coimbatore.
27. M/s. Lloyds International Ltd., Mumbai.
28. M/s. Meghmani Organics Ltd., Ahmedabad.
29. M/s. M. Madhavaraya Prabhu, Mangalore.
30. M/s. Motor Industries Company Ltd., Bangalore.
31. M/s. MUA Arumugaperumal & Sons, Chatrapatti.
32. M/s. MVR Industries Ltd/. Chennai.
33. M/s. Nanji Topanbhai & Company Cochin.
34. M/s. Narman Leather Pvt. Ltd., Agra.
35. M/s. Northern India Trading Company, New Delhi.
36. M/s. Patton Exports Ltd., Calcutta.
37. M/s. PKS Ltd., Calcutta.
38. M/s. Punihani International, New Delhi.
39. M/s. Raajrathna Metal Industries Ltd., Ahmedabad.
40. M/s. Ram Leather Apparels, Channai.
41. M/s. Satya Enterprises, Tetali-Tanuku (AP)
42. M/s. Shree Digvijay Cement Company Ltd., Mumbai.
43. M/s. Sierra Trading Pvt. Ltd., Channai.
44. M/s. Suashish Diamonds Ltd., Mumbai.
45. M/s. Suryo Udyog Ltd., Bhubeneswar.
46. M/s. The Arvind Mills Ltd., Ahmedabad.
47. M/s. The Koncherry Co. Factories, Cherthala.
48. M/s. Thirumalai Chemicals Ltd., Mumbai.

49. M/s. Vasant Organics (Pvt.) Ltd., Hyderabad.

NTC Mills

50. M/s. Woolworth (India) Ltd., Calcutta.

Foreign Investment in Coal Sector

6672. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether coal India Limited has invited foreign companies to form joint ventures in the longwall mining projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of foreign countries to the decision of Coal India Limited ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

6673. SHRI CHHITU BHAJ GAMIT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) The targets fixed for the production of cloth in each of National Textile Corporation mills during the last three year and for the current financial year; and

(b) the actual production of cloth in each of the NTC mills during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Owing to Severe working capital shortage during the last several years, the NTC mills have had to curtail the activities leading to total/partial cessation of production activities in most of the mills. This has resulted in uncertainty and lack of firm targets in most of the mills. A statement indicating targets where fixed and the actual production of cloth of the mills is attached.

Statement

(Production of Cloth in lakh Mtrs.)

Mill Name	Targets	1994-95 (Production)	Targets	1995-96 (Production)	Targets	1995-96 (Production)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NTC (DP&R)						
Ajudhia	20.96	4.22	3.81	5.89	9.54	0
Mahalaxmi	7.95	0.43	—(*)	0	—(*)	0
Edward	20.62	2.73	11.74	2.07	—	0
NTC (M.P.)						
Bengal Nagpur	28.84	20.46	—	18.07	—	15.83
Burhanpur	22.29	22.59	—	20.31	—	24.17
New Bhopal	3.23	1.61	—	2.21	—	6.47
Hira Mills	—	0	—	0	—	0
Swadeshi	—	0	—	0.89	—	0.73
Indore Malwa	—	0	—	4.97	—	0.36
Kalyanmal Mills	—	0	—	3.78	—	1.76
NTC (U.P.)						
Muir Mills	—	0	—	0	—	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NTC (U.P.)						
New Victoria	—	0	—	0	—	0
Swadeshi Kanpur	—	0	—	0	—	0
NTC (S.M.)						
Digvijay	58.61	15.60	58.58	13.10	—	8.25
Chalisgaon	48.24	47.75	52.74	43.84	39.59	28.36
Jupiter	—	0	—	0	—	0.70
Apollo	20.82	29.52	13.53	28.30	29.30	26.35
Bharat	—	0.76	37.43	0.08	—	10.74
New Hind	—	0	4.73	0	—	0
Dhule	—	22.64	53.8	14.88	25.03	15.19
Nanded	—	14.45	31.72	23.11	34.99	17.46
Mumbai	—	0	5.05	0.11	—	0.03
NTC (M.N.)						
Model Mills	87.49	15.44	74.33	12.96	92.66	8.38
RSRG	29.57	12.22	34.75	3.14	35.33	2.51
Indu No. 1	94.62	34.13	34.13	18.48	91.44	15.58
Indu No. 2	60.57	4.60	34.79	0.86	4.60	0
Indu No. 3&4	100.47	34.36	92.36	20.61	11.86	14.66
Indu No. 5	37.58	10.64	37.24	26.27	39.58	27.92
RBBA	48.18	45.44	45.93	45.35	45.45	37.97
Savatram	18.63	19.50	16.63	14.05	21.25	5.75
Vidarbha	—	0	—	0	—	0
NTC (Guj.)						
Ahmd. Jupiter	—	0	—	0	—	0
Ahmd. New Tex.	—	0	—	0	—	0
Himadri	—	35.28	—	13.96	—	0
Jehangir	—	20.38	—	0	—	0
Petlad	—	—	—	0	—	0
Mahalaxmi	—	—	—	0	—	0
New Maneck Chok	—	11.00	—	0	—	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NTC (Guj.)						
Viramgam	—	0	—	0	—	0
Rajkot	—	0	—	0	—	0
Rajnagar 1&2	—	0	—	0	—	0
NTC (APKK & M)						
Azamjahi	—	0	—	0	—	0
Mysore	—	0	—	0	—	0
Minerva	—	64.05	—	66.02	87.86	68.03
MSK	—	5.00	—	5.68	—	0
Parvathi	—	58.01	—	56.85	65.17	58.37
NTC (TNP)						
Coimbatore Murgan	69.66	70.71	65.70	66.84	83.70	74.46
Somasundaram	34.30	32.76	33.25	32.74	39.06	25.95
Kaleshwara 'A'	38.25	22.45	21.51	6.31	—	0
Coimbatore SPG.&WVG.	7.34	16.97	4.27	7.53	—	0
Sri Sarada	35.86	32.29	32.00	32.03	40.30	32.59
Sri Bharathi	38.85	35.08	37.04	19.22	26.83	19.09
Swadeshi Pondicherry	16.72	12.29	17.20	2.20	—	0.00
NTC (WBAB&O)						
Bengal Tex. & Manindra	6.06	0	—	0	—	0
Central Cotton	22.75	0	—	0	—	0
Bengal Laxmi	—	0	—	0	—	0
Sri Mahalaxmi	15.76	0.18	9.80	0.02	—	0
Rampooria	25.65	0	17.50	0.03	—	0
Bangasari	5.18	0	—	0	—	0
Joyti HVG. Fact.	2.28	0	2.70	0	1.94	0
T.O.M. (Kanpur)						
Laxmirattan	—	0	—	0	—	0
Atherton	—	0	—	0	—	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
T.O.M. (Mumbai)						
Elphinstone	—	0	—	0	—	0.11
Finlay	59.75	52.93	48.21	29.13	41.36	37.27
Gold Mohur	67.32	49.57	43.6	24.2	39.09	27.67
Jam. Mfg.	—	0	—	0	—	0.05
Madhusudan	—	0	—	0	—	0
New City	48.10	44.92	28.35	13.15	33.61	56.92
Podar Mills	12.35	24.97	40.13	12.17	36.04	18.65
Tata Mills	58.73	0	44.47	0	56.31	35.21
Sita Ram	—	43.26	—	36.78	—	0
Kohinoor Mills	—	0	—	0	23.95	0.60

* Targets not confirmed.

[Translation]

Supply of Coal

6674. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has prepared any new draft agreement recently to ensure regular supply of coal to the big consumers of coal in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any provision for charging additional amount by Coal India Limited for ensuring regular supply of coal as per the said agreement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Coal India Limited is in the process of preparing a draft Legally Enforceable Coal Supply Contract for supply of coal to power stations.

(b) to (d) This contract will incorporate the following principles :-

- (i) That in the event the coal supply is less than what is required by the power plant to generate power at a PLF of 68.5% then the coal company will be liable to pay heavy damages to the power company.

(ii) That no damages will however be payable in the event coal supply is interrupted due to an event of force majeure.

(iii) No damages will be payable if the coal supply is sufficient to generate power at a PLF of above 68.5%.

(iv) That the coal company will be entitled to a premium for bearing the above risk which would be decided taking into consideration the source of coal supply, the location of the power plant and other relevant factors.

[English]

Allocation/Grant To Coffee Board

6675. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total grant provided to the Coffee Board during 1996-97;

(b) the amount of grant sought for by the Coffee Board from the Government during 1997-98;

(c) whether the Government have decided to increase the grant during 1997-98;

(d) if so, the details of the amount of grant earmarked for Coffee Board with the reasons for increase in allocation;

(e) whether the Coffee Board has decided to franchise off the Coffee Houses to private sectors to meet the expenditure; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken by the Coffee Board to reduce the expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) A sum of Rs. 1667 lakh was provided as plan and non-plan grants to the Coffee Board during 1996-97.

(b) During the year 1997-98, the Coffee Board had asked for Rs. 7719 lakh from the Government.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. For implementation of various schemes for development of coffee, Government has given enhanced grant of Rs. 2800 lakh (plan and non-plan) to the Coffee Board during the year 1997-98. These funds are expected to be spent on various programmes aimed at increasing production, productivity, plantation area under Coffee and Research and Development Schemes of the Coffee Board.

(e) and (f) Coffee Board has not taken any decision to franchise off the Coffee Houses of the Board to private sector. However, the Board has closed down 48 promotional units to reduce the expenditure following scaling down of its marketing activities after introduction of 100% Free Sale quota.

Formula for SSI

6676.DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chamber of Commerce and Industry has suggested 5-point formula for providing a 'level playing field' to small scale industrial units and making them globally competitive;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have examined the points suggested by the PMD Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and

(d) if so, the time by which the final decision for implementing the suggestions is likely to be considered ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry had submitted a Memorandum to the Task Force set up by the Central Board for Excise and Customs

(CBEC) on 16.11.1996. The Memorandum contained some suggestions for reforms in the Excise duty structure applicable to the small scale industries. The five suggestions made by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry are briefly as follows :-

1. Duty exemption limit of Rs. 30 lakhs should be increased to Rs. 50 lakhs and with a concessional duty rate for above Rs. 50 lakhs and up to Rs. 1 crore. Full duty should be charged above Rs. 1 crore and the turnover ceiling of Rs. 3 crores should be removed.
2. The Excise exemption scheme should be extended to all excisable goods manufactured by SSI. There should be no exclusion.
3. The SSIs should be given the option to pay duty and obtain Modvat facility on exempted goods in some cases while availing duty exemption in some other cases.
4. The Excise exemption scheme should be extended to brand goods also manufactured by the SSIs.
5. The excise duty regulation procedures for the SSI units should be further simplified and relaxed.

(c) and (d) Government have examined the suggestions of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry as part of the Budget exercise. A revised excise exemption scheme has been announced in this year's Budget. The new scheme is effective from 01.04.1997. Under the new Scheme, Clearances of goods, excepting certain specified items, manufactured by a SSI unit upto an aggregate value of Rs. 30 lakhs are fully exempt from duty. Clearances in excess of Rs. 30 lakhs but less than Rs. 50 lakhs will be charged a flat rate of duty of 3%. Clearances in excess of Rs. 50 lakhs but less than Rs. 100 lakhs will be charged a flat rate of duty of 5%. Clearances in excess of Rs. 100 lakhs will be charged to full duty. This modification will greatly simplify the administration of the Excise Duty collection. The overall eligibility limit of Rs. 3 crores and the restrictions regarding usage of brand name remain unchanged.

As per the new scheme notified vide No. 16/97. Central Excise dated 01.04.1997 a manufacturer can avail of the facility of MODVAT only after the clearances cross Rs. 100 lakhs. Further, the manufacturer has the option either to pay the normal duties and avail MODVAT or to

avail the exemptions under the stated notification. This option can be exercised once during the year.

However, at the time of moving the Finance Bill, 1997 in the Lok Sabha, the Finance Minister has stated that after consultation with the SSI sector, an alternative scheme would be notified under which the SSI units will be eligible to avail of MODVAT even while paying concessional excise, duty under the existing dispensation. For the present, the scheme which came into force from 01.04.1997 continues to operate.

[Translation]

Tribunals for pending Cases

6677. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some tribunals had been set up with the of removing delay in justice and providing justice expeditiously;

if so, the dates on which these tribunals had been set up;

(c) whether the said objectives has not been achieved;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the number of cases pending in each tribunal, till date; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline the functioning of these tribunals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (f) A number of Tribunals have been set up by the Government under various Acts for dealing with cases arising under these Acts. These Tribunals are under the administrative control of various Ministries/Departments of Government of India. The Law Commission of India has undertaken a study on the functioning of the Tribunals.

(b) & (e) The Income-tax Appellate Tribunal and the Foreign Exchange Regulation Appellate Board which are under the administrative control of the Ministry of Law and Justice were set up on 25.1.1941 and 1.1.1974 respectively. The number of cases pending in the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal (as on 1.5.1997) and the FERA Board (as on 13.5.1997) are 3,01,034 and 4,408 respectively.

[English]

Grant of New Registration to Farmers by Tobacco Board

6678. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the methods followed by Tobacco Board for granting new registration to farmers in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the field officers are unable to help to the tobacco farmers; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve the situation and functioning of the Tobacco Board in Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Tobacco Board grants registration to the tobacco farmers under the relevant provisions of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975 and the Tobacco Board Rules, 1976. The Tobacco Board each year fixes the crop size of FCV tobacco and lays down the policy for regulating its production keeping in view the international and domestic demand and carry over stocks, if any. Registration Committee of the Board lays down criteria for registration/renewal of registration keeping the production policy of the Board in view. Notice inviting applications for renewal of registration or for grant of new registrations are given wide publicity in the local press and are also displayed on the notice board of all Tobacco Board offices.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Coal Washeries

6679. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY :
SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of new coal washing capacity added through modernisation/capacity expansion/establishment of new coal washeries during the last three years and investment made thereon;

(b) whether production of washed coal remained stagnant during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the estimated demand for washed coal during 1997-98 and the Ninth Plan period and new policy

initiatives taken/action plan worked out to step up production of washed coal substantially during 1997-98 onwards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No new coal washing capacity has been added during the last three years.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The main reasons for near stagnancy in washed coal production are as under :-

- (i) Most of the washeries are old and are designed to process better quality coals. Due to depletion of these reserves over the years, the ash content in the raw coal feed has increased affecting the performance of washeries considerably.
- (ii) Inadequate raw coal feed to washeries.
- (iii) Frequent power failures.

(d) Demand for washed coal (including direct feed coal) on Coal India Limited for the steel sector as assessed by the Planning Commission for 1997-98 is 11.36 million tonnes and for the terminal year of Ninth Five Year Plan (2001-02) the projected demand is 12.26 million tonnes.

Steps taken/proposed to be taken to step up indigenous availability of coking coal are as under :-

- (i) Two new washeries under advanced stage of construction at Madhuband (BCCL) and Kedia (CCL) are likely to be commissioned during 1997-98.
- (ii) Increasing raw coking coal availability by reorganising existing mines and development of new mines.
- (iii) Modification of the existing coking coal washeries to improve the capacity utilisation as well as the quality of washed coking coal.
- (iv) Increasing raw coal feed to washeries by supplying low volatile medium coking coals of suitable quality.
- (v) Exploitation of coking coal by Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) from captive mining block offered by CIL.

Export of Cashew Kernel

6680. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of cashew kernel is undertaken by private agents;

(b) if so, whether the cashew kernel exporters are ignoring the request of Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation;

(c) if so, the policy of the Government in this regard;

(d) the total quantum and value of cashew kernel exported to erstwhile Russia during the last three years, year-wise;

(e) the details of exporters to whom the permission to export cashew kernels have been given by the Government during the said period;

(f) whether the Government of Kerala has also recommended the export of cashew kernels through KSCDC; and

(g) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) As per the current Export Import Policy, export of cashew are allowed freely without any restriction. It is the policy of the Government to encourage export of cashew kernels through both public and private sector companies without any discrimination.

(d) and (e) The total quantity and value of cashew kernels exported from India to Russia during the last three years are as under :-

Year	Qty. (In Mts.)	Value (in Rs. Crores)
1994-95	5531	92.10
1995-96	14905	263.30
1996-97	405	5.70
(April '96 to Feb. '97)		

During 1995-96, a ceiling of 6000 Mts for export of cashew kernels to Russia under the Rupee Escrow/Debt Repayment Mechanism was released subject to registration of contracts with Cashew Export Promotion Council.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. Government of Kerala was advised to encourage exports of cashew kernels through Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation as the items was freely exportable.

Proposals for Investment in Development Project

6681. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received specific proposals for investment in development protection in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof project-wise;

(c) the details of proposals finalised/under consideration; and

(d) the present status of the projects taken up for execution ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI

MARAN) : (a) to (d) The sectorwise details of the proposals received by the Government from domestic and foreign investors from August, 1991 to March, 1997 is given in the attached statement. In so far as externally assisted projects are concerned, the Deptt. of Economic Affairs receives proposals from States/Ministries for seeking financial assistance from external agencies. This is a continuous process. The proposals, as and when received, are being posed to the possible donors keeping in view the nature of projects as well as the donors preference. The proposals received from various States/Ministries are at varying stages of consideration. The details of these projects committed upto 1995-96 are given in the External Assistance Brochure, 1995-96 published by the Ministry of Finance, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Statement

*Industrial Investment Proposals (Industry-wise)
(August 1991–March 1997)*

Name of Industry	IEMs		LOIs		FDIs	
	Numbers Filed	Proposed Investment (Rs. Cr.)	Number Issued	Proposed Investment (Rs. Cr.)	No. of approvals	Amount of FDI approved (Rs. Cr.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Chemicals (except fertilizers)	5179	112730	284	30636	503	7956
2. Metallurgical Industries	4060	94551	57	523	177	6624
3. Textiles	4518	85957	503	4218	310	2145
4. Cement & Gypsum	704	43385	24	759	35	583
5. Paper & Pulp	1230	29834	46	3256	60	1558
6. Food processing Industry	1651	23663	50	1977	452	5923
7. Electrical Equipment	1800	23771	72	573	1053	6711
8. Mis. Industry	2245	25812	22	956	1425	14275
9. Fertilisers	215	15219	0	0	5	246
10. Telecommunications	935	13275	44	681	258	26034
11. Transportation	437	14133	57	4826	270	7189
12. Veg. Oil & Vanaspati	1606	13091	12	60	25	107
13. Industrial Machinery	687	10562	32	156	330	1723
14. Rubber Goods	380	9649	13	77	59	477

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15. Drugs & Pharmaceuticlas	511	3351	691	4727	100	553
16. Sugar	26	1558	340	10458	5	977
17. Misc. Mech & Engg. Ind.	409	6595	24	84	236	594
18. Scientific Industries	200	3568	0	0	23	49
19. Fuels	152	4652	117	23890	195	27447
20. Glass	128	4080	3	22	31	945
21. Com/Office/hh Equipments	185	3153	12	43	31	685
22. Prime Movers	293	2700	0	0	16	53
23. Ceramics	221	2185	7	60	111	587
24. Timber Product	40	1220	34	967	5	9
25. Leather	110	1038	154	2781	104	176
26. Machine Tools	117	1280	7	135	62	142
27. Fermentation Ind.	0	0	223	1271	37	1095
28. Soaps, Cosmetics	134	1154	9	40	22	109
29. Photo raw Films/Paper	111	1115	1	1	6	25
30. Earth Moving Machinery	41	834	0	0	13	16
31. Glue & Gelatin	35	154	0	0	0	0
32. Agri. Machinery	21	32	3	41	7	218
33. Ind. Instruments	25	60	3	14	59	111
34. Dye Stuffs	0	0	5	51	9	30
35. Defence Industries	0	0	4	43	0	0
36. Maths, Survey, Drawing Insmt	1	0	0	0	1	0
37. Medical & Surgical Appl.	0	0	0	0	30	196
38. Boilers & Stem Gen Plants	0	0	0	0	27	110
Grand Total	29407	554361	2853	93326	6092	115678

IEMs=Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda

LOIs=Letters of Intents

FDIs=Foreign Direct Investment

Textile Industries

6682. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the detail of the Textile Industries located in Uttar Pradesh alongwith the items produced by these Industries;

(b) whether there is any plan to extent assistance

to textile mills in the State to increase the production and export to textile; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) There were 64 cotton/man-made fibre textile units in the State of Uttar Pradesh as on 28.2.97. The installed capacity of these mills were as under :

Item	Unit	Installed Capacity
1. Spindles	'000	1898
2. Rotors	No.	6072
3. Looms	No.	11567
4. No. of workers on rolls	No.	86000

The items produced by these mills include yarn & cloth of cotton, blended and 100% Non-cotton varieties.

(b) and (c) The Union Government had taken various steps in the past in the direction of increasing production of textiles in the country and export of textile, which are equally applicable to the State of Uttar Pradesh.

The Indian textile industry comprises of various segments, namely mill sector, powerloom, handloom etc. Depending on the needs of each segment of the industry, policy interventions involving formulation of financial and administrative steps by the government for various segments is a continuous process keeping in mind the broad objectives laid down in the Textile Policy 1985. The government have taken various steps from time to time to encourage textile production in each segment. These include :

Liberalisation of licensing provision; fiscal restructuring; permitting import of textile machinery under OGL; and reduction of custom duty on such imports; research and development activities; setting up of laboratories facilities; simplification of quota system; setting up of BIFR to inquire into working of sick industrial units, and to prepare and sanction as appropriate, scheme for revival of mills; reserving certain items for manufacture by handloom sector only; by way of running Powerloom Service Centres, Computer Aided Design Centres; improving quality of textile products and boost their value addition through various Textile Research Associations; removal of restrictions on the creation and expansion of capacity, subject only to locational guidelines; working on various programmes for the promotion on export of the

various segments of the Indian Textile Industry through various Export Promotion Councils under M/o Textiles; upgrading of testing facilities at the Textiles Committee and other Public Textile Laboratories to facilitate quick, affordable and reliable tests result to the exporters; and promoting quality consciousness among exporters to promote acceptability of Indian goods abroad.

Conditions Imposed on Import of Paper

6683. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has imposed actual user condition on import of newsprint in a bid to provide higher protection to domestic manufacturers;

(b) if so, the main reasons for imposing restrictions on newsprint import;

(c) whether domestic manufacturers has been complaining that they were not in a position to import cheap newsprint from abroad;

(d) if so, the details of objections/complaints received by the Government;

(e) whether his Ministry has consulted this issue with the concerned Ministries;

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

(g) the action taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of the domestic manufacturers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (g) Taking into consideration the representations received from indigenous newsprint manufacturers the Govt. has taken steps in consultation with the concerned Administrative Ministries, to safeguard their interest by imposing Actual User condition for import of newsprint with effect from 29.1.1997. The conditions of import by Actual Users were modified and made effective from 5th March, 1997. The copies of relevant Government's (Ministry of Commerce) Notifications No. 22/92-97 dated 29.1.97 and No. 24/92-97 dated 5.3.1997 are available in the Parliament Library.

Leather Research Institute, Dindigul

6684. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan to set

up a Leather Research Institute in Dindigul which is famous for Leather Products;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the total number of Leather Industries in the country, particularly in Dindigul.
- (e) the steps being taken to provide better facilities to leather exporters; and
- (f) the total turnover of leather products in the country, particularly from this area annually ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai, a constituent laboratory of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) which is about 400 Kms. away from Dindigul, as a National institute is already servicing the R&D and training needs of the leather industry in the country including that of Dindigul. The leather product manufacturing units and the industry in Dindigul is making good use of these services.

(d) Leather Industry is largely in the unorganised sector. There are about 1100 registered tanneries in the country (excluding job work units and cottage units) located in different parts of the country of which Tamil Nadu accounts for 53%. In addition, there are 1125 manufacturing-cum-exporting leather products units (excluding household sector and job work units). In Dindigul, there are 61 small scale tanneries of which 54 are working.

(e) Under the National Leather Development Programme, inter alia, technical and training assistance is being provided to the industries in the area of technology upgradation, organisation of investment and technology marts, etc. which facilitate exports.

(f) Leather industry is largely in the un-organised sector and hence information regarding turnover, production, etc. are based on estimates. As per one estimate, the total annual value of leather products, viz., leather footwear, leather goods, leather garments, saddlery, etc. in the country works out to Rs. 1,17,800 million. Contribution of Dindigul tanning industry for the production and export of leather is significant.

Difficulties in Trading with Iran

6685. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Difficulty in trading with Iran" appearing in 'The Week end Observer' dated May 3, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Indian exporters are actually facing difficulties in receiving their payments from Iran;

(d) if so, whether Export Credit Guarantee Corporation had been placed in high risk category and also post-shipment credit was not easily available against exports to Iran;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether this issue has been discussed with Iran Government by Federation of India Export Organisation International Committee; and

(g) if so, the details of issues discussed and the outcomes thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been reported by Federation of Indian Exports Organisations that Indian exporters are facing difficulties in receiving payments from Iran, availing post-shipment credit and facing problems in respect of other related banking facilities.

(c) One case of non-payment of export proceeds has been reported to Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC). No other specific instances of delayed payments under ACU mechanism have been reported to EXIM Bank in respect of proposals cleared by them and also to Ministry of Commerce.

(d) and (e) ECGC has placed Iran in Category 'C' in the four fold classification from A to D. A being the lowest risk Category and D being the highest risk category. The classification is based on economic/political risk rating, experience of ECGC/other insurers etc.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Handloom Societies

6686. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of handloom societies working in Maharashtra at present;

(b) the amount of financial assistance provided to these societies by the Government during the last two years; and

(c) the schemes under which the said assistance is being provided to the above societies and the details of the guidelines issued in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) At present 1755 Handloom Cooperative Societies are functioning in the State of Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) During the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 financial assistance of Rs. 9.18 crores and Rs. 4.27 crores has been provided under the following Handloom schemes :-

Project Package, Integrated Handloom Village Development, Hank Yarn Price Subsidy, Janata Cloth, Health Package, Handloom Development Centre, Market Development Assistance, Margin Money for Destitute Weaver, Workshop-cum-Housing and Jute Handloom Development Centre Scheme.

The pattern of financial assistance varies from scheme to scheme.

Trade with China

6687. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the two-way trade between India and China in 1996 was increased by 20.9 per cent in comparison to 1995;

(b) If so, whether India-China economic relations has decided to launch an Industrial and Technical Exhibition of India in Beijing;

(c) if so, whether the China Science and Technology Centre and Wisitex Foundation of India are jointly organising the exhibition;

(d) if so, whether his Ministry has allowed the

exhibition as a joint step to boost trade and industrial relations between the two countries; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the Indo-China trade during 1997-98 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The steps proposed to improve Indo-China trade during 1997-98 include holding of meeting of Indo-China Joint Economic Group on Economic Relations, trade, Science & Technology; increased participation in Trade Fairs to increase awareness in both countries and exposure of India's and China's technological capabilities to each others' traders; identification of items, technologies and sectors with scope for furthering exports and initiating appropriate policy initiatives, and disseminating information about China's import requirements to our exporters and vice versa.

[Translation]

Export of Oil Seeds

6688. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of oil seeds exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(b) whether oil seeds have also been imported during the above period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the total quantity of oil seeds imported and the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(d) the estimated quantum of oil seeds likely to be exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during 1997-98 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) The total quantity and value of Oilseeds exported and imported during the last three years are as follows :-

Quantity : in MTs.
Value : In Rs. Crores

Year	Export		Import	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1993-94	297907	263.49	4868	6.98
1994-95	1209698	256.41	4745	5.35
1995-96	228962	524.52	33249	36.17
1996-97 (April-Sept., '96)	84033	186.72	232	0.95

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Country-wise details of imports and exports are given in the monthly bulletin/annual numbers of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

Under the EXIM Policy, 1992-97, imports of oilseeds were canalised through the State Trading Corporation of India Limited and Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited. However, imports of oilseeds in a limited quantity have been made by the 100% EOUs and under the Duty Exemption Scheme mainly with the purpose of export of oilmeals manufactured out of the imported oilseeds.

(d) The export projections for the Ninth Five Year Plan including the year 1997-98 have not been formulated.

[English]

Import of Coffee to Contain Prices in Domestic Market

6689. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the retail price of coffee seeds/powder has gone up in the country particularly in Karnataka and Tamilnadu;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to import coffee to contain prices in the domestic market;

(d) if so, the total quantity proposed to be imported;

(e) whether there is any proposal to bring coffee under Essential Commodities Act, 1955;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, whether the Government propose to procure some quantity of coffee seeds from the planters compulsorily for supply to the Coffee Board;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Coffee Board to bring down coffee prices in the domestic market and supply coffee seeds powder through PDS to the general public in the country particularly in above States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to the rise in the prices of coffee in the international market, domestic prices of coffee seeds/powder have also increased throughout the country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) to (i) With the introduction of 100% Free Sale Quota to the Planters, at present there is no proposal to procure coffee seeds from the growers. Although Coffee Board continues to supply limited quantities of popular blends through its promotional outlets, the Board can not undertake the responsibility to supply coffee through the Public Distribution system.

Trade with Pakistan

6690. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of exports and imports between India and Pakistan made during 1996-97 upto March, 31, 1997 in comparison to each of the last three years, separately;

(b) whether there has been any decline in the foreign trade;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it has been decided that India and Pakistan should increase their direct trade to increase the SAARC share in the total trade of the South Asian countries;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Pakistan has shown willingness to reciprocate and allow her trade with India on a free and Most Favoured Nation basis; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The latest trade figures between India and Pakistan during 1996-97 as available upto February, 97 and figures for the corresponding periods during the previous three years are as given below :-

(Value in Rs. crores)			
Period	India's exports to Pakistan	India's Imports from Pakistan	Total trade
April 96-Feb. 97	511.12	124.38	635.50
April 95-Feb. 96	226.38	143.98	370.36
April 94-Feb. 95	159.65	156.52	316.17
April 93-Feb. 94	180.37	128.55	308.92

(Source : DGCI&S)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) To promote increased economic and commercial inter action in the SAARC region, member States of SAARC, including India and Pakistan have taken a number of steps which include exchange of tariff concessions, removal of non-tariff barriers, holding of trade fairs, simplification of customs procedures, improvement in transport and transit infrastructure in the SAARC region with the ultimate objective of establishing a Free Trade Area in the South Asian region by 2000 AD or at the latest by 2005 AD, of which both India and Pakistan would be beneficiaries.

(f) and (g) Pakistan has not formally responded to India's demarche for according MFN status to India.

Export of Sugar

6691.DR. T. SUBBARAMI RADDY :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :
SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be please : to state :

(a) whether India's export has suffered during the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Agriculture Processed and Export Development Authority has invited tenders for the export of sugar this year;

(d) if so, the response received by APEDA in this regard :

(e) whether not a single consignment has been shipped to the international market so far particularly to the Far East Asian countries and the Middle East countries which were the major markets for the Indian sugar earlier;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to remove the difficulties faced by the exporters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Indian exports during April-March 1996-97 are estimated at US\$ 33105.72 million which represent a growth of 4.01% over the export level valued at US \$ 31830.53 million for the same period in 1995-96.

(c) to (f) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority issued a Trade Notice on 25.4.97 inviting applications for issue of registration-cum-allocation certificate (RCAC) for export of 1,55,658 MTs of sugar. Till 12.5.97, 18 RCAC's for export of 51243.50 MTs of sugar to Pakistan, USA, European Union, Maldives and Canada have been issued. The export destinations of sugar would depend upon international prices, international demand and supply position, consumer preferences and other terms and conditions of trade.

(g) Facilitating exports including by the removal of difficulties faced by exporters, if any, is an ongoing process. As and when specific problems are brought to notice of the Government, remedial action is initiated.

MMTC Gold Plundered by Exporters

6692. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "1300 kg. gold plundered by exporters the Great MMTC RIPOFF-1" appeared in the 'Pioneer' dated March 12, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to curb such activities prevailed in MMTC and recovered the gold/amount from the exporters or from the official found their direct involvement in such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) MMTC supplied gold to jewellery units in EOUs/EPZs and in Domestic Tariff Area under the schemes of the Chapter VIII of the Exim Policy 1992-97. It has been reported by MMTC that out of 77355 kgs of gold supplied to the jewellery exporters since 1988-89 upto 15.11.96, 19 exporters in BOUs/EPZs have defaulted for 265 kgs and 4 exporters in DTA have defaulted for 36 kgs of gold under the schemes. The report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ending 31st March '96 has also reported that Foreign Exchange amounting to Rs. 57.65 crores remained unrealised in respect of Gem & Jewellery exports. Government has initiated action for verification of facts and for remedial measures. All these cases have also been referred to various investigating agencies including CBI, DRI and DGFT. MMTC has also initiated steps to take action against lapses by its officials, if any. To prevent reoccurrence of such incidents, the Government had appointed a high level committee in August '95 and the relevant recommendations made by this committee have also been implemented. Government had also appointed an Inter-Ministerial Group on 22.3.96 to oversee and take action against the exporters of gold jewellery who have committed irregularities. In order to further reduce the possibilities of misuse of facility under the schemes of Exim Policy, the Government has made a number of changes in the new Exim Policy (1997-2002) including furnishing of bank guarantee of 100% value of gold obligatory for exporters of gold jewellery.

Equity Participation of MMTC in KSSCL

6693. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sent any request to the Union Government for equity participation of Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation with Kerala State Salicylates and Chemicals Limited;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In 1995, Ministry of Commerce had received a proposal from State Government of Kerala regarding equity participation by MMTC with M/s. Kerala State Salicylates and Chemicals Ltd. (KSSCL) and marketing assistance to it for export of Salicylic Acid. The matter was taken up with MMTC who advised that they were in touch with M/s. KSSCL for export of Aspirin. MMTC had explored possibilities for exporting this product through its foreign offices which reported that as of now there was not adequate scope for export of Aspirin. MMTC do not consider this to be a commercially viable proposal.

Chief Justices of High Courts

6694. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of High Courts which have Chief Justices belonging to outside from their respective States as on date; and

(b) whether the Government propose to implement this policy in all the High Courts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) As on date, the High Courts of Allahabad, Andhra Pradesh, Bombay, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab & Haryana and Rajasthan are having Chief Justices from outside High Courts. The remaining 7 High Courts of Calcutta, Delhi, Gauhati, Gujarat, Madras, Patna and Sikkim are having acting Chief Justices at present.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Energy From Waste

6695. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to provide 50% of the project cost to set up a plant for generating energy from wastes;
- (b) if so, the guidelines in this regard;
- (c) whether a Seminar on energy from wastes was held in Ranchi during March, 1997;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Union Government for setting up such plants;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; location-wise;
- (g) the quantum of wastes is required to generate one MW of electricity; and
- (h) the sources thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Govt. of India in the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources have launched a "National Programme on Energy Recovery from Urban, Municipal & Industrial Wastes", with provision of various fiscal and financial incentives. The financial incentives include an investment subsidy of 50% of the promoter's direct equity stake in the project, subject to a maximum of Rs. 1 crore/MW, for projects for generating energy from urban, and industrial wastes. Guidelines for Waste to Energy projects are given in the attached Statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Seminar has created awareness amongst policy planners, Urban Local Bodies/ State Nodal Agencies, project developers/promoters, financial institutions & NGOs, about the potential and possibilities of generating energy from wastes and about the programme of this Ministry on "Recovery of energy from Urban and Industrial Waste."

(e) and (f) A 5MW power generating plant from the garbage of Chennai City costing Rs. 19.0 crores has been sanctioned by the Ministry. One project of 0.5 MW from a landfill site at Lucknow costing Rs. 6.1 crores and another project of 2 MW power generation from biogas at SOM

Distillery, Bhopal costing Rs. 14.07 crores, have been received by the Ministry for consideration.

(g) and (h) Depending upon composition of wastes, about 100-150 tonnes per day of Urban & Municipal waste is required to generate one MW of electricity. Industries, Urban Local Bodies, Municipal Authorities are the main sources of such wastes.

Statement

Guidelines for Waste to Energy Projects

1. The eligible promoter intending to avail the incentives under this scheme may submit initial profile as per prescribed format to MNES for information.
2. The promoter is free to select the financial institution and interact directly with them for loan/ lease finance. If so desired by the promoter, a Letter of Intent with stipulated conditions, if any, could be issued by MNES to enable him to negotiate with the financial institution for the loan.
3. The responsibility for obtaining all clearances from the local bodies/statutory authorities, if any, will rest with the promoter.
4. The choice of technology, suited for specific wastes or mix of wastes and/or certification of its suitability shall be sole responsibility of the promoter/investor.
5. The appraisal of the draft proposal/TEFR/DPR as carried out by the leading Financial Institution will be acceptable to this Ministry and will be considered by the Ministry under this scheme subject to the availability of funds. This Ministry may also undertake such appraisal independently, in-house or by associating consultants, wherever felt necessary.
6. After the project details have been finalised and the funding pattern has been tied up with financial institution (s), the promoter will forward his request on the prescribed format for grant of incentive(s) applicable under the scheme. On receipt of such requests, the case will be processed by the Govt. reserving the right to reject/negotiate with the promoters and/or the financial institution(s) to further improve upon the financial pattern so proposed for according

sanction to provide incentives. This Ministry further reserves the right to constitute a Monitoring Committee to review/monitor the performance or nominate its representative on the Board/Governing Body of the promoter's/investor's company as may be deemed appropriate.

7. The MNES may consider extending benefits under this scheme even for other innovative projects on the subject by applying one or all the elements of indicative incentives available under this scheme depending on specific need, justification and replication aspects of such projects.

National Programme on Energy Recovery from Urban, Municipal & Industrial Wastes

1. Goals and Objectives

The overall goals/objectives of the programme includes :

- (a) creation of conducive conditions & environment, with fiscal and financial regime to help, promote, develop, demonstrate, disseminate utilisation of wastes for recovery of energy and resources.
- (b) help improve the Waste Management Practices through adoption of renewable energy technologies for processing and treatment of wastes prior to disposal.
- (c) promote setting up of project(s) on recovery of energy from Urban, Municipal & Industrial sectors, utilising the waste/waste mix of renewable nature.

2. Duration :

The duration of the aforesaid programme is up to 31st March, 1998.

3. Geographical Coverage :

It shall cover all States & Union Territories of India.

4. Eligibility :

(a) Promoters

Private and public sectors, entrepreneurs/investors including NRIs, ULBs, Institutions, associations, individuals or group of individuals, etc. financially sound to make promoter's equity contribution (satisfying the criteria of financial institutions) and possessing technical capability to implement projects with improved waste management systems, would be eligible under the programme.

(b) Wastes

Any waste or specific mix of waste(s) of renewable nature from Urban, Municipal & Industrial sectors other than bagasse, spent wash to gaseous fuel, etc. and wastes/residues or its derivatives from conventional sources viz. Coal rejects, wood dust, dolochar, etc., is eligible to be utilised for energy recovery/power generation.

(c) Technologies

Any conversion technology like biomethanation, pelletisation, gasification, pyrolysis, incineration, sanitary landfilling etc. or their combination.

(d) Capacity

Waste to Energy in form : 15 TPD (output)
of Solid fuel

Waste to Energy in form : 50 cu.m/hour
of Gaseous fuel

Waste to Energy in form : 100 KWe.
of Electricity

Waste to Energy in : 100 Kwe. Equivalent
combined form

Note :

Some State Govts. Like U.P., M.P., T.N., Maharashtra & A.P. have also announced their policy guidelines for promoting Waste to Energy projects. The most attractive policy guidelines belong to UP which provide land on long term lease basis @ Rs. 1/- per sq.m./year, garbage free of cost at project site and power purchase @ Rs. 2.25/kwh.

National Programme on Energy Recovery from Urban, Municipal & Industrial Wastes

INCENTIVES

(a) Fiscal Incentives

- * Accelerated 100% depreciation.
- * Concessional custom duty on project import.
- * Wheeling, banking and third party sale of power (Minimum recommended rate for power being Rs. 2.25/unit with 5% escalation every year).
- * No excise duty on biogas generation from effluent treatment systems.

(b) Financial Incentives

Promoters

Interest Subsidy

- * Interest subsidy on the loan amount upto a maximum

of 10% on lending rate limited to Rs. 1 crore/MW payable on capitalised basis for the entire loan repayment period through the lead F1 to off-set the liability of the promoter.

Investment Subsidy

- * 50% of direct equity stack in the project cost limited to Rs. 1 crore/MW payable through the lead F1 or authorised/designated agency by MNES, in installments linked with progress.

For Site Clearance/Facilitations

- * @ Rs. 15.00 lakhs per MW equivalent to Municipal Corporations/Urban Local Bodies, subject to their coordinated actions for finalisation of all clearances/agreements with all concerned authorities for making land availability @ Rs. 1 per sq.m./annum for minimum lease period of 30 years, garbage availability free of cost at project site, power purchase/sale agreement payable upon commencement of the project work at site.
- * @ Rs. 5.00 lakhs per MW equivalent to state nodal agencies subject to their involvement in project generation/formulation/co-ordination/execution/evaluation, etc. payable upon commencement of the project work at site.

Financial Institution

- * A sum of 2% of the interest subsidy channelised through the lead F1, as services charges, payable to FIs/intermediaries subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.0 lakhs per project on reimbursement basis linked actual disbursement of loan amount.

For preparation of DPR/TEFR etc.

- * @ 50% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.0 lakhs to MC/ULB only subject to prior approval of this Ministry

Financial support for Demonstration project :

- * Financial support up to 50% on cost sharing basis limited to Rs. 3 crores/MW for setting up innovative demonstration project(s) on emerging technologies/package subject to prior approval of this Ministry for only one project per waste sector and on a different/new/emerging technology (including up-gradation/up-scaling of indigenous technologies to near commercial scale).

Financial support for Energy Recovery at sewage Treatment Plants (STPs)

- * Subject to prior approval, cost sharing up to 50% of the incremental capital cost of power generation system at STPs.
- * Up to 100% funding for Resource Assessment Studies, if felt necessary.
- * Up to 100% for specific and innovative R&D projects sponsored to Leading/Premier Research & Tech. Institutions.

SEBs

- * As applicable for all other NRSE power projects (vide No. 3/23/95-CPG dated 26.10.95), SEBs are eligible for the following incentives for the waste to energy projects :
 - * 25% of cost of equipment for inter-connection/evacuation facilities (max., Rs. 1.5 lakhs per MW of power evacuated).
 - * Cash incentives for power fed in to the grid.
- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| First 50 million units/year | – 5 p/unit |
| Next 100 million units/year | – 4 p/unit |
| Next 150 million units/year | – 3 p/unit |

Investment in Europe

6696.SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the experts have pointed that entrepreneurs of export oriented units should invest in joint ventures and marketing in Europe in order to ensure that they are not marginalised due to tariff and non-tariff barriers;

(b) if so, whether this Ministry has also studied the UNCTAD report on Russian investments;

(c) if so, whether according to the report the European Union has become the country's largest trade partner and it is time for the Indian companies which consider EU as their target market set up bases there;

(d) if so, whether Report also states that the Government should not hinder firms which are keen to invest in any region including Europe and there is no harm in permitting foreign exchange outgo on this account;

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(f) to what extent India has examined this report and has allowed exporters for setting up bases in EU ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of the UNCTAD's publication "Sharing Asia's Dynamism" on Asia's direct investment in the EU. European Union nations are economically important to India as India's largest trading partner. GOI keeps a watch on various tariff and non tariff barriers to India's exports to various destinations including Europe and necessary bilateral and multilateral consultations are made as and when necessary. As regards permitting overseas investments by export oriented units or other firms, especially in joint ventures and marketing in Europe, GOI's policies in this regard have been made liberal and Indian business and industry are encouraged to avail these facilities for increasing presence in those markets.

Agreement with SAIL

6697. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL :
SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. and Steel Authority of India have finalised a deal for supply of coking coal on long term basis;

(b) if so, the details of the deal finalised and implications thereof;

(c) the estimated requirement of coking coal by Steel sector at present and projection of demand for the next five years; and

(d) the details of coking coal production by CIL during 1996-97 for augmenting production during 1997-98 with order of investment and extent of imports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Agreement for supply of coking coal to Steel Authority of India Limited of long term basis is presently under negotiation between Coal India Limited (CIL) & Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).

(c) Planning Commission has assessed demand of raw coking coal for the steel sector including that for coke ovens for the year 1997-98 as 41.40 million tonnes. For the balance four years of the Ninth Five Year Plan, the projected demand of coking coal is in the process of being firmed up by the Planning Commission. However

provisional figures as indicated by the Working Group on Coal & Lignite for the Ninth Five Year Plan are as under :-

(million tonnes)			
1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
43.26	43.87	43.74	49.57

(d) The production of coking coal of metallurgical grade from CIL sources during 1996-97 was 18.57 million tonnes.

Steps taken/proposed to be taken by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) & Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) which are the main producers of coking coal to augment indigenous availability of coking coal are as under :-

- (i) Two new washeries at Madhuband (BCCL) and Kedla (CCL) in advanced stage of construction are likely to be commissioned during 1997-98.
- (ii) Increasing raw coking coal availability by reorganising existing mines and development of new mines.
- (iii) Modification of the existing coking coal washeries to improve the capacity utilisation as well as the quality of washed coking coal.
- (iv) Increasing raw coal feed to washeries by supplying low volatile medium coking coals of suitable quality.
- (v) Exploitation of coking coal by SAIL from captive mining block offered by CIL.

An Outlay of Rs. 134 crores as for BCCL and Rs. 245.13 crores for CCL has been provided in the Budget Estimate (BE) of 1997-98 for development of mines. Further a provision of Rs. 22 crores for BCCL and Rs. 22.50 crores for CCL has been made in 1997-98 for coking coal washeries.

As per Planning Commission, the imports of low ash coking coal for the year 1997-98 is likely to be of the order of 10.40 million tonnes.

Lok Adalats

6698. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of Lok Adalats and Legal aid Programmes in the country;

(b) the number of cases disposed of through Lok Adalats during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the amount of compensation paid through Lok Adalats, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) The Lok Adalats and Legal Aid Programmes have been provided a statutory base with the enforcement of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, as amended w.e.f. 9.11.1995.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected from the concerned State Legal Aid & Advice Boards and would be placed on the Table of the House when received.

Trade With Russia

6699. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether trade target set between India and Russia has been achieved during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the main reasons for decline in the trade;

(c) the details of products which have witnessed a fall in exports from India; and

(d) the steps being taken to boost the trade with Russia ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) During 1995-96, the target of trade turnover of Rs. 6000 crores was not only attained but surpassed with a total trade turnover of Rs. 6356 crores. During the first 11 months of 1996-97, Indo-Russian trade turnover has reached a level of Rs. 4487 crores which is 22.6% lower than the trade turnover during the corresponding period of previous year i.e. April-February, 1995-96. This decline has taken place mainly because of fall in exports of cashew and tea from India and fall in the imports of fertilizers, iron and steel and machinery from Russia. The fall in the export of cashew from India to Russia from Rs. 260.3 crores during April-February 1995-96 to Rs. 5.7 crores during April-February, 1996-97 has taken place because of effective measures taken by the Government to prevent switch of cashew which was earlier reported to have been largely diverted to third country destinations. The fall in tea

exports from Rs. 446.3 crores during April-February, 1995-96 to Rs. 179.1 crores during April-February 1996-97 can largely be attributed to the lower off take of tea by the Russian importers under the debt repayment mechanism caused by undue delay in rupee allocation for import of tea into Russia.

The Government has initiated effective measures for boosting Indo-Russian trade. These measures include encouraging consignment sales and opening of warehouses, broadbasing the basket of tradable goods, signing of Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs, impressing upon Russian Federation for early allocation of rupee funds, opening of Indian banks, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, enhancing the trade in the area of pharmaceuticals reduction of value addition norms from 100% to 75% in respect of certain hi-tech items including personal computers for export to Russia under the debt repayment route etc.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please listen to me.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Speaker, many people have died because of hunger in Orissa . . . (Interruptions) Firstly, issue of Orissa to be taken up . . . (Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that lakhs of people are starving and hundreds of people have died because of starvation . . . (Interruptions). We should not be so insensitive towards human beings . . . (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, hundreds and thousands of people are dying because of starvation. Large number of cattles have also died there . . . (Interruptions). The situation there is very horrible. The Government of Orissa is indifferent to such situation there . . . (Interruptions). I would like to request you to kindly permit me to raise the issue of Orissa . . . (Interruptions).

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Speaker, lakhs of people are dying because of starvation there . . . (Interruptions).

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, drinking water is also not there. In such a situation large numbers of cattles are dying . . . (Interruptions) People are not getting

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

job. . . (Interruptions) Different kind of diseases are break out there . . . (Interruptions).

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI (Gaya) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if all the Members will be on the legs then how we will get a chance to speak . . . (Interruptions).

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have become so insensitive towards human beings.

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Mr. Speaker, I have given notice of privilege. What action has been taken on that notice ? . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Let the papers be laid . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker : Please listen to me

[English]

So many of you came and met me in my Chamber. I said that today is the last day of the Session, so I will suspend the lunch hour and I will give chance to everybody, as far as practicable. What else do you want from me ? I am really very sad. If hundred of you stand up together, is it the way the Parliament would run ? You are not even allowing the Speaker to say something. I said, today is the last day and everybody will get the chance. The Prime Minister has an engagement and he has to go. I also have an engagement. But I have informed them that I would not be able to attend only to give you the chance. The Papers will be laid, the Prime Minister has an important submission to make. He has to go because the Prime Minister of a foreign country is here. Then we will not have lunch hour. Have patience. Everybody will get a chance, provided you behave properly and speak one by one.

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : My issue is related to breach of Privilege . . . (Interruptions).

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Speaker, first of all you take up the issue of orissa . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you not put on the

headphone to listen the interpretation if you do not understand my language ?

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : I have heard what you have said. I know English. You cannot question my knowledge about the language.

MR. SPEAKER : Have I not promised that I will give chance to everybody ? All right, you run the House, I am not going to run this House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, about the suspension of the lunch hour, my only request is that you may suspend the lunch hour and allow the Members to make their Zero Hour submission. But do not take any regular business during lunch hour because we utilise lunch hour in order to go for our Friday prayer. You may suspend the lunch hour for Zero Hour submissions but not for any regular business of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Banatwalla, I am confident that at least for today the Zero Hour will go till lunch time.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you not listen to me ? There is a limit.

I am quite confident that the Zero Hour will go till lunch time because I have the list with me. Being the last day of the Session, I am trying to accommodate everybody. Please behave yourselves.

12.08 hrs

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Review by the Govt. of the working of Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Ltd. Mangalore, and Annual Report of the Corporation for the year 1993-94 and for the year 1995-96 etc.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Chaturan Mishra, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Limited, Mangalore, for the year 1993-94.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Limited, Mangalore, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2065/97]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Limited, Mangalore, for the year 1994-95.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Limited, Mangalore, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2066/97]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Limited, Mangalore, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Limited, Mangalore, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2067/97]

Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance (Amendment) Scheme, 1966 and Employees' Provident Fund (Second Amendment) Scheme, 1966 as published in Notification No. GSR-24 and 25 in Gazette of India dt. 11 January, 1997

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 7 of the

Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 :-

- (i) The Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance (Amendment) Scheme, 1996 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 24 in Gazette of India dated the 11th January, 1997.
- (ii) The Employees' Provident Fund (Second Amendment) Scheme, 1996 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 25 in Gazette of India dated the 11th January, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2068/97]

Memorandum of Understanding between the Mazagaon Dock Ltd., Goa Shipyard Ltd. and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. for the year 1997-98

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, I beg to lay on the Table :-

A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions)

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Mazagon Dock Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2069/97]

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Goa Shipyard Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2070/97]

- (3) Memorandum of Understanding between the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2071/97]

Review of working and Annual Report of the Cement Corporation of India for the year 1995-96, Review and Annual Report of Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd., New Delhi for the year 1995-96

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

[Shri Murasoli Maran]

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Cement Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Cement Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2072/97]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2073/97]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :-

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Industry for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2074/97]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Cables Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Industry for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2075/97]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Andrew Yule and Company Limited and the

Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Industry for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2076/97]

A copy of Industrial Development Bank of India General Regulations (Amendment) Regulations, 1996 etc.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the Industrial Development Bank of India General Regulations (Amendment) Regulations, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. Advt./III/IV/154/96 (Extraordinary) in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 1996 under sub-section (4) of section 37 of the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2077/97]

- (2) A copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding withdrawal of an amount of Rs. 07.20 crores from the Contingency Fund of India.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2078/97]

Review and Annual Report of the British India Corporation Ltd., Kanpur for the year 1995-96; Annual Report and Review of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi for the year 1995-96 etc.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619a of Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the British India Corporation Limited, Kanpur, for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the British India Corporation Limited, Kanpur, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing

reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2079/97]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2080/97]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Jute Industries Research Association, Calcutta for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Jute Industries Research Association, Calcutta for the year 1995-96.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2081/97]

Annual Report and Review of Rampur Raza Library, Rampur for the 1992-93; Annual Report and Review of Asiatic Society, Calcutta for the year 1992-93; Review and Annual Report of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal for the year 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN R.) : Sir, on behalf of Shri S.R. Bommai, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rampur Raza

Library, Rampur, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, for the year 1992-93.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2082/97]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, for the year 1992-93.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2083/97]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, for the year 1993-94.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2084/97]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Public Library, Delhi, for the year 1991-92, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Delhi Public Library, Delhi, for the year 1991-92.

[Shri Dhanushkodi Athithan R.]

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2085/97]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Allahabad Museum Society, Allahabad, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Allahabad Museum Society, Allahabad, for the year 1994-95.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2086/97]
- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, for the year 1994-95.
- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2087/97]
- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Calcutta, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Calcutta, for the year 1993-94.
- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2088/97]

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya Bhopal, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya Bhopal, for the year 1994-95.

- (16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2089/97]

- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya Bhopal, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya Bhopal, for the year 1995-96.
- (18) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (17) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2090/97]
- (19) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 14 of the National Commission of Women Act, 1990 :-
- (a) (i) Annual Report of the National Commission for Women, New Delhi, the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Action taken Report on the Annual Report of the National Commission for Women, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.
- (b) Review of the Government of the working on the National Commission for Women, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.
- (20) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (19) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2091/97]

(21) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 17 of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 :-

(i). The National Commission for Women (Salaries, Allowances and other Terms and Conditions of Service of Group 'A' and Group 'B' Officers) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 41 in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 1997.

(ii) The National Commission for Women (Salaries, Allowances and other Terms and Conditions of Service of Group 'C' and Group 'D' Employees) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 42 in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2092/97]

(22) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Public Library, Delhi, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Delhi Public Library, Delhi, for the year 1993-94.

(23) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (22) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2093/97]

(24) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, for the year 1993-94.

(25) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (24) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2094/97]

(26) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and

English versions) of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.

(27) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (26) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2095/97]

(28) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91.

(29) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (28) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2096/97]

(30) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1991-92.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1991-92, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1991-92.

(31) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (30) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2097/97]

[Shri Dhanushkodi Athlithan R.]

(32) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93.

(33) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (32) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2098/97]

(34) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1993-95.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.

(35) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (34) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2099/97]

(36) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Samath, for the year 1992-93.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Samath, for the year 1992-93, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Samath, for the year 1992-93.

(37) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (36) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2100/97]

(38) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, for the year 1991-92, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, for the year 1991-92.

(39) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (38) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2101/97]

(40) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, for the year 1994-95.

(41) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (40) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2102/97]

(42) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96.

(43) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing

reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (42) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2103/97]

Notification Under Section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : Sir, on behalf of Shri G. Venkatraman Tindivanam, I beg to lay on the Table :-

(1) A copy of each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of Section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

- (i) G.S.R. 65(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th February, 1997 approving the Cochin Port Employees (Festival Advance) Regulations, 1997.
- (ii) G.S.R. 134(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 1997 approving the Mangalore Port Trust Employees' (Classification, Control and Appeal) Amendment Regulations, 1997.
- (iii) G.S.R. 135(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 1997 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1997.
- (iv) G.S.R. 136(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 1997, approving the New Mormugao Port Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1997.
- (v) G.S.R. 158(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 1997, approving the Mormugao Port Employees' (Temporary Service) Amendment Regulations, 1997.
- (vi) G.S.R. 157(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 1997, approving the Tuticorin Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1997.
- (vii) G.S.R. 162(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 1997, approving the adoption of the Tuticorin Port Employees' (Grant of advance for building of houses)

Regulations, 1997.

- (viii) G.S.R. 160(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 1997, approving the Vikashapatnam Port Employees' (Classification, Control and Appeal) Eleventh Amendment Regulations, 1997.
- (ix) G.S.R. 163(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 1997, approving the Tuticorin Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1997.
- (x) G.S.R. 133(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 1997, approving the Mormugao Port Employees' (Contributory Medical Benefits After Retirement) Amendment Regulations, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2104/97]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for the Training of Highway Engineers, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for the Training of Highway Engineers, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2105/97]

- (4) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Cochin Shipyard Limited and the Ministry of Surface Transport for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2106/97]

Annual Report, Annual Accounts, Review of the working of the Government of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, Kochi for the year 1995-96 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALA CHARI) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Bolla Buli Ramaiah, I beg to lay on the Table :-

[Dr. S. Venugopala Chari]

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, Kochi for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Marine Productions Export Development Authority, Kochi for the year 1995-96, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, Kochi for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2107/97]

- (2) A copy of the Audit Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pool Fund Accounts of the Coffee Board for the year 1994-95
 - (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2108/97]
- (4) A copy of the Audit Report (Hindi and English versions) of the General Fund Accounts of the Coffee Board for the year 1995-96
 - (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2109/97]

Annual Report, Review of the working of Coal Mines Family Pension and the Coal Mines Deposit Linked Insurance Schemes for the year 1994-95 alongwith Audited Accounts etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coal Mines Provident Fund, Coal Mines Family Pension and the Coal Mines Deposit linked Insurance Schemes, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coal Mines Provident Fund the Coal Mines Family Pension and the Coal Mines Deposit Linked Insurance Schemes for the year 1994-95.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2110/97]

[Translation]

Annual Report and Review of the working of National Dairy Development Board for the year 1995-96 and statement showing reasons for delay in laying the papers etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : ON behalf of Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Dairy Development Board for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Dairy Development Board for the year 1995-96.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2111/97]

Annual Report, Annual Accounts and Review of the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad for the year 1995-96 and Statement showing reasons for delay in laying the papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and

English versions) of the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad for the year 1995-96, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, for the year 1995-96.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2112/97]

Annual Report and Review of the working of Visvesvaraya Regional College of Engineering, Nagpur for the year 1995-96; Annual Report, Review of the Working of the Technical Teachers' Training Institute, Madras for the year 1995-96 etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN R.) : On behalf of Shri Muhi Ram Saikia I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Visvesvaraya Regional College of Engineering, Nagpur, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Visvesvaraya Regional College of Engineering, Nagpur, for the year 1995-96.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2113/97]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Technical Teachers Training Institute, Madras, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts..

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Technical Teachers Training Institute, Madras, for the year 1995-96.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2114/97]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow, for the year 1995-96.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2115/97]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Karnataka Regional Engineering College, Surathkal for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Regional Engineering College, Surathkal for the year 1995-96.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2116/97]

- (9) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Visva Bharati, Shantiniketan, for the year 1995-96, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2117/97]

[Shri Dhanushkodi Athithan R.]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Regional College of Engineering and Technology, Surat, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Regional College of Engineering and Technology, Surat, for the year 1995-96.

- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2118/97]

- (13) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2119/97]

- (15) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Assam University, Silchar, for the year 1995-96, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2120/97]

- (17) (a) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2121/97]

- (b) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of

Technology, Kanpur, for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2122/97]

- (18) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 23 of the Indian Institute of Technology Act, 1961 :

- (i) Annual Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, together with an Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2123/97]

- (ii) Annual Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, for the year 1995-96, together with an Audit Report thereon.

- (19) Two Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (17) and (18) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2123A/97]

- (20) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Board of Apprenticeship Training, Kanpur, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Board of Apprenticeship Training, Kanpur, for the year 1995-96.

- (21) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (20) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2124/97]

- (22) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for the year 1995-96, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (23) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (22) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2125/97]

(24) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Educational Consultants India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Educational Consultants India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(25) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (24) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2126/97]

(26) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95, together with an Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.

(27) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (26) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2127/97]

(28) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94, together with an Audit Report thereon.

(29) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (28) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2128/97]

(30) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi for the year 1995-96.

(31) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (30) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2129/97]

(32) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur, for the year 1995-96.

(33) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (32) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2130/97]

(34) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Regional Engineering College, Jalandhar, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Regional Engineering College, Jalandhar, for the year 1995-96.

(35) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (34) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2131/97]

(36) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Engineering College, Warangal, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Engineering College, Warangal, for the year 1994-95.

[Shri Dhanushkodi Athithan R.]

- (37) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (36) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2132/97]

- (38) Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti for the year 1995-96 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2133/97]

Statement Correcting the reply given on 2.12.93 to USQ No. 29 regarding TADA cases in Jammu and Kashmir and reasons for delay in correcting the reply.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : On behalf of Shri S.R. Balasubramoniyam I beg to lay on the Table :-

A statement (Hindi and English versions) (i) correcting the reply given on the 2nd December, 1993 to Unstarred Question No.29 by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri Shankersinh Vaghela regarding TADA cases in Jammu and Kashmir and (ii) giving reasons for delay in correcting the reply.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2134/97]

Notifications Under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 etc.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : On behalf of Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 :-
- (i) G.S.R. 189(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 11/97-Cus., dated the 1st March, 1997.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 217(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain

amendments in the Notification No. 11/97-Cus., dated the 1st March, 1997.

- (iii) G.S.R. 129(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th March, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 13/97-Cus., dated the 1st March, 1997.
- (iv) G.S.R. 130(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th March, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 49/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2135/97]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of Customs Tariff Act, 1975 :-

- (i) G.S.R. 190(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on 8-Hydroxy-quinoline exported from the People's Republic of China into India by the specified exporters mentioned in the notification.
- (ii) G.S.R. 232(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti dumping duty when originating in or exported from the United States of America, Thailand or Republic of Korea at the specified rates mentioned in the notification.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2136/97]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944 :-

- (i) G.S.R. 131(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking the movement of mineral oil products without payment of duty from Kandla to Bhatinda by pipeline.
- (ii) G.S.R. 218(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 1997 together with an

explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 4/97-CE, dated the 1st March, 1997.

- (iii) G.S.R. 219(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt specified goods manufactured by a hundred per cent export oriented undertakings or units in an export processing zone and allowed to be sold in India from so much of the duty or excise leviable thereon.

- (iv) G.S.R. 220(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in certain Notifications mentioned therein.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2137/97]

12.11 hrs.

[English]

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 14th May, 1997 agreed without any amendment to the Rice-Milling Industry (Regulation) Repeal Bill, 1997 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st February, 1997."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 115 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 15th May, 1997 agreed to the following amendments made by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st February, 1997 in the Seamen's Provident Fund (Amendment) Enacting Formula.

1. Page 1, line 1. -

for "Forty-seventh" substitute "Forty-eighth".

Clause 1

2. Page 1, line 4, -

for "1996" substitute "1997".

12.12 hrs.

[English]

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

MR. SPEAKER : The Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House in their Third Report presented to the House on 15th May, 1997 have recommended that leave of absence from the sittings of the House be granted to the following Members for the period mentioned against each :

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Shri Pradeep Jaiswal | 20.02.97 to 06.03.97 |
| 2. Shri Mohammad Shahabuddin. | 20.02.97 to 21.03.97 |
| | 21.04.97 and 22.04.97 |
| | and |
| | 30.04.97 to 16.05.97 |

It is the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee be granted ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : Leave is granted. The Members will be informed accordingly.

12.13 hrs.

[English]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Eighteenth Report

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) : I beg to present the Eighteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy on the subject "Rural Electrification-Problems, Realities and Achievements."

12.13½ hrs.

[English]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

Seventh and Eighth Report

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA (Amritsar) : I beg to present the following Reports (English and Hindi versions) of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution :-

- (1) Seventh Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Fifteenth Report of the Committee on the subject of "Sugar".
- (2) Eighth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Seventeenth Report of the Committee on the subject of "Edible Oils."

12.14 hrs.

[English]

PETITION RE : DOWNGRADING OF PAY SCALE OF ENGINEERING EMPLOYEES OF AIR AND DOORDARSHAN

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : I beg to present a petition signed by Shri P.N. Kohli, President, Association of Radio & Television Engineering Employees, Post Box 422, New Delhi and others regarding downgrading of Pay Scales of Engineering Employees of AIR and Doordarshan, as a result of recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission.

12.14½ hrs.

[English]

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

RE: Ninth SAARC Summit, Male

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : I have the honour to present before the House a *Suo Motu* Statement on my participation in the 9th Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation which was held in Male from May 12-14, 1997.

Cooperation amongst the 7 Member States of SAARC has been increasing in recent years and the Summit further exemplified the strength of the Association.

For the information of Hon. Members, I would like to summarise the principal development at the Summit :

An earlier decision of SAARC was to work for a South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) preferably by the year 2000 but in any case before 2005 AD. The 9th Summit has now agreed that SAFTA should be realised by the year 2001, thus advancing the final target year by four years. This is an important decision which reflects the growing sentiment among the Member countries to consolidate economic interaction speedily.

Another significant step was the decision to set up a Group of Eminent Persons in order to develop a long range vision for the SAARC. There was general agreement amongst the Heads that SAARC was now in a position to strengthen its activity in core economic sectors, for which an agenda should be developed.

The question of sub-regional cooperation in South Asia came up. Prior to the Summit, some differences of opinion had been expressed on the appropriate relationship between sub-regional cooperation and the regional structure of SAARC. Whereas our preference from the start was that projects for sub-regional cooperation should be developed within the SAARC, as specifically provided for under Article 7 of the Charter, some other countries had initially felt that it was better to keep sub-regional efforts outside the SAARC.

Happily, the issue was resolved of the complete satisfaction of all parties by agreeing that specific projects for sub-regional cooperation would be developed and processed through the Secretariat and endorsed inter-governmentally through established processes of SAARC prior to their implementation. This has made it possible for a number of useful projects involving some but not all of the members, including a quadrilateral initiative involving Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal based on a Nepalese proposal, to be developed in a manner that will enhance the flexibility and strengthen the functioning of the SAARC.

Particular emphasis was placed at the Summit on the problems faced by women and girl child in the society, particularly the girl children in especially difficult circumstances. It was decided that the decade 2000-2010 would be designated as the 'SAARC Decade for the Rights of the Child'. SAARC will also pay particular attention to the

evil of trafficking in women and children.

SAARC activities in the area of education will be expanded to cover Distance Education, and the facilities of Open University and Distance Education institutions will be expanded across the region with the possibility of the formation of a Consortium of Open Universities.

Important initiatives were taken in the field of environment, and included such aspects as developing common minimum standards for air and water pollution, trans-boundary bio-diversity conservation and evolving a SAARC Convention on Prevention of Illegal Trafficking in Flora and Fauna. SAARC Environment Ministers will henceforth meet annually in view of the importance of this area of cooperation.

The process of progressive relaxation of visa requirements for inter-SAARC travel continued and a number of new categories would henceforth be exempted. These include all Cabinet members of the SAARC countries, heads of the NGO apex bodies and a number of others.

In order to promote cooperation among the professional organisations and voluntary groups across the SAARC region, it was agreed to create a new category of 'SAARC recognised bodies', which will enable such groups to come together for coordinated action with the SAARC Secretariat playing a supportive and encouraging role. This decision will facilitate creating of new channels of region-wide cooperation and people to people contacts.

It was agreed that the third meeting of Finance and Planning Ministers, in the context of the SAARC mechanism overseeing the progress in poverty eradication of the region, will be held shortly. In the current year, specific attention would be paid on participation of the target groups in the formulation and implementation of poverty eradication programmes, and 1997 has been designed the "SAARC Year for Participatory Governance."

I wish to emphasise that the member States' approaches at the Summit were very positive and constructive, which augurs well for the future of SAARC. There is a strong desire among member States to enrich the work of SAARC and strengthen it every day.

In view of the growing climate of close cooperation, it was also decided that informal political consultations amongst the SAARC leaders would be useful.

One of the related positive features of the SAARC Summits is the opportunity it offers Heads of States or

Governments, and Foreign Ministers to have exchanges towards strengthening bilateral relationship amongst themselves. I had meetings with all other Heads of State and Governments at the Summit in a most cordial spirit.

My meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has attracted a great deal of attention. I was glad at the opportunity to meet him and to discuss our bilateral relations. This represents an initial step in our efforts to develop structured dialogue between our two countries, which has been unfortunately missing from the agenda for the last several years. We were able to agree that our Foreign Secretaries should meet once again in the near future, in order to work out all aspects on the basis of which the dialogue can go ahead. We also agreed on a number of other useful measures such as installation of a hotline, the release of fishermen held by the two sides and the need to ease travel restrictions. Both sides will take steps to curb hostile propaganda if any and statements that may strain bilateral relations.

My meeting with the Prime Minister of Nepal reaffirmed the close friendship between our two countries. It was agreed that I should visit Nepal at an early date, probably in the first few days of the coming month. Similarly my meeting with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh was most friendly. Relations between our two countries have developed extremely well and we have greatly strengthened our mutual cooperation. We reviewed the implementation of the landmark water sharing treaty which has been implemented successfully through the first dry season of its duration, despite an unanticipated water shortage in the river.

I greatly welcomed the opportunity by talk to His Majesty the King of Bhutan, who is a great friend to India. He chose to transit through New Delhi on his return home and I had a further opportunity of meeting him during his stop over.

Similarly, I greatly valued the opportunity of renewed contacts with Her Excellency the President of Sri Lanka. We were able to exchange views on a number of issues. We look forward to the next SAARC Summit which would be hosted by Sri Lanka next year, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary of Independence.

Finally I had a very friendly meeting with our host, His Excellency President Gayoom of Maldives. I was glad to have the opportunity of visiting Indian cooperation projects in Male, a hospital and training institute, which are both doing well.

[Shri I. K. Gujral]

This brief review will, I hope, bring home the fact that on the whole, we enjoy excellent relations with our neighbours in the region. Where problems persist, we have embarked on a process which, I am confident, will yield results in the future.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar-Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the honourable Prime Minister give statement regarding Rent Control Act . . . (Interruptions).

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you. Why do you not have patience when I have repeatedly told you that I am going to give you a chance ? Will you not allow me to say something in favour of the Members ?

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people in Orissa are dying of starvation . . . (Interruptions) If you would have taken this matter earlier, we would have got the Prime Minister's reply . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

Mr. Speaker : I have also received a request saying that those Members who had given notices under Rule 377 and did not get their chance because of the ballot, they should be allowed, today being the last day, to raise it. I have gone through this. We have a precedent that shows that this had been done in the past. Unfortunately, we have got 50 notices with us. I am going to impose one condition. Those who have already raised Matters Under Rule 377 during this week, will not be allowed to do so. I do not think that everybody will be present here. Those who want to raise Matters Under Rule 377 and given notice already but did not get a chance, may please send their names to the Table Office. Whosoever has given a notice, will get a chance.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Since three-four years a population of 25 lakhs of four districts

of Orissa-Bolangeer, Kalahandi, Dhankanal and Koraput have come close to the starvation. On One hand, they are suffering from natural calamity and on the other the negligence of the state Govt. and the indifferent attitude of the Central Government, consequently a large number of youth has left their homes leaving their aged parents alone. No arrangement of food has been made for them. A team of the Members of Parliament headed by Shri Krishan Lal Sharma, Convenor had gone to visit the Orissa. After that I had also gone to see the situation. You can't imagine that any living person can live in such a situation. When we go there, a crowd of people appearing to be skeletons, came and touched our feet because they fear they would die of starvation. Several requests have been made to the State Government. Our Ex-Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda himself gave this assurance in the House that he would provide special assistance to Orissa. But he says that state Government is not utilising it. In view of the starvation in the state it seems that there is a need to provide some more assistance. Hon'ble Prime Minister is present in the house. I request him and I also request hon'ble leader Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji to put the complete picture of the situation before the house. We want that the Prime Minister should not only give the assurance but also state the specific amount of assistance he will provide for Orissa. If the state Government is not utilising the full amount, will the Central Government give strict instructions to Orissa where people in the four districts of Orissa have reached to the doors of death due to starvation ?

When one of our delegation met the hon'ble Prime Minister, we had asked him that if the state Government pays no heed, he himself should visit the Orissa and see the plight of the people there. Lakhs of people, there are living a dead life. Our government should in no way be indifferent towards them, the foremost duty of the Prime Minister and the Central Government.

[English]

SHRI PINAKI MISRA (Puri) : When a reference has been made to the State Government, I would like to clarify. Just give me 30 seconds . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi) : Sir, my notice is also there, on the same subject.

SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Sir, the BJP delegation had gone there. Why had the BJP delegation gone to Orissa after five years, we all know. We do not want to elaborate on that. The fact of the matter is that after five to six years . . . (Interruptions).

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, why is he objecting to the BJP delegation going there ?

SHRI PINAKI MISRA : If you do not mind, I have not objected to it . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

Politics of vote will not do.

[English]

Several times a reference has been made in this House . . . (Interruptions).

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Sir, There is a notice of Krishan Lal ji, Please allow him to speak. He has not even given the notice.

[English]

SHRI PINAKI MISRA : The difficulty is of the State Government . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think, he has made any allegation for anything. It is one of the facts.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Sir, which aspersions I have cast. These people want to play politics on deads. They don't even know to speak the language of the house.

SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Do'n't teach me the language . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Sir, I have also given a notice on the same subject. I will take only one minute . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I think, it is enough.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PINAKI MISRA : The Chief Minister of Orissa had come and met the hon. Prime Minister. Our difficulty has been there about the severe drought situation. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is concerning his State.

SHRI PINAKI MISRA : The State Government had

given a proposal to the Central Government that they needed about Rs. 550 crore to meet the drought situation. Then the Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda had paid a visit to the State and he declared that he would give Rs. 550 crore. Now, the difficulty that the State Government is having is that the Prime Minister had said on the floor of the House that 'they will need Rs. 450 crore.' Unfortunately, this Rs. 450 crore is a part of the Budget allocation. There is nothing as *ex-gratia* which the State Government is expecting because of the unprecedented drought.

Mr. Speaker : I think, it is all right.

SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Sir, because of the unprecedented drought, we need an *ex-gratia* . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Everybody is discussing about Bihar, U.P. and Orissa.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the Prime Minister will reply now. Yes, Mr. Prime Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you want to interrupt when the Prime Minister is about to speak ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order please, otherwise, we would not be able to complete.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : We have gone there. It should be known to us as to what are they going to do. That is all.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : Sir, I have heard with great respect, what my friends have pointed out regarding situation in some parts of Orissa. During my last visit to Orissa, I had discussed the issues with the Chief Minister and his officers. We have gone into the whole details. I have assured the Orissa Government, and I can repeat it here, that no such programme will suffer for lack of funds. I have already undertaken that. We know that last time, allocations could not be distributed and a part of it could not be utilised due to lack of infrastructural activities. So, I have assured the Chief Minister that if there was such a situation, the relief problem, the Government

[Shri I. K. Gujral]

of India was willing to finance, even to the extent of creating of infrastructure.

Therefore, on this basic issue, our stand is very clear. It is a human issue. I do not look at it in terms of parties, I look at it in terms of human sufferers. Whatever the Government of India can do, it will do its best.

The delegation of the hon. Members had met me and I have assured them that I would definitely try to find time and visit myself to the suffering areas.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : All the hon. Members are agitated about the Members' facilities and privileges as recommended by the Antulay Committee Report. We would like to hear the Prime Minister about it. He is here now. We would like to hear him. Please ask him to intervene . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : All are quiet now.

AN HON. MEMBER : Let us here some good news on the last day.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : I am very much aware of the feelings of the hon. Members about the revision of some rules. I include the hon. Member also in that ! . . . (Interruptions) My friend Shri Sharad Pawar was saying that I must mention his name; I am mentioning his name. He has been very much concerned about it. I am well-aware of this. I assure the House that I will see what I can do . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Some concrete assurance is required. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called him. You will get your chance. Why are you not having patience ? I told you that up to 2 o'clock it will go on and every will get a chance.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, Chaubeyji, this is not the way.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have the privilege motion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have raised the privilege issue yesterday also. You cannot raise the same privilege issue everyday. It is under my consideration. I will look into it.

I have to take a decision. It is with me.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Speaker Sir, It was not raised, Nothing has been said on my notice. I had not been allowed to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Your privilege notice is with me at the moment. The file has come to me. I will take a decision accordingly.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : the Railway Minister wants to say one sentence.

12.33 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Re: Correcting the Budget speech given while introducing the Railway Budget for 1997-98

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was mentioned on page 17 para 47(c) of part-1 of my budget speech delivered while presenting the Budget on 26.2.97 in the Lok Sabha that the survey for doubling the line from Dehri on Sone to Jadunathpur via Banjari would be started.

I am sorry that the above information is found to be incorrect. In fact this should be read as follows :

Para 47(c) – The work for updating the survey for new line from Dehri-on-sona to Jadunathpur via Banjari will be started.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, is privilege treated like this ?

MR. SPEAKER : Privilege is treated like this, speaker takes the decision.

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : You have given chance to them, who have given the notice of privilege . . . (Interruptions) You are ignoring me. It is improper to

ignore a Member. All the Members except me are being permitted to speak in the House it should be considered. This is my privilege.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this ? I told you that the file has reached me. I am looking into it. What else do you want ? I cannot allow this to be like this. There is process to go through

(Interruptions)

12.34 hrs.

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given the notice of privilege. I was not given chance to speak in the House yesterday, why I am not being allowed now.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, it is not allowed today. We have started the Zero Hour submissions.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : No, I want to know. I want I may be listened today. Am I not being given the chance as it is against the Prime Minister . . . (Interruptions). When Mr. Gandhi was Prime Minister a matter was sent to the Privilege Committee in this House. You too belong to her party . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. What you are saying is not going on record. Take your seat, please.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not going on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do you waste your time ? Why do you waste the time of the House ? It is not going on record. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not allowed. Please understand

* Not Recorded

this. The Hon. Speaker has not allowed that. We have now started the Zero Hour submissions. Please take your seat. Do not waste your energy. This is not going on record. It is closed.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not shout like this. This is not fair.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should respect the House and the other Hon. Members also. We have already started the Zero Hour. A ruling has already been given. You cannot question the ruling of the Chair. Please understand that a ruling has been given in this matter. Kindly take your seat. I am not allowing you. A ruling has been given by the Chair. You cannot question that. There is no question of reopening it. I am not going to reopen that. The decision that the Hon. Speaker has taken will not be reopened. Kindly take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jos, this is Zero Hour. There is no point of order during Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolgpur) : Sir, there are very responsible leader present in the Opposition. I would request them to please restrain him . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are wasting the time of the House. You do not have the permission of the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSAGAR (Barabanki) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I should be listened. I have rights to speak here . . . (Interruptions). I would like to request to the House that public and their representatives have fundamental rights to stage Dharna peacefully and to attract the attention of Government, if there is any atrocity. Sir, the leaders and workers of Samajwadi Party are harrassed in U.P. They are killed . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him finish in a minute. He has been allowed. Please do not interrupt. We are allowing everybody today. There is a list before me.

* Not Recorded

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSAGAR : Atrocities are committed there on Dalit Society. Our M.L.A. in Hardoi district . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad) : Sir, He is wrong. The matter is connected with state. It should be raised there. . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, it is a State subject. I think, you have completed. Take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would request Hon. Members who are standing in the aisle to go back to their seats.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSAGAR : Sir, Shri Dharmaj Mishra, M.L.A. of our party and 22 others staged a 'Dharna' for the atrocities in district Hardoi . . . (Interruptions). He and his people were sent to jail and all the persons were prosecuted. They are facing atrocities in Jail. This is the situation in U.P. I want to submit through you that D.G.P., U.P. has said . . . (Interruptions) corruption is prevalent there. Districts and police stations are sold there. And hence we see a large number of incidents of atrocities in the state. Atrocities on the workers of Samajwadi Party should be prevented and they should be released and the cases against them should be withdrawn.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats. I am on my legs. We have started the Zero Hour. You have not given notice.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do you stand up like this ? It is basically a State subject. Normally, such matters are not allowed but since the hon. Speaker had allowed you, you have made your point. No other hon. Member would be allowed to elaborate on that. He has completed his submission. I am going to call the names of the hon. Members from the long list.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. You need not deny that.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is

levelling allegations and his statement is false . . . (Interruptions). Please give an opportunity to me also to speak . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You need not deny that. Will you allow me to call the names according to the list ? Shri Katiyar, please do not try to deny it. He has completed his submission. We are not going to have a debate on that subject. If you are going to reply to him, then the discussion would continue. Please do not create a situation like that. He has completed his submission; and we are moving on to the next item. Without giving your name earlier, please do not try to speak now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Speaker, I want just to say that murders, thefts and dacoities are committed through his agents and not allowing the Government to function smoothly . . . (Interruptions). He is interrupting here also and is daily giving false statement like this . . . (Interruptions). Mr. Speaker why he is raising it here, it is a matter of the state.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has made the point. I am going to call all the Hon. Members.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please understand that you have made your point, Shri Ram Sagar that is on the record; you should be satisfied with that. Please understand that. All the Hon. Members who have given their names will be called.

[Translation]

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH (Aonla) : Mr. Speaker, I also have given notice on this subject.

SHRI RAMSAGAR : Mr. Speaker, I was submitting.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will call you. Why do you not listen? Please take your seats. Shri Ram Sagar, no further submission is necessary; you have completed. I am going to call those Hon. Members who have given their names, one by one. Please avail this opportunity.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Katiyar, Please do not do like this. This is too much.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Surendra Yadav, you please finish your speech in one minute.

[English]

There are so many names of the hon. Members here. Please complete it as quickly as possible.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA YADAV (Khalilabad) : Hon. Chairman Sir, my Parliamentary Constituency is Khalilabad and its areas are destroyed and ruined almost every year by the flood havoc of Ghaghra, Rapti, Kunai, Amy, Kathinaiya rivers etc. The Government shows its concern towards flood affected villages only after the havoc of flood. If the Central and State Government prepare any scheme after taking concrete steps of control the flood and implement them vigorously well in time then the flood affected villages could have been saved from destroying.

During the flood season the residents of many villages like Kharagpur, Gajghat, Khalipurva, Mikharipur, Narayanpur, Jagdishpur, Rampur etc. which are situated on the bank of Bahrari Madraha dam of Ghaghra river and of villages Badya thather, Visum purva, Jarva, Bailali etc. which are situated on the bank of Karmaini - Bailali dam of Rapti river are not able to sleep in the nights they are feared that these dams may break out at any time and all the villages may be submerged in flood waters and they may lost their lives and property. More than half area of Bailali Village has already submerged in the stream of Rapti river. Narayanpur Village has also been ruined due to Cracks in dam. But the Administration could not make any arrangements to resettle the affected villagers permanently and neither any housing scheme has been checked out by the District Administration. No scheme for dam etc. has been prepared for the flood affected people of Kuani, Amy Kathinaiya rivers since independence till date. Compensation for the land acquired for the constructions of dams on the banks of Rapti and Ghaghra has not been paid fully so far.

I request the Government that full security of dams

may be ensured well in time before the havoc of flood and thoker, rump etc. may be built well in time and dams should be more strengthened so that the people of flood affected areas can get the transport facility there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the sailors and other people, engaged in flood relief work do not get their wages years together and now they are reluctant to participate in relief work. The sailors save the lives or villagers by taking the risk of their lives. But now they are being neglected. Their interests should be looked into. A link road should be constructed to link it with the main road by raising the level of villages of flood areas.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not read it out. Please listen. You may put it in one or two sentences. Please do not read it out. The time given is for making a submission and so, please do not read out your statement here.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : All the names are in the list. If you allow, we can complete the list quickly.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have also given the notice.

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI (Gaya) : I also want to speak.

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD : Mr. Chairman, Sir I want to draw the attention of the House through you towards the flood affected areas of Uttar Pradesh. As Earlier to me the hon. Members were mentioning that the river starts to get flooded after the 15th of June . . .

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This was already raised in the House. You have already raised it. This matter was already raised in the House. So, in one sentence, you may complete.

[Translation]

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD : I have given the notice.

[Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad]

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only those matters which were not raised during this week are permitted to be raised now. I think that this issue was raised earlier. So. Kindly complete in one sentence. Do not go into details as this was raised earlier in this House.

[Translation]

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD : Mr. Chairman, Sir, We want to say through you, that due to flood we have to suffer loss of crores of rupees of property and life every year. In Uttar Pradesh Yamuna and Ganga rivers and other small rivers get so much flooded that we have to suffer loss of crores of rupees and Lakhs of people get ruined. Central Government have to arrest the state Government. Therefore, I would like to request the Central Government through you that Government of India should prepare a comprehensive plan and make arrangements to resettle them at high places. For the sake of the loss of life and property the dams should be repaired perfectly.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar) : Mr. Speaker Sir, a serious drought situation has arisen due to severe scarcity of water in the State of Karnataka. The districts which are affected severely are Kolar, Bangalore, Tumkur, Chitradurga, Bellary, Raichur, Bijapur, Gulbarga and Bidar. In particular, Kolar is the worst affected. On the one hand, there was no rain for the last several months in the entire district and on the other hand, there is no river or canal. This drought prone kolar district has about 3000 tanks and all of them are dry. The ground water level has gone upto 500 to 600 feet deep. Protection of farmers and providing drinking water to the villagers are the two problems before the Government of India.

I therefore, draw the attention of the Centre towards this burning problem of the people of Kolar district and urge the Government to provide Rs. 600 crore for desilting all the tanks in the districts.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not read.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : The Centre is spending about Rs. 25 crore for the development of each district in the country. In some districts where the Centre provides irrigational facilities, the total amount invested would have crossed even Rs. 100 crore. But there is neither a canal nor a river in Kolar.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Muniyappaji, Please do not read your statement.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Hence, there is an urgent need for disilting all the tanks in the district so that sufficient water can be stored to save the lives of the farmers in Kolar and other neighbouring districts.

[Translation]

SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI (Siddipet) : Mr. Chairman Sir, there is a very old factory in Hyderabad, which is running with the name of Auto Division, Allwin Metal works since 25 years. About 1750 people are working there. It had suffered heavy loss. It is the responsibility of the management and duty of the state Government to see that who had run that factory in loss . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagarkurnool) : Sir he cannot take names like that . . . (Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : I have not mentioned the name of any one. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Let him raise it.

DR. M. JAGANNATH : No, Sir, It is wrong. All factors have been taken into account . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not interrupt like this. If you want to raise it, you can raise it. There is no point in objecting to it. What you are saying is not going on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you want to raise it, you give notice and then you can raise it. Let the Members who have given notices raise their points briefly.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the time. You please take your seat

DR. M. JAGANNATH : Sir, he is casting aspersion on the State Government . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

DR. M. JAGANNATH : We strongly object to these

aspersions and the statement of Shri Yellaiah . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Today, as you know this is the policy of Central Government that where there is unemployment, the Central Government starts many schemes to provide employment there. But I am seeing many factories in such condition at present. But this is such a matter that after the closure of factories some persons suffered heart attacks and some had expired. Although these factories are being closed for the several years and also a sub-committee was constituted by the Government to look into the matter. But nothing has been done so far. The workers and all Trade unions not only like I.N.T.U.C. and A.I.T.U.C. but also other unions are pressurising the Government to open the factory. Therefore, I request that Unemployment is a very important issue in our country. . . (Interruptions) What are you talking about. It is a matter of unemployment. I am asking to open the factory . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be brief.

[Translation]

SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Who is responsible for this. Why are you getting up, be seated . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have no right to fight like this. If you will not complete it in one minute, I will call the next Member.

[Translation]

SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my opinion is that the factory should be opened immediately. The people who were rendered jobless due to the closure of the factory are in hardship there. Being jobless today, they are facing a lot of difficulties. This factory is located at capital city of Hyderabad. The responsibility to open this factory lies with the Government. The Chief Minister of the State has said that we will make Hyderabad just like Japan . . . (Interruptions) In the circumstances when 250 factories have already been closed down there, how could the Chief Minister of the State set up new industries there like Japan. He went on Foreign tour to examine its all aspects. He

is not paying any attention towards his state. Therefore, I am drawing your attention to the point that the factory should be opened immediate and the people rendered unemployed due to the closure of the factory be given employment. . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Today being the last day, please understand.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Who do you not listen to me ?

DR. M. JAGANNATH : He is casting aspersions on the State Government . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR.. CHAIRMAN : Please understand, what you are saying is not audible. Nobody is able to listen what you are saying. There are 52 Members in the list. Please do not waste the time of the House like this. Please allow others to speak.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Hon. Mr. Chairman, it is very unfortunate that one State Government does agreement with the other one. But with the change in Government all those agreements stand cancelled, it is a misfortune of the country. The Government of Rajasthan had signed an agreement with the then Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Shanta Kumar eight years ago under which Rajasthan was likely to get 40 percent electricity. In other words Rajasthan was likely to get about Five hundred Megawatt electricity. But unfortunately the present Chief Minister is now backing out of that agreement and consequently Rajasthan is facing severe crisis of electricity. Not only this the then Chief Minister had also signed an agreement in regard to coal project with the Chief Minister, Shri Shiv Charan Mathur who belonged to the Congress Party. Under the agreement regarding coal project Rajasthan was likely to get 25 percent electricity. The agreement reached at was between the two Chief Ministers of the Congress itself. But the present Chief Minister is backing out of that agreement. My submission is that same is the position of agreements signed by Delhi. Haryana and Gujarat with Himachal Pradesh Government is backing out of the agreements.

My submission is that the Government of Himachal

[Vaidya Dau Dayal Joshi]

Pradesh is doing injustice to Rajasthan by not implementing the agreement reached at between Rajasthan and Government of Himachal Pradesh in regard to power projects such as Renuka, Kaswan etc. I urge the Central Government to give instructions to the Government of Himachal Pradesh to implement all the agreements signed between Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh in regard to various power projects and Rajasthan should get its due share in all power projects as per the finalised terms and conditions as Rajasthan is a backward state and it does not have any sources of electricity of its own . . . (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : I too agree with the issue raised in the House just now by Shri Joshi and demand that the agreement arrived at between Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan in regard to power projects, should be implemented. Besides, the agreements arrived at by Rajasthan with other neighbouring states should also be implemented . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have made the point. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni-Chowk Delhi) : Mr. Chairman. I would like to make submission with some change in my subject . . . (Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jai Prakash, you have given notice for a different subject. You confine to your subject. Whatever you spoke beyond your subject will not go on record. Please be on your subject.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : I have already said that I would like to make my submission with a little bit change in the subject . . . (Interruptions) I wanted to raise the issue related to the petty manufactures of pan masala in the House . . . (Interruptions)

All the petty manufacturers of pan masala in Delhi use unhygienic material in manufacturing pan masala causing various diseases among people, the number of cases of throat cancer and chest cancer among children is increasing. The officials of Food Adulteration Dept. don't

catch them. I request the Government to take stringent steps against them so that ill done by them to the Society is prevented.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : I am on the same subject, Sir. I think last time Shri Chandra Shekhar said that . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

This subject concerns all that during earlier settlement of Delhi, in all the old villages the people who were paying Rs. 2 or 5 towards rent are still paying the same. My suggestion is that this should also be considered before making any amendment in Delhi Rent Control Act.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member's submission is on *pan masala*.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I am talking about a *pan masala* shop in a house.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is not permitted.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : The Delhi Rent Control Act must be thought over.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member spoke on the Delhi Rent Control Act and I told him that whatever he said on that will not go on record. His submission was on *pan masala*.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, let one thing be on record that the owner of the house should also get justice . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Goelji, the matter of Delhi Rent Act was raised in this House during this week itself. Whichever matter was raised in this House during this week is not being permitted.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : There was a meeting today, Sir. It is reported in the newspapers that an all-party meeting has taken place. Let the House know about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is good, let the meeting take place.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Why keep the House in dark if an all-party meeting has . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the meeting take place and the Government take appropriate decision. We are allowing

only those topics which are not raised so far during this week.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : All that people are saying is, today being the last day of this Session, the decision should be informed.

13.00 hrs.

The House should know about what happened in today morning's meeting . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (SADAR-DELHI) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I have given a notice to you . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : After we finish this, we will ask the Government to comment.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ashok Pradhan.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Chairman, Sir when this issue was raised in this House four days back the chair had given the ruling . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

Are you going to allow me or not ? I have given a notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This issue was raised in this House on 12.5.97.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I am just saying . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, Shri Goel. Please understand.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not try to speak on this topic. Please to not try to go into the topic.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I am not going into the topic. Listen to me just for a minute . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, Please understand the ruling first.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I just want to say . . . (Interruptions)
I am not raising that topic . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, Please understand the ruling, then you speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not go into it.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : On 12.5.1997, the matter for which you have given notice was discussed in this House.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : That is right.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Still in spite of that, if time permits after all the submissions are over, I can allow you. But Mr. Speaker has given the ruling to this effect. We are only taking up those topics which are not raised in the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wait. Do not go into the subject now.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Only one submission, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, please Not like that.

Shri Ashok Pradhan.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you very much, I want to tell an important incident of Sikandra and Dadri tehsil of my constituency. During the last session, I mentioned the same incident, Yakoobpur

[Shri Ashok Pradhan]

and Jewar dam are two such dams, which were flooded last time with water. Last time in Sikandra tehsil 22 villages were submerged under Yakoobpur dam and 28 villages were submerged under Jewar dam water. At that time Mr. Jena gave me an assurance that this will not recur in future but almost the whole year has passed and only after two months, the rainy season would set in and nothing has been done so far there.

Last time army was called there. My elder brother Shri Rajesh Pilot also supported me in this matter. The situation is very bad there. This time also, if flood comes again 22 villages will be submerged under Yakoobpur dam water and 28 villages will be submerged under Jewar dam water, because these dams have breached. Last time Government gave the assurance but nothing was done. Shri Jena ji specially mentioned but nothing has been done, the whole year is passing.

I would like to request you to kindly draw the attention of the Government in this regard which is sitting with its eyes and ears closed. This time also fifty villages of my area will be submerged under water. I would request to Shri Rajesh Pilot also to say something in this matter.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Last time, the hon. Minister had promised that he would check up with the U.P. Government and certainly see that needful was done. Now one year has passed. You ask the U.P. administration to take action . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wait

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Balua) : Mr. Chairman Sir, the question raised by hon'ble member was raised last year also vociferously. U.P. suffers heavy losses due to floods in the rivers. Not only floods occur in the Ganga, Ghagra and Yamuna rivers but soil is also eroded by them. All the districts situated on the banks of the rivers beyond Kanpur face problems. Government undertakes its work at the time of flood and consequently all the money goes waste.

In our districts there has been erosion by both in Ghaghra and Ganga rivers. The village of Shri Jai Prakash is in the danger. I have been requesting the Govt. for the last three years and Govt. promises every year but they

don't undertake the work until there flood and crores of rupees will either go waste or remains only on the papers. Why does it happen. I fail to understand. Why Govt. does not start work in time. You are requested to exercise your power. Shri Jena ji is here. You ask the Government that they should be conscious of it and do the needful for the purpose.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Chairman, Sir Shall I add something to it. Last time when we visited the spot Hon'ble Prime Minister was also with us. The seniors officers told us about the certain amount of money spent on it. At that time junior officers were also there. When I asked them as to why some concrete work is not in sight when so much amount has been spent on it ? Half of the village was submerged under the water and perhaps a child also died there. Later on action had also been taken against that officer. Thereafter the higher officers of the area had assured that next time we would form a special task force and get the job executed well in advance.

I would like to tell the minister that these things should strictly be enquired by the Govt. and ascertain the facts. If no accountability is fixed, the matter would be raised and dropped without any positive result. Last time, you had given an assurance here that you would get it done expeditiously through the U.P. Government. Please inform the House about the action taken so far by Govt. of Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs may please bring this matter to the notice of the Minister of Water Resources and may inform the hon. Members who have raised the matter in the House. Let them be sent a reply.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : Mr. Chairman, most of the time, part-time correspondents employed by the Regional news unit of AIR, Calcutta on contract basis at a remuneration of Rs. 500 per month are rendering their service on regular basis as they are covering as many as 13 news bulletins which are regularly broadcast through AIR, Calcutta including rural news bulletins.

Since they have got no other means of sustenance, I would suggest that the Minister of Information and Broadcasting may consider the expediency of creating the post of part time correspondents on a permanent basis in view of the fact that it is a full-time job.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagarh) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir I would like to draw the attention of the House towards an important issue that a well organised conspiracy is on to make the young generation of our country weak by making them addicted to drugs. Flow of drugs is on the increase in the cities day by day. Drugs are being sold openly in many areas.

Recently 5600 miligram brown sugar was recovered from a man named Mohd. Iqbal in Karunawati city. Similarly, 2370 mg. brown sugar was recovered from Mohd. Yaseen Nazir and Ahmad Yusuf near by Topi mill in Karunawati city.

I would like to draw the attention of the Govt., through you Sir, that our young generation is being weakened by making them drug addicts. Those anti-social elements engaged in such activities should be given stringent punishment. The officers staking their life to prevent these crimes, should be awarded so that it can be tackled properly and the flow and sale of this brown sugar and drugs in our country could be stopped.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this issue relates to farmers and I am trying for the last four days. This is the biggest court. I belong to Padrauna district of U.P. There are nine sugar mills in our area out of which two mills namely Katkuiyan and Padrauna are run by Govt. of India and farmers dues of Rs. 30 crores is outstanding against them for the current session. These mills have not yet started paying their amount and there is an arrear of Rs. 5 crores. Nobody is even prepared to purchase sugarcane at half rates. People are arrested daily. You will say that in U.P. BJP and BSP are ruling. Kaptanganj and Sardar Nagar of my constituency properties have been attached and Godowns have been sealed. U.P. Govt. has said that as this factory belongs to Govt. of India. We can't do anything for it. No court can be bigger than that, I on behalf of the farmers would like to ask you and this House as to what mistake has been committed by the farmers that even their sugar cane is not being purchased even at half rates. Even marriages can't take place for want of money.

I would like to request the Central Government, Prime Minister and Food Minister through you Sir, that some efforts should be made to make payments of sugarcane at least by the Government of India's Mills i.e. Kathkuiya and Padrauna Mills.

Besides, there is also apprehension that whether these

Mills shall operate or not in future, I also request that proper arrangements should be made for operating to these mills in future.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, a family planning operation camp was organised on dt. 19.3.1997 in the area my under constituency. There were two doctors- i.e. Dr. (Smt.) Shabnam Kumari and Assistant L.H.P. Renu Mukherjee who performed the operation together. In this operation, the intestine of two ladies were cut down and as a result there of one lady namely Punam Devi died in the hospital and another lady Smt. Lalo Devi anyhow was saved.

I am sorry to say that the people of that place and I also demand that the doctors concerned who operated, should be suspended and a compensation of Rs. 2 Lakh may be given to her family. But neither she has been suspended nor she has been transferred from Oramanji Hospital to another place so far and there is very much discontentment among the people and also it had adversely effected the family planning programmes.

Therefore, I request that the said doctors should be suspended and a case must be filed against them, as cause of the death of ladies has been sheer negligence on the part of the doctor in performing the operation compensation should be paid in this case and also the dependents of the deceased should be provided a job. This is only request which I want to make to you and the Government.

[English]

SHRI P.V. RAJESHWAR RAO (Secunderabad) : Sir, I am raising a matter regarding corruption in the Nasik Artillery Centre. A matter titled 'Army Probe finds officers guilty in the Nasik Job Scam' was also published in *Indian Express* of 14th May, 1997.

In Nasik Artillery Centre, a case of bribery has been established in the paper and about six officers have been found to be involved. Prima facie evidence of their involvement has also been found. One Colonel, four Lt. Colonels, one Major and two Junior Commissioned Officers are also involved in this.

It is very clearly mentioned in the paper that the Answer Sheets were tampered and were given to the candidates beforehand. The candidates who have appeared for the examination after taking the sheets, have passed the examinations.

Moreover, there is a specific provision that sons of

[Shri P.V. Rajeshwar Rao]

serving, retired Officers and sons of dead soldiers should be given priority. This rule was actually not followed. It has also come in the newspaper that Subedar Subhash Kushwal, who was the recruiting authority there, had taken Rs. 1,40,000 as bribe.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Rao, this is a matter regarding corruption in recruitment to the Army. It would be better if you write to the hon. Defence Minister about this. This is not a subject to be raised in the House like this. Please make your submission very brief.

SHRI P.V. RAJESHWAR RAO : Sir, this is the submission that I wanted to make.

This has been going on there and an inquiry has also been ordered in this case. I want to bring it to your notice and to get the attention of the House and the hon. Minister in this regard.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Sir, recently, on the 11th of April, 1997, the Government of India and the Department of Mines have revised the mineral and metal royalty rates in a very clandestine manner. When on the 11th April, 1997, we were discussing the Motion of No Confidence here. It was kept concealed till three days back. This is going to have deep implications on the various States which are naturally endowed with mineral, such as Orissa, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal.

Sir, the implications are that the last revision was done in the year 1992 in the month of March. It should have been revised under the MMNR&D Rules of 1957 on the 22nd of March, 1995. In spite of delaying it by two years, by the Ministry of Mines, these royalty rates have been revised for all the important minerals with the exclusion of coal. Orissa is one State which has 95 per cent of the chromate area in the whole of India. The consequences of the 1997 order are that Orissa will get Rs. 18 lakh less than what it was getting in 1992. Revision are made to help the States to augment their resources and not by cutting them down. They have been done in the various minerals. Somewhere it is Re. 1, somewhere it is Rs. 1.50, and somewhere it is Rs. 2. This has created a lot of problems for these four or five States.

We hope, through you, to prevail upon the Government to reconsider this revision. Otherwise, most of the States which are always suffering from resource constraints are going to be in deep trouble. We should not barter away the interest of the States at the altar of commercial

considerations for supporting a particular viewpoint which is the private sector. . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it on the same subject ?

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will call those who have given their names first.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, I have given a notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will call you after him.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I would like to submit my views on the points which have been raised by Hon. Member Shri K.P. Singh Deo. The royalty on minerals have been fixed through Government of India i.e. on dt. 11 April, 1997 I think recently the royalty have been reviewed. There has been some delay in this regard and also it has not been done justified. In three-four states, the royalty considered as main sources of income. In Bihar, income comes on large scale by the mode of royalty. Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh are such states, where the main source of their income is royalty on the minerals. The justice which has been done by the Government would deteriorate the financial conditions of these states.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are many Members who have given their names to speak on this subject. Please be brief.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I would like to request you that Bihar and Orissa are poor and backward states. They don't have any other source of their income. They can improve their financial position only on the basis of royalty on minerals, but Central Government is not paying any attention in this regard. The rate, which has been fixed, is not on the basis of prices. There are many minerals like lime-stone, Bauxite, dolomite, Graphite on which royalty has not been fixed.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please understand that you are not listening to others. You are only speaking. Please understand this.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is this ?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I am concluding, Royalty should be fixed on the basis of the prices of the Minerals, so that the state whose main source of incomes is royalty, should get benefit.

The rate of royalty should be fixed 40% for the states like Bihar, Orissa. We hope that it will improve the financial condition of the state and the people living there would get relief. So, I would like to request the Government of India, through you Sir, that justice should be done and attention should be paid to improve the financial condition of the backward states like Bihar and Orissa; Therefore I, request that if royalty is fixed at 40% then financial condition could improve . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is on the issue of royalty. We will allow members who have given notice on this question. Let us finish it.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, there was a reference to Orissa's poverty, reported starvation deaths, starvation conditions like that . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Panigrahi, it is not like this. This is only on royalty. Now, you are going to the drought situation etc. Please do not do it.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : It is an irony that mineral-rich States like Orissa, Bihar, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh are the most backward and the poorest of the poor States in our country are in the national map.

The royalty on minerals is a major source of income of these States. Naturally, these States look forward very anxiously and hopefully to the enhancement of these rates. These rates are subjected to revision once at an interval of three years' period. But, in this case, the last revision took place in 1992. They had revised these rates five years ago in such a way that they are unreasonable and arbitrary. There is only a very meagre increase. In all, there is around ten per cent increase. What is the inflation rate ? It is very high . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Panigrahi, you have made the point.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Much injustice has been done. The inflation rate is higher than the rate of

increase of this royalty. . . (Interruptions). It is arbitrary and unreasonable that injustice is done to the mineral-rich States.

The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here. He should give an assurance that these rates will be revised upwards in consultation with the concerned States. We want an assurance from the hon. Minister.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU (Cuttack) : Sir, Orissa is a mineral-rich State. There should be a substantial support from the royalty of the minerals.

The hon. Members who spoke just before me have already communicated what has happened so far as bauxite is concerned. The royalty fixed in 1991-92 was Rs. 34 per M.T. It was raised to Rs. 41 per M.T. But the State of Orissa had asked for Rs. 54 per M.T.

As far as Chrome ore is concerned, 95 per cent of it comes from Orissa. They have fixed *ad valorem* rate which is not acceptable to Orissa. There are different rates. I would request that this matter should be looked into properly.

As far as manganese ore is concerned, the rates which have been fixed are not acceptable not only to Orissa but also to Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The rates have come down so far as gold is concerned. Orissa is likely to produce gold in another one or two years. This is a very partisan attitude of the Department of Mines. The sustainability of the economy of Orissa depends on the royalty. So, I would request that the Government should come out with an assurance immediately that the rates would be increased at once. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Sir, I would like that Hon. Minister should give his reaction to it . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, there is no reply in Zero Hour. There are many other topics. Do not encroach into the time of the other Members.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Sir, I will certainly bring the issue which has been raised by

[Shri Srikanta Jena]

the hon. Members from Orissa, Bihar and other States, to the notice of the concerned Minister and I will request him to consider whatever has been suggested.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : Sir, not only this but all important issues that have been raised should be brought to the notice of the concerned Ministers . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not take it like that.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI (Gaya) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards Rajasthan. In Jaipur in Rajasthan, Acid was thrown on the face of a girl. The person who had thrown acid was the son of a Minister of Rajasthan Government . . . (Interruptions)

Leader of opposition Shri Vajpayee ji or your any other leader has not paid any attention towards this issue. Whether she is not a girl ? Whether throwing acid on face of girls is justified or reasonable ? People talks about Bihar, If such type of incidents occur and sons of the Ministers are involved in such acts then what will be its reaction in the whole country and how the honour of the poor could be saved . . . (Interruptions) If Shri Vajpayee ji expressed his views on this issue then people take the imfussion that Vajpayee ji is the leader of the poors. If any powerful person is involved in such acts and no action is taken against him and if any poor person is involved then he has to go the jail and also other action would have been initiated against him. In the present case the culprit is the son of a Minister so he need not be go to jail. The acid was thrown on the face of girl mercilessly . . . (Interruptions). There is the Government of B.J.P. in Rajasthan and it is not paying any attention towards this issue . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Sir, our party's name has been taken. I wish to strongly deny what she is saying. It is totally false. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI : Sir, I demand from the Central Government through you that he should be sent to the jail . . . (Interruptions). Why this is happening there? They are talking about women daily. . . (Interruptions) because she is a daughter of a poor so she is being oppressed

and no attention is being paid towards this incident.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Investigation is being done in this regard . . . (Interruptions).

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI : Such incidents are taking place there. I demand that punishment should be given to them.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, everyday such incidents are happening. No action has yet been taken against the culprit in the present case. No action has been taken because the culprit is the son of a Minister of Rajasthan Government . . . (Interruptions). This is a serious question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are wasting your own time.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is going on record. Nothing will go on record until I call the next Member.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Acharia, that point has already been made. That issue is raised in the House. Let us give time to some other Members.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The point is already made. Let us give time to others. Many Members are waiting.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : This matter relates to Jaipur and such type of incident not take place there. Even though Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered an enquiry whosoever, found guilty will be punished.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, you have raised an issue. You should be satisfied with this. Ram Kripal ji, please. Shri Vijay Goel ji, you have given a notice.

* Not Recorded.

[English]

The matter was discussed only on 12.5.97. In addition to that, I want to inform you that at 2.00 p.m. today, provided we complete our Zero Hour till then and even otherwise also, the hon. Minister will be making a statement regarding Delhi Rent Control Act. If there is any question, you can ask him at that time.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : On dt. 12th when this issue was raised it was said from the Government side that a statement will be given within two days. Now you are saying that the statement is being made at 2'O clock, so I do not want to say anything.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mangat Ram Sharma.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Sir, you called Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi on the issue of mines.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I did not call him. That issue is over and the Minister has replied.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please understand that all the Members from Orissa who had given notices were allowed and the Minister has given a reply. That will be brought to the notice of the Government.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Sir, he is the former Minister of Mines from Orissa.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you are also joining that issue, just make a one-sentence statement.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur) : In 1957.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not give any figures or statistics. Just say that you are supporting the issue.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : In 1957, this Mines and Minerals Act was envisaged. After that, in every three years, the royalty for minerals is fixed. My suggestion is that this Government should decide whether the royalty should be fixed on *ad valorem* value or differently for different minerals. Orissa, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are the most backward areas. It is mentioned in the provisions of the Constitution that these areas are backward. My suggestion is that, like in the case of petroleum, since any mineral or other product is a national product, the Government of India should give royalty to that

particular State on those minerals on the basis of 50 per cent of the net profit and not on the *ad valorem* value. This is my suggestion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The suggestion of the Member may be brought to the notice of the Minister please.

[Translation]

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (Jammu) : Chairman, Sir, the land of small farmers in Jammu & Kashmir is in possession of C.R.P.F., B.S.F. and Army and they either give rent for this land to those farmers or they purchase the land from them. Farmers are not getting the reasonable rent for the land in possession of Army in Laddakh, Jammu region or Kashmir valley. The Ministry of Defence has given direction that the rent should be increased in two-three years but neither the rent is increased in two-three year nor they get compensation according to market rate. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Defence that the farmers should be given rent on increased rate and such arrangement should be made so that the rent is distributed among them quickly. Compensation for the land which the Government wants to procure, should be given quickly as per prevalent rates in the market, so that the poor farmers, whose livelihood depends on that land, could get atleast some amount and they can keep the both ends meet. I would like to bring this matter to the notice of hon. Defence Minister.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : I would also like to say something in this regard. As they have stated.. At present they are paying the rent which was fixed in 1947. The orders to increase the rent have already been passed from here and the rates have been revised. Earlier these orders were passed in 1990 and then 1993 but unfortunately they have not paid the enhanced rates to the persons' whose land was procured. I would like to call the attention of the Government of India towards this because the whole land of many farmers is in possession of Army. Many places are being converted into cantonment areas. Army is purchasing land everywhere but whenever it procures the land from the civilian, they do not get the compensation for it and even they are not paid any rent. Therefore, many families are virtually starving. I fully agree with Shri Mangat Ram ji. I join him while expressing my view that the Government should immediately pay the outstanding rent to all concerned.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the eminent literature of Marathi language Shri V.S. Khandekar, whose birth centenary commenced. From 11 January, 1997, was

[Shri Ram Naik]

a famous writer in all fields of literature like story, novel etc. Shri Khandekar was the first recipient of Gnanpith Award in Marathi language. His literature was translated in Tamil, Kannad, Telegu, Hindi, Gujarati, English and many other languages. I personally, met and requested the hon. Minister on 16 October, 1996 that a postal stamp should be released in his memory. The hon'ble Minister had given reply to me on 18 November that we are considering the matter. Later on, I sent one more reminder but unfortunately the Government has not taken any decision for releasing a postal stamp on this great litterateur till date. I would like to request that the postal stamp in memory of such a great litterateur should immediately be released. I would ask the Hon. Minister to give statement as to when the stamp would be release. Some time, we feel that whenever the question of Marathi speaking people is raised, centre shows apathy towards it.

A Birth Centenary of Shri C.D. Deshmukh passed last year but to commemorate him no postal stamp was released. There should be no such discrimination. By doing so we have shown disrespect towards Shri C.D. Deshmukh. At least it should not be done in the case of Shri Khandekar. It is my submission. I urge the hon. Minister to take an early decision in this regard.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with the demand made by Shri Ram Naik on the issue of release of a postal stamp for Shri Khandekar.

Now, I want to raise another important issue regarding the huge default in respect of inland air travel tax owed by private airlines. As you know, all airlines, including private air operators, collect inland air travel tax at the rate of 15 per cent from all domestic passengers. This tax is required to be deposited with the Customs authorities within 30 days. However, the private air operators have not deposited this inland travel tax amounting to over Rs. 45 crore even after repeated reminders. Half of these dues are owed by the air operators who are still active and the other half is owed by the airlines which are no longer active. They have, probably, wound up. One airline owes as much as Rs. 13 crore. One Chennai based group which operates two airlines owes Rs. 15 crore and even Vayudoot, a wholly Government owned airlines, owes Rs. three crore.

Sir, why is the Government silent on this issue ? Why

are the Customs authorities so lenient with these air operators ? Why are these private air operators allowed to illegally use huge amount of public taxes ? It is reported that the Customs authorities have now issued an ultimatum forcing the airlines to pay by this evening all the taxes worth Rs. 45 crore which are required to be deposited.

I would ask the Government to please assure the House that no further extension will be granted and also that the interest will be collected on the delayed payment. I also want to know what action is going to be taken against those airlines which have stopped operating. Whether their properties will be attached or their aircraft would be impounded I want a statement in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention towards increasing infiltration from Pakistan border near Gujarat. Pakistan has increased its industrial activities in Badin and Tharpakar areas and is going to invest rupees 800 crores there. Pakistan has concentrated its troops at the border also so that it can start its industrial activities. Eight power stations having a capacity of 5200 M.W. are being installed there. There might be a vast reserves of natural gas and oil and 224 billion tonne coal is also estimated there. According to the news published yesterday 17 persons of Bangladesh were also arrested there. Sircreek is also on the border of this area which is encroached by Pakistan and issued notification showing the area as its territory I have drawn the attention of the House several times that this area is a vast reserves of oil where no good and latest technology is available. People of Pakistan Intelligence service ISI impersonating as fishermen come in speed boats. If no attention is paid to this area, they will infiltrate Kutch also as is done in Kashmir. Besides Gujarat, Barmer, Bikaner, Jaisalmer areas of Rajasthan and District Palanpur of Gujarat are also adjoining this border. Position of barbed wires and light arrangements have helped to reduce the infiltration there. Therefore, it is my submission that the remaining area should also be covered with barbed wire. I request the Government to pay attention towards this.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE (Bilaspur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, even after 50 years of Independence, the Government is not able to solve the problem of potable water in state, hence the common man has to go 2-4 kms. to fetch the water. In some villages due to non availability of handpumps and wells the villagers are facing problems.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Mohle, Please do not read this.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Mr. Chairman, Sir the people are adversely effected due to drought in Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh. There is also problem of drinking water. The river rivulet, ponds and wells all have been dried up. I, therefore, request the Central Government that the provisions of fund should be made for Bilaspur District of Madhya Pradesh so that the work to dig the tubewells and wells can be started.

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM (Palamu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of Central Government towards Palamu and Gadva Districts of Bihar. Palamu and Gadva both the districts falls under my constituency. There is an acute shortage of drinking water. The Chhota Nagpur area of this area falls under Patai. Now, during the summer season there is resentment among the people over the scarcity of drinking water.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, ours is scheduled castes dominated area. Even after the 50 years of independence of our country, the people of this area are compel to drink the river-rivulet water. We are sorry to say that till now the people are compelled to bring drinking water from far-flung places and drink it. The situation regarding taking bath, by the people is that due to scarcity of water they are not able to take bath up to a week-or fortnight. This is the situation in summer season. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request the Central Government through you that the tubewells which are installed for the facility of drinking water in local areas, have been installed on the recommendations of the local Members of Legislative Assembly. The recommendations of the Member of Parliament is ignored. The people of the area expect that tubewells should also be installed on the recommendation of Member of Parliament but we are bound. Rule should be such that we may also recommend for installation of the tubewell and provide drinking water facility for the people.

I request the Central Government through you, Sir, that more and more drinking water facility should be provided in our Palamu and Gadva Districts under Special drive, so that the drinking water problem of the people could be resolved. With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today three days have been passed CBI has sought permission from the President that they should be given permission to prosecute a case against a Union Minister Shri Chandra Dev Prasad Verma.

Mr Chairman, Sir, usually, when such a request, is made by CBI some initiative is taken by the Prime Minister and the Minister concerned is asked to give his resignation.

I, remember that earlier Shri Jaslimudin Sahib was here. Although till date CBI had not conducted any enquiry against him and also the permission was not sought from the President to file chargesheet but many people had levelled some allegations against him and the then Prime Minister had asked him to give his resignation on the basis of those allegations and the matter was ended at that stage. In the present case CBI has raised demand and that is a popular scandal. I am not talking about that but it is the demand of etiquette that the Minister concerned should give his resignation himself and he has clearly said that he is not going to submit his resignation. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : What does etiquette mean here ? . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interfere like this. Why do you not take your seat ? Please sit down.

[Translation]

Shri Ram Kripal Yadav : Whether we can not express our views ? . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do you not take your seat ? Please take your seat. Please do not disturb like this. Every hon. Member should get a chance to speak in the House. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, you are delaying other hon. Members. This is not the first time that I am telling you. I have been telling you repeatedly. There are many other hon. Members waiting to make their points. All the hon. Members who have given notices will be allowed to speak. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we should request to the Prime Minister. At present the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is also not present here but I would like to request the Prime Minister that when he says that we will not submit resignation in any circumstances, then he should be asked to submit his resignation immediately and allow to investigate the case. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing other than what Shri George Fernandes says goes on record

(Interruptions)*

* Not Recorded

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Inter alia, I would like to say one thing more. I have got some information that CBI Director . . . in all scandals. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not talk like this. Will you please keep quiet ?

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Chairman, Sir, CBI Director has performed his duties and responsibility very well and today it is learnt that efforts are being made to remove him from that post. I would also like to have an assurance from Hon. Prime Minister on this issue that he will not indulge in any such act which will create hurdle in the anti-corruption movement which is going on at large scale at various levels in India. Hon. Prime Minister should pay special attention towards this. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not allowed to speak. This is Zero Hour submission. Some Members are allowed to speak. You cannot disrupt the proceedings of this House like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Yadav, without giving notice, if you want to speak on a topic, sometimes you are allowed to speak. But on every topic, you cannot speak. If you want to speak on every issue raised by the Members, you cannot be allowed. I am telling you repeatedly to listen to the Chair. You cannot speak like this. Do not disturb the functioning of the House like this, please.

[Translation]

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA (Etah) : Mr. Chairman, Sir I would like to draw your attention towards the scarcity of drinking water. Earlier to me two speakers have expressed their views. On this issue I associate myself with their views. I do not want to take more time. I would like to submit my views on the remaining point. So far as the question of drinking water system is concerned we can understand it by two ways. How much quantity of drinking water we require in country. Today every State is facing its problem. First thing is that on a visit to any state, we can estimate the need of drinking water by seeing the long queues of ladies and gentlemen

before the water taps.

Secondly, we can see at the main road on Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan border that Caravan of camels, group of buffaloes, goats, cows and bulls are there on the roads. When we approach from Rajasthan to Uttar Pradesh we do not find water there and also when we go towards Bihar, we do not find water there. The ponds are dry and river, water is also not available. This is the problem of water in our country. I do not want to go in details on this issue. Hon. Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards drinking water and water related problems which come under the Central Government. There are two schemes which are being executed by the Central Government. One of them is provision of ten lakhs tube wells scheme and the other is provision of hand-pumps for drinking water scarcity.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Many Hon. Members here raised the issue of drinking water. You, please conclude it soon.

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA : Mr. Chairman, Sir please listen to me for one minute. It is related to that. I would like to say according to geographical and local conditions a scheme does not succeed at some places where money is not invested and as such at some places the scheme can be implemented and at certain places this can not. Therefore, the amount of Ten lakh tube-wells is pending in every state and every district. If Central Government gives permission for making provision of drinking water to State Government then drinking water by hand-pumps would be available in sufficient quantity. Now it is the month of May and after this the month of June will start and the temperature will start rising high and heat waves will begin. . . (Interruptions) and then we have to face more scarcity of drinking water. Therefore, at the end I request that you should direct the Minister of Water Resources to ensure that the amount earmarked for ten lakhs tubewells scheme should be utilised by the State Government for installation of hand-pumps.

I would like that you should issue instructions for this.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Hon. Chairman, Sir the member who spoke earlier also mentioned Rajasthan where 80 percent land is desert land. The summer days are here again and Rajasthan is getting only 1% out of the total available river water in India. So, you can very well imagine about the situation prevailing at present in Rajasthan, therefore, my submission is that it has been decided to release 5 lakh cubic feet water to Rajasthan under the Narmada water dispute tribunal award.

This water will be made available to Jalaur and Bikaner districts for drinking and irrigation purposes. Which is one of the main desert area of Rajasthan, where people are aggrieved and about whom the Hon' Member was talking just now. At this moment the work on the Sardar Sarovar Project in Gujarat State is in much advance stage. Therefore I demand that above project should be accepted as National Project so that the benefit accrued out of it should go to the desert area of Rajasthan. This is my one demand and my second submission is regarding this acid throwing incident about which our sister was talking just now. I would say that the Chief Minister is aware of it.

The matter is under investigation and whosoever will be found guilty, will not be spared in any circumstances, however levelling charges to against any Minister or son of a Minister without investigation is not proper. Since this issue has been raised here. I would like to say to them that such allegations should not be levelled without investigation. I want to clear here on behalf of the Chief Minister of our State that, if any person will be found guilty, he will not be spared.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am going through the list one by one.

[Translation]

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH (Aonla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, what about us ?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : On the law and order issue of UP, six hon. Members have given notice. We are taking it as the last item. Please bear with me.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards a most important matter. We have received 1100 metric ton pulses from Denmark as a gift under the World Food Programme for our poor tribal people, which was supposed to be distributed free among the tribals. The main purpose to receive this gift of pulses is that tribals do not get sufficient intake of protein in food, with the result they always suffer from protein deficiency. Therefore, it was thought that they should be provided protein through pulses but I am sorry to say and it is a thing for which we should

be ashamed of that this 1100 metric ton pulses was sold in the open market on this pretext that money collected there from will be utilised in distributing wheat and rice among the poor people. I fail to understand that any gifted item from a country can be altered, exchanged and sold in the market, our Government can not dare to do so. We should be ashamed of it I want to draw the attention of the whole House on this issue that if such thing will happen, people will lose faith in our country on the one side we talk about the upliftment of the tribal community but on the other hand we are selling the pulses received free for tribals of Orissa, in the market, we should be ashamed of it. It is a very serious matter and the Central Government is accountable for it. I would like to say that a statement should immediately be given on this issue in the House by the Central Government and an assurance should also be given to this effect that same mistake is not repeated in future, no such incident should recur and nothing of such sort should happen again because it is a question of prestige of the nation.

SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH (Muzaffarnagar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention towards a most important subject. Former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi used to say that when a rupee is sent to village for the development purposes out of that only 16 paise reaches there. Today the money which is given to the Member of Parliament under Local Member of Parliament Development Fund for the development of the village, only 80 percent of that is spent in development works if the constituencies of those Members of Parliament who are alert but those who are not vigilant even 70 per cent of the money is not spent in the development. A big amount of that money is going into the pocket of bureaucrat. In some cases, even 40-50 percent of this money is not spent on development work. I would like to request that whatever amount is invested for the development of the villages, it should be invested with consultation and under the supervision of the local MP and we should preside over all the meetings to be held in this context. No meeting should be presided over by the D.M. or Chairman of the District Board and the money should be spent only on the advise of the MP concerned. This is my request to you.

14.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The members are waiting. Please conclude. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur) : Kindly, instruct the Government to take some cognizance of it . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We cannot allow like this. Please take your seats.

[Translation]

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT (Hamirpur U.P.) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request that hon. Minister should speak something on it. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Motihari) : I, would like to draw your attention towards a very important subject. The area under my constituency has not been provided facilities even after completion of 50 years of independence. There are a number of rivers in Champaran area. A large area of Champaran is on the border of Shivhar, Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur Districts. Even after 50 years of independence no railway facility has been provided there. I would like to ask the Central Government through you Sir, that Motihari Sitamarhi via Pabridayal railway line should be provided. The Railway Ministry has recently announced that Sugauli will be linked with Hazipur. An announcement in regard to conduct a survey has also been made but there is slackness in this work.

I, request that this work should be spreaded up. The work of conversion Muzaffarpur-Raxaul line into broad gauge line has already been completed. The main reason for completion of this project is that this is the major route for movement of people of Nepal and India. There are gate-way of Nepal and gate-way of Hindustan also. There is no train which should run from Raxaul, Motihari to Delhi Sadbhavna Express is running three days in a week.

I would like to request that the Laxmi Express running between Delhi and Muzaffarpur should be extended to Raxaul. Though, Broad Gauge line has been constructed and 12 stations falling on this line are such which have not been modernised. The result is that the women and children find it difficult to board the train from platform. Thus, there is no use of this Broad Gauge line.

I, through you Sir, would like to request the Ministry of Railways that 12 stations falling on this line should be modernised and Motihari station, where Mahatma Gandhi had come in the train and exhorted to fight for the freedom, should be modernised.

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' (Jalesar) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I through you, would like to raise a point

concerning all the Members of Parliament. So as far as I know and may be that I have lesser. . . Idea about it. The salaries and allowances which the Members of Parliament used to get in 1954, are still being given to them. I fail to understand whether it is proper. At that time the price of one cup tea was 2 paise, but now its price is Rs.2/-. How they are meeting their expenses with the salary and allowances which they have been getting from that time. I shall not express the difficulties which I faced in the last one year. I, even interrupted Shri Jena ji when he was about to leave the House. He was concerned with this point. Our cooking gas and telephone quota has also been withdrawn. If the work of a Member of Parliament is just to make speeches here and in his constituency, I do not agree with it.

I, through you Sir, would like to demand that discretionary quota should be increased and restored to the Members of Parliament. My second demand is that whatever facilities of salary and allowances we are provided and which has been published in newspapers at least 20 times and 20 times Member of Parliament have been discredited. The facilities which we get are less than that which are available to legislators of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar Maharashtra etc. Whereas our constituency is five, eight and ten times bigger.

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dumariaganj) : You have also no time to attend conferences.

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : I would like to say to my friend Mr. Tiwari that he does not invite me. If you invite me, everything will be settled. I through you Sir, would like to say and Mr. Jena should also be present here, yesterday he told me that it is to be announced today. Either it should be announced or it should be refused. It appears daily in the newspapers which is not good. It brings humiliation to us.

An another small thing is that there is the question of the dignity of our House also which is also not being projected well in the country. I, therefore, humbly request that we should maintained the dignity of the House. The situation is not very healthy.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Bhanu Pratap ji, this is a state subject, so please speak only in one sentence.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say about the murder of four persons of a Thakur family by the dacoits in village Billaun which comes under Rampura Police Station of my Jalaun, Galoutha parliamentary constituency. Four persons had

been hacked to death by the dacoits there. The Central Government should at least pay Rs. 2 lakhs to each of the families of the deceased as compensation. Apart from this I would also like to urge upon the Central Government that the villages across the rivers are neither easily accessible to the police nor the local people there can enjoy any facility, therefore, the Central Government should construct bridges and roads there so that the police force could reach there and the villagers could get a sigh of relief.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have completed all the Zero Hour submissions. Now only one point remains; that is, the item at Sl. No.14.

[Translation]

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH (Aonla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir please allow me to speak. . . (Interruptions) You had made a commitment . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am coming to that. Please listen to me first.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The issue of police atrocities on Samajwadi Party workers was raised by Shri Ram Sagar in the House. Shri Harivansh Sahai, Shri Pratap Singh Saini, Shri Kunwar Sarvaraj Singh, Shri Brij Bhushan Tiwari, Shri Ram Singh Shakya, Shri Ramakant Yadav, Shri Jag Bahadur Singh Patel and Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq; all these Members have given notices on the same subject

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do you not listen ? Will you please listen ? It will be on record of the House that all these Members have raised this issue. This issue was actually raised by Shri Ram Sagar.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, please give him two minutes time.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ram Kripalji, why do you always argue like this ? I do not understand this. Let the Members speak for themselves.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. Then, on behalf of all the Members he will be speaking for two minutes. That is a good suggestion.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA (Satna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we had also given a notice. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called the names of all the hon. Members. We cannot come back now. There are so many items. I have called your name also; you were not present. What can I do ?

[Translation]

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Director-General of Police, Uttar Pradesh had held a meeting with the police officials which was attended by the senior officers of all the districts. The Director-General of Police has himself said and admitted that in Uttar Pradesh police stations and districts are being auctioned and consequently the law and order situation has completely shattered. The Hardoi district . . . (Interruptions). There was great resentment among the traders due to an incident of dacoity in a house and they have declared to hold a 'bandh' on 10th of this month. Even Samajwadi Party held a state wide dharna, demonstration and processions . . . (Interruptions) the anti social elements hired by this party indulged in sabotaging activities. Even the people who are on the ruling side were also involved in the same activities through their 'goondas'. An MLA of our Samajwadi Party, Shri Dharamajya Mishra and 150 others persons were arrested and released later on, but 22 persons, are still behind the bars since 10th April. He was kept in the general class cell despite his being an MLA. Four cases were registered just at the interval of 5 minutes and the medical facility available in the jail is not adequate and the jail authorities have already intimated to their higher officers about this. The Senior Officers of this area had stated, we don't have staff for this purpose, therefore he could not be rushed to the hospital. Thus there is lot of resentment among people of this area. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not go into the details of the issue.

[Translation]

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : It was the marriage of Shri Shiv Kumar Saini's sister . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude

[Translation]

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : Such incidents are taking place all over Uttar Pradesh, I have told earlier too. This incident took place two-three days back in Mainpuri in which large scale plundering took place in the houses of muslims which were put to fire their houses and shops were also plundered, commercial establishments were also attacked. . . (Interruptions) I would like to say that the people who are under arrest here should be released immediately. Action should be taken against the officers who have arrested them without any fault . . . (Interruptions) Action is being taken against the workers. . . (Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not record that.

[Translation]

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : It should be stopped immediately. If in the name of criminals state Government and coalition Government. . . (Interruptions) Centre should instruct the U.P. Government., If it is not done the Central Government should dismiss the State Government provide some funds to improve law and order situation there.

With these words, I conclude my speech. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Samajwadi party is one of the part in coalition Government at Centre.

The list of people detained in U.P. can be asked for by the Government. All those included in the list are criminals for whom they are recommending and giving protection. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : A Member of Congress party Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev had raised in this House the issue of a constable of RPF Shri Jha who was on hunger strike. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not now please. Do not raise an issue like this.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : There was a direction

* Not Recorded.

from the Chair that he will reply within two days. . . (Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may please meet the hon. Speaker on this. Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now I call the last name. Shri Sukh Lai Kushwaha.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : I would like to clarify the issue of Uttar Pradesh. They have made wrong allegations on the Government of Uttar Pradesh . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I should be allowed to speak, Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit to the Government through you that as just now hon'ble members have told there is a shortage of drinking water all over the country, this is very clear and nothing is fictitious in it.

But, I regret that in Oct, 1996 I sanctioned 107 hand pumps from MPLA Development fund, but no such development work has been done till date. That case has been kept pending on the pretext of technical difficulties in it. Actually when a Panchayat gets the Hand-pump drilled, it is drilled in Rs. 23,000 and if it is done by the Government agency it comes of Rs. 32042. I have given the handpumps to the Panchayats and not to the Government agencies, therefore on the pretext of it being a technical matter and reporting there to be technical faults and lack of technique, the funds have been withheld. On 3.3.1997, after the meeting with the collector, I faxed to Shri Jena from Satna to resolve this matter immediately so that 107 hand pumps can be installed. People in my area and in jungle died of scarcity of water. This problem should be solved, but Mr. Jena has left the House, Hon'ble Mr. Jena has not even replied, It is May now, it would have no significance after June. The problem of drinking water has increased now.

I would like to request the central Government through you. I have raised this matter many times earlier also that the District Magistrate has stopped our work out of pre-judice. Member of Parliament Development fund is for the

* Not Recorded.

service of the people of the area through Member of Parliament. It is not to be used at the will of D.M. This is not given to dominate over the feelings of the Members of Parliament. This fund is not given to use against the interest of Members. It is for the development, therefore, I would like to request that the Officer who is prejudiced should be transferred from there and the matter should be inquired into. If he has deliberately been entrapped and if people are really facing scarcity of water, it is my request that this District Magistrate should be punished and suspended. . . (Interruption).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already directed the Government. I, once again, direct the Government that the issue raised by the hon. Members recently about the drinking water shortage may be attended to and individual replies may be sent to those who have raised this issue.

Now, the statement to be made by Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu regarding Delhi Rent Act, 1995.

14.16 hrs.

[English]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Delhi Rent Act, 1995

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : Sir, on the other day, some hon. Members including Shri Vijay Goel, have raised this issue and there was also a direction from the Chair.

The Delhi Rent Act, 1995 was assented to by the President on 23.8.1995. A large number of representations were received in this Ministry from the Associations/Organisations and individuals. While some have been demanding changes in certain provisions of the Act, others have been asking for immediate enforcement of the Act. An All Party Committee was also constituted by the then Chief Minister of Delhi immediately after the Delhi Rent Bill was passed by both the Houses of Parliament. The Committee also suggested certain changes in some of the provisions of the Act.

The Government is examining all these representations

from the Individuals/Associations and recommendations of the All Party Committee. Several high level meetings have also been convened by the Government. In the process, several views have also emerged.

On 7.5.97, the hon. Delhi High Court heard a petition filed by Shri H.D. Shourie, Director, Common Cause regarding enforcement of the Delhi Rent Act, 1995 which was assented to by the President on 23.8.95. The hon. Delhi High Court has directed the Union of India to file a detailed affidavit explaining the action taken in the matter so far. The next date of hearing has been fixed for 20.5.97.

As the matter is now under consideration of the Government and the same is also *sub-judice* in the Delhi High Court, it would not be appropriate for me to say more at this stage.

Further, a meeting of the leaders of all parties was convened by the hon. Prime Minister this morning and the members were apprised of the present situation. A consensus has emerged in the all party meeting that we should make an appeal to all those who are agitating in this regard to call off their agitation and restore normalcy, since the Government is examining the issues expeditiously. The Government make an appeal to all concerned to call off their agitation.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk-Delhi) : What could we get out of it . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There can be no discussion on the statement.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : The standing committee had also said that it should be revised.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : All those details are there in the hon. Minister's statement please take your seat. There can be no discussion now.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : The tenants as well as traders have come out on the roads. What benefit could we get from this statement, what relief could we get ?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There can be no further discussion on this.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar-Delhi) : Amendments should be considered so that deliberations on it could be done. Both the tenants and traders are agitating. The Hon. Minister should accept these amendments.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : What is the meaning of subjudice. An individual goes to court, and wants it to be implemented. The direction is not required from the court rather it is required from Govt. It is not subjudice.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We cannot discuss that matter now.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Government in Delhi is elected Govt. It constituted a committee, consisting of members from all parties and it has suggested some amendments, which should be given due regard. The Hon. Minister should see that after due deliberation on the amendments, it should be enacted. These amendments are not only in favour of tenants but also in favour of traders. Otherwise the conflict will increase between tenant and the landlords.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Goel, no submission is allowed after the Minister's statement.

Now we shall proceed to Item No.24 of today's agenda.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Whatever has been passed in the committee, should be implemented.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please understand the procedure of the House. Please take your seats. The procedure of the House is that we cannot have a discussion after the Minister's statement. Please understand that.

Now, we shall proceed to Item No.24 of today's agenda, that is, Calling Attention.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga):

Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all this Act should be enforced.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the problem with you ?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : I would like to say that first of all this Act should come into force and only then amendments should be brought.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Fatmiji, what are you doing ? What is the matter ?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : I would like to make an appeal. I was the member of committee. The Act should be amended.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whether you are a Member of that Committee or not is a different matter. After the statement of the Minister, it is the practice of the House that we do not discuss further on it. You can take up in whatever form you like.

Now, let us take up Item No.24, namely, Calling Attention.

14.20½ hrs.

[English]

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation arising out of non-revival of the sick
units of IDPL etc.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Chemical and Fertilisers to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"Situation arising out of non-revival of the sick units of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation and Fertilizer Corporation of India and the steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

14.21hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MR. SPEAKER : If the statement has been circulated, I think the Minister can place it on the Table so that we will save some time. You may place it on the Table of the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA) : Please take up matters under Rule 377 first.

MR. SPEAKER : We will take them up after 6 o' clock.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Bill regarding reservation of women has to come up today. That is the priority.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : Sir, I beg to lay the Statement on the Table of the House:

Sir, the attention of the august House has been frequently drawn towards the present position of sick pharmaceutical and fertilizer undertakings under Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizer. The concrete steps have been taken by the Govt. for the revival of these companies. Presently, In spite of the shortage of Budgetary Resources all possible assistance is being provided to the operative units of these sick Govt. undertakings to keep them running. The position regarding Indian Drugs and Pharmaceutical Limited (I.D.P.L.) is as under :

I.D.P.L. which is facing continuous loss from the very beginning, was declared sick by Board of Industry Finance and Reconstruction (B.I.F.R.) in August, 1992. The revival package formulated by the I.D.P.L. management, was approved by B.I.F.R. As a part of revival package an important capital restructuring plan costing Rs. 435 crores has been started. Moreover, As it is mentioned in the package, another financial assistance of Rs. 119.94 crores has been provided. During the year of 1993-94 to 95-96 Govt. provided on assistance of Rs. 140.31 crores.

In spite of the Financial assistance and capital Re-structuring IDPL could not achieve the set target during the first year an operating agency of IDBI has examined

the revised revival plan submitted by the IDPL management and presently Union Cabinet/Govt. is actively considering the matter relating to revival of IDPL. During 1996-97 Rs. 33.02 crores was provided to IDPL by the Govt. as an assistance to resolve the problems of IDPL.

The Govt. has released funds to IDPL to pay the salary upto March, 1997. In addition after the approval of central Budget the funds would be released to pay the salary for the month of April, 1997. With regard to fertilizer undertakings the present position is as under :-

Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI) has three operating units in Sindry, Ramagundum and Talchur and one closed unit of Gorakhpur. As on 31.3.97 the cumulative loss of the company was Rs. 3408 crores, whereas its authorised capital was only Rs. 800 Crores. The company was declared as sick unit by BIFR in 1992. After an accident in June, 1990, the production in Gorakhpur unit could not be started again. The total manpower of FCI is 7533.

A provision of Rs. 332 crores has been made in 1997-98 to provide budgetary support to FCI. With a view to meet the compulsory capital investment and to make good of the loss suffered by the company.

The operating units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (H.F.C.) are located in Namroop, Durgapur and Barauni. Namroop complex has three plants, out of them Namroop-II is closed for shortage of gas since August, 1994. Haldia project of H.F.C. has been completed but it has not become operative. As on 31.3.1997 the cumulative loss of H.F.C. was Rs. 3610 crores whereas its authorised capital was Rs. 750 crores. This unit was declared sick by BIFR in 1992. The total manpower of H.F.C. is 8483.

A provision of Rs. 184.34 crores has been made in 1997-98 to provide Budgetary support to H.F.C. with a view to meet the compulsory capital investment and to make good of the loss suffered by the Company.

In the operating unit of FCI and H.F.C. the capacity is not being fully utilised due to old plants, and the problems caused by lack of infrastructural facilities and paucity of fund.

The limited revival of the above units of FCI and HFC was proposed in revival package formulated in 1995 for rehabilitation of FCI and HFC. It was estimated that Rs. 1736 crores would be required for FCI. Revival of Gorakhpur unit was not found feasible. Because it would have necessitated the instalment of a new Amonia - Urea plant. It was estimated that a new investment of Rs. 465

[Shri Sis Ram Ola]

crores would be required for the units of H.F.C. The revival of Haldia Project was not found feasible technically and economically. These revival package could not be implemented due to non-availability of funds.

An expert group under the leadership of Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI) was thereafter constituted to reformulate the revival package from the standpoint of funding by Financial Institutions (FIs). The expert Group has put the requirement of fresh investment for the revival of Sindri, Ramagundam and Talcher units of FCI at Rs. 2638 crore and that for the revamp of Namrup, Durgapur and Barauni units of HFC at Rs. 869 crore. In addition, various other financial reliefs and concessions in terms of write off of loans and accumulated interest aggregating to Rs. 5006 crore are envisaged to make these packages viable.

Given the magnitude of the fresh investment and other reliefs required, a due diligence exercise bearing on the multiple dimensions of the issue has been undertaken in the Government. Inter-ministerial consultations have focussed on the economics of different options available. For reasons of budgetary constraints, efforts are being made to optimise the participation of FIs in the rehabilitation schemes. The operating agency appointed by the BIFR is also engaged in formulating draft schemes for the revival of these companies. The Government is committed to bring about an expeditious and judicious decision of this complex issue in the overall national interest.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, at the outset, I profusely thank your honour for having admitted the Calling Attention Motion and thus providing us an opportunity to raise this very important issue involving human sufferings, etc.

This has two parts. Firstly, the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited is a living pioneer public sector undertaking dealing with manufacture of life saving drugs and secondly, there are the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation and the Fertilizer Corporation of India which are the public sector undertakings in the fertiliser industry. Fertiliser is the basic input for our agriculture and thus this is also very important. But these two sectors which come under one Minister, that is, the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers have gone sick. These organisations have gone sick and I think that the statement given by the hon.

Minister is a disappointing one in the sense that we wanted to know the situation prevailing in these two sectors but he has said nothing about it. The plants have been closed down. They are not working and even the employees are not being paid their minimum salaries for months.

I would first talk about IDPL. All its units have been closed since October, 1996. After the first phase of implementation of the revival programme, this organisation despite sickness, was doing very well. Its units at Guregaon and Rishikesh were working over time in the places where there was plague or other epidemics. At that time, in some places there was black marketing, sky rocketing of the prices of drugs like Penicillin, Tetracycline, etc. These drugs were sold at the rate of Rs. 30-35 per capsule. Had this organisation not functioning there, you could not imagine what would have been the situation there.

I would now come to the Report of the Standing Committee on this subject. I would be very brief. I would also like to quote from the latest Annual Report of the Ministry. It has been mentioned :

"The setting up of the Penicillin factory at Pimpri, Pune, in early fifties and the construction of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited plants at Rishikesh and Hyderabad in the sixties have been the milestones in the history of pharmaceuticals in the country. These have been the building blocks on which the structure of pharmaceutical industry in India has been built."

This has been mentioned by the Ministry in their latest Report of 1996-97, which was placed before this House. In this background, I would say that there has been a lukewarm attitude, indifferent attitude of the Ministry towards its revival. I am not going into the circumstances.

MR. SPEAKER : Panigrahiji, you cannot make a speech. You can only ask clarifications.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Yes, Sir, I am seeking clarifications with regard to IDPL.

One after the other, there are seven Reports of the Standing Committee and the latest report on IDPL has mentioned this. The report are the outcome of the collective wisdom of the Standing Committee, which is regarded as a mini-Parliament where Members of all the political Parties, from both the Houses, are there. What has been the observation and the recommendation of that Standing Committee ? I would conclude about IDPL by quoting from the report. I am quoting from page 28 of the Tenth Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals.

Because of time constraint I am not quoting other thing.
I says :

"In Committee's view the early revival of IDPL is a must for successful implementation of Health for All by 2000 AD Programme."

They have further talked about what should be done.

MR. SPEAKER : Panigrahi, you are going out of rules. You have to confine yourself to the statement made. You cannot go on referring to the Annual Reports.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I appeal to you with folded hands, as this is a very-very important subject concerning the bread of lakhs of workers. This has a national bearing. This is a question of self-pride, national pride. It is a question of self-reliance. We should tackle it together. We are celebrating the 50th year of our Independence. The public sector was the brain child of the chief architect of modern India, the first Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru. He used to call the IDPL and the fertilizers sector as the modern temples. They are being demolished now. With much anguish and pain I am saying all this. We are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our Independence. This is a question of national pride. With folded hands I would, therefore, beg to you to give me some more time.

All unions are united. They are prepared to sacrifice the work force. The first phase was cleared. There were slippages here and there. The Standing committee of Parliament visited IDPL Headquarters.

They also scrutinised everything and pointed out the lapses. But no heed was paid to that. There was very bad management. It was the first project to be cleared by the BIFR for revival. But with halfhearted approach they went ahead and that is why it has failed. It is capable of being revived. It is capable of being revived if they give Rs. 264 crore. All parties and managements together brought out the revival plan. If that is implemented and if some purchase guarantee by the Government is given to it, it can be revived. I am not going into the details of how it went sick. The IDPL was forced to supply its produce at less than its production cost to Government agencies and it is capable of being revived if they give Rs. 264 crore. All parties and management amount arrived at by the expert group is given, there is no doubt about its survival and revival. It is a must. The Committee also recommended that it is a must. I am not going into details.

The Minister in his statement today stated that after

the Budget is passed, he will release further amounts. The Budget is already passed. They are starving. Their salary for the month of March is paid only yesterday. We have brought all these things before Parliament. We have given notice to the hon. Speaker. This is the utility of Parliamentary democracy that we are allowed to bring something and that had some effect on the bureaucracy. Please release some money and pay their salaries. When you are giving them salaries, try to give working capital so that the plants start working. Now the prices of drugs are skyrocketing. There is no regulatory body to control all these things. With this I conclude the IDPL issue. I will now switch over to fertilizers.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Panigrahi, you are a very senior Member. You know what is a Calling Attention. You cannot have a debate like that. You can only ask a pointed clarification on the statement.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I obey you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : We have Broadcasting Bill to be taken up. We have Women's Bill to be taken up. Why do you not understand ? I think you have made your point.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : One part of my submission is over. The other part is with regard to fertilisers. As you know, Sir, this is a complicated issue. Many things are combined in it. That is why I profusely express my gratitude to your honour and request you to allow me another five to seven minutes to conclude.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no, the question does not arise. It is never done. Please conclude.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I will only put questions on fertiliser. The problem of sickness has been gone into in detail by the Cabinet, the Group of Ministers, the BIFR, the consultancy and others. The Group of Ministers, that is, the Government, gave its approval in April, 1995. Thereafter, the funds were to be arranged. Two agencies were coming forward for that. The Exim Bank of Japan was willing to invest. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what happened to that.

Now they say that although it was cleared, because money could not be located they are giving a second look to it. We went for ICICI as the operating agency again. A firm named Fergusson was engaged. I do not know what sort of expertise that firm has in this regard. That is a Chartered Accountancy firm. They are now coming forward with some contradictory recommendations. What happened to the proposal when two leading international financial

[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

institutions – the Exim Bank of Japan and some other institution called something like European Continental – were coming forward to fund this project ? What happened to that proposal ? The only thing they were asking was for a Government guarantee. What is the harm in it, if the Government comes forward considering the utility of these projects ?

In India, per hectare consumption of fertilizer is the minimum. At 75 kilograms per hectare, it is less than the world average of 95 kilograms per hectare. Our neighbour Bangladesh is at 102 kilograms per hectare. As you know, we are having an economic growth of 7.23 per cent.

In the case of Agriculture, our growth rate is on the decline. Our agricultural growth is not even matching our population growth. This is the situation. Fertilizer being the basic input, we should have self-sufficiency in fertilizers.

In today's situation, we are going in for import of about 23 lakh tonnes of urea. If this is the situation and if all the units of HFC and FCI put together are revived, there will be an additional production of 23 lakh tonnes of urea. These projects are revivable. If Talcher unit is closed, naturally there will be no heavy water and that is something which will have a bearing on our defence preparedness. Thousands of workers' families will also lose their bread. In the Committee of Secretaries and everywhere, the Government says, 'yes, they are feasible, revival programme is feasible' . . . (Interruptions) There was a Group of Secretaries. One thing is that everybody supports revival . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : You are compelling me to take a decision to the effect that I will never call you in the Calling Attention discussion in future.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I am concluding, Sir.

The Group of Secretaries have said that they are not to be revived. A project of Sindri of FCI and another project of HFC will be revived. There is a lurking fear everywhere, among the workers and also among the cultivators. In view of self-reliance, I would like to have a categorical assurance. We cannot also depend so much on import of huge quantity of foodgrains, etc. that is why, I would request that the Government should take every step and particularly, if the Government gives a guarantee, the agencies are willing to come forward to invest in this sector. I do not know why there is no provision. Here, only a minimum amount is provided. But there is a propaganda going on, even in

the electronic media that Rs. 1100 crore is there for Talcher and for some other things. . . (Interruptions).

My concern is that in the national interest, as I said, we have to have self-reliance. We have to be self-reliant in the fertilizer sector. The funny argument is that imported fertilizers are sold in India at prices less than our indigenous fertilizers. This argument will hold no water after some time. We have seen this with regard to other things. When they find that our plants are closed down, naturally, the situation will be taken advantage of and there will be a shortfall and a price increase.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing more will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, the mills of Hindustan Fertilizers Limited and Fertilizer Corporation of India are located in the Eastern and in the North-Eastern parts of India, starting from Barauni, Gorakhpur and Durgapur. In the North-East, Namrup in Assam and Talcher in Orissa, all have become sick. Sindri is one of the oldest public sector undertakings. While inaugurating this public sector undertaking in 1952, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said:

"I am inaugurating the modern temple of modern India."

Sir, we are importing urea. In 1995-96, we had imported 37.83 lakh tonnes of urea. This year, we have imported Rs. 3,047 crore worth of urea. Next year, we will be importing 23.20 lakh tonnes of urea by spending Rs. 2,184 crore.

This year, an amount of Rs. 2862 crore has been earmarked to import urea. Our indigenous production of urea should be augmented through revival of sick public sector fertilizer companies like Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation, Fertilizer Corporation of India.

The revival proposal was approved by the Government of India on 24-4-1995 with a total investment of Rs. 2201 crore with a guaranteed production of 23 lakh tonnes of urea per annum. Now the Government of India proposes to spend more amount for the current year to import urea. Although the proposal was approved by the Government of India earlier, it is quite surprising that on 21.4.1997, a Committee of Secretaries submitted a report totally reversing the proposal which was approved by the Cabinet. The report of CoS also went against the recommendation

* Not Recorded

of the Standing Committee on Petroleum. The Committee of Secretaries recommended that except the two Units, one of Fertiliser Corporation, that is, Sindri modernisation and another at Namrup, all the other units should be closed down. The reason put forward by the CoS is that the imported price of urea is less than that of our indigenous urea. It is a conspiracy. The conspiracy is to cripple our fertilizer plants so that we continue to depend on the import of urea from the foreign countries. If all the units, particularly in Eastern India, starting from Gorakhpur to Namrup and Talcher are closed down, the entire Eastern Indian will be affected and our indigenous production will be crippled.

I want to know from the Minister as to when the Government of India approved the revival package, why was it not implemented within one year ? Why was the revival package of Durgapur unit of HFC not started and the unit is functioning only for three months in a year ? Why have two units of Namrup plant been closed down? Why has it not been implemented ? If IFFCO can invest in a new fertilizer plant at Mangalore, when it has got the surplus fund to invest in a new plant at Mangalore, why can that fund not be utilised for revival of plants at Durgapur, Talcher, Namrup and Barauni also ? What is the fate of Haldia Fertilizer unit ? The construction of the unit was completed in 1986. At least, four or five committees were appointed to look into the matter. All the committees recommended for its revival. But the Government of India slept over the matter for these 11 years. It did not take any decision either to revive it or to do something with such a huge fertilizer complex unit. May I know from the Minister whether he will take proper steps to re-start the production of Haldia Fertilizer Company of HFC ?

Sir, IDPL is a premier drug and pharmaceutical company of our country. It has supplied drugs to the common people of our country and this company has made our country self-sufficient in the manufacturing of essential drugs. Why has this company suddenly fallen sick ? It is because of mismanagement, and that too because of the policy of the Government. When the country was opened, the policy of liberalisation was adopted and the multinational companies were being invited, the prices of drug were being increased, the common man has to purchase drugs at a higher price.

All the reports of the Standing Committee recommended for its revival. This Tenth Report of the Standing Committee has very categorically said that it must be revived. A company which is not an expert in drugs and

pharmaceuticals, Fergusson & Co., was appointed to examine the viability of this company and they submitted a report. Their recommendation is that more than 7,000 workers are to be retrenched.

All the unions related to this have come together and have prepared a revival package. Today at 5 o'clock, they will be submitting their report. A Cabinet Committee has been constituted and they have suggested that with less investment and by selling the surplus land, this company can be revived without retrenchment of the work force.

The hon. Minister has stated that the Government is considering this. I want a categorical reply from the hon. Minister whether the Government will consider the revival package submitted by all the trade unions along with the management and whether it will try to see that all the units of the IDPL are revived. I would also like to have a categorical reply from the hon. Minister that the salaries which have not been paid for quite long will be paid to the workers regularly.

Only yesterday the salaries were released. We do not want that idle wages be paid to the workers but we want that the production is started without any delay. The hon. Minister should assure the House on two very important public sector undertakings of this country.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol) : Sir, I am not satisfied with the reply of the hon. Minister. It is a fact that import of urea, valued at Rs. 2184 crore during 1996-97 has been enhanced for the year 1997-98 to the tune of Rs. 2,862 crore. It is a fallacy that India being an agricultural country, is becoming dependent more and more on multinationals, thanks to the IMF, World Bank diktat.

This too is against the public sector fertilizer plants that we have built for the last so many years with a motive of becoming self-reliant, at least in this sector. It has been deliberately made sick due to the wrong policy of the Government. The revival package for Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation and Fertilizer Corporation of India were approved in principle three years back in 1995 with a fresh investment of Rs. 2201 crore.

The Report containing the recommendations was also presented by the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals to Parliament on 13.4.1997. I would like to have the replies to the following queries.

What is the reason behind abnormal delay in finalising the revival plants of FCI and FCI units ? This delay has resulted in increase of cost from Rs. 2,200 crore in 1992

[Shri Haradhan Roy]

– when the units were declared sick – to Rs. 3,500 crore when the revivals plans were approved by the Government in 1995.

Sir, the Committee of Secretaries have reversed the decision of the Government in their meeting held on 21.4.1997. I would like to know how the Committee of Secretaries could reverse the decision of the Government when their only function is to implement the recommendations and decisions.

I would also like to know whether the Government is going to implement the decision already taken for revival of the fertiliser plants. If so, when ?

As regards IDPL, I share the views expressed by Shri Panigrahi and Shri Basu Deb Acharia and I am not adding anything in this respect.

[Translation]

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it will not be right to say that the wages have not been paid to the employees of I.D.P.L. A provision has been made to provide funds for payment of wages up to 31st March to the employees of I.D.P.L. and the payment of wages for the month of April has been asked to be made within a week. I took this issue of revival of I.D.P.L. to the cabinet. A committee of a group of cabinet Ministers has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Finance Minister and it consists of Shri Chaturanan Mishra, Agriculture Minister, Labour Minister and myself. Perhaps, its meeting is going to start at 3.00-3.15.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : That has been postponed.

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : If postponed, it does not matter. It would be held tomorrow. . . (Interruption) You should try to listen to me. Previously you were saying that entire House is united. Now you are not taking it seriously. What you are saying. I am giving a meaningful talk and you are behaving like this. What you get out of it. I am making a submission that I am deeply concerned about the worries of the Members and to take all these things to the cabinet for revival was not a simple matter. Despite this I have taken it and this is the situation on such an important decision. I can not say that what decision will be taken by the group of Ministers. But I am of the opinion that it should be revived. Rs. 710 crores are required for the revival package of I.D.P.L. out of it Rs. 104 crores for

Rishikesh, Rs. 6 crores for Hyderabad, Rs. 14 crores for Gurgaon, Rs. 3 crores for marketing Base Rs. 117 crores for capital and Rs. 156 crores for giving compensation etc. to some employees who will take retirement, Rs. 310 crores for case losses will be required. Earlier also we have provided money for this purpose and in spite of giving this money the Government has fully co-operated for revival. Rs. 133 crores were given to I.D.P.L. as assistance. Even after this I.D.P.L. could not achieve the target and this company is running into losses since its inception. Despite this there are 8 thousand employees employed there. Every Government which cater to the welfare of the employees is duty bound to think over it, from all the angles. The Government is worried about the future of eight thousand employees and it is being thought that some better condition of revival would emerge.

Due to some reasons, a meeting of group of Ministers could not be held today. It would be held after 2-3 days. You need not to be worried about it.

I do not know what will be the decision of the Group of Ministers. I am trying . . . (Interruptions) I myself have raised this issue. This is the situation of I.D.P.L. You please listen to me. I have listen to you much but you are not listening to me. You are saying that they have not got their salaries, but we are giving salary to everyone. We are also giving salary to the employees of Haldia . . . (Interruptions) Everybody is getting salary . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can't do like that.

[Translation]

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : In F.C.I., there are three fertilizers units which are located at Sindhri, Ramagundam and Talcher and the units of H.F.C. are located at Durgapur, Barauni and Namrup. If we want to revive these units and so far as an amount of rupees 1162 crores is required for which a mention has been made by you about the Japanese bank. In this regard it is stated that Japanese bank has not laid down any condition for us and no such guarantee has ever been taken by any bank so far which has lended money. Despite this, if any financial institution comes forward for lending money, it is only a share of an amount of rupees 1162 crores. The Government have to give an amount of rupees 2445 crores. . . . (Interruptions). You Please don't interrupt. Please listen to me the Government will have to give an amount of rupees 2445 crores.

MR. SPEAKER : You don't look at that side, please look at this side only.

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : I will try. We will take up the issue for revival. Now, it depends upon the Government that how much weightage is given to it. I am very much concerned with the feelings of hon. Members and respect their feelings. We will take up this issue with the Government. I can not say what will be the decision of the Cabinet. I will try my best. In F.C.I. and H.F.C., there are 7533 and 8483 employees respectively. F.C.I. and H.F.C. have been provided a budgetary support of rupees 332 crores and rupees 184.74 crores respectively for the year 1997-98. The employees are not doing any work. This amount has been given for their salary. . . (Interruptions)
It is not correct to say that they are not getting their salaries. The Government is giving salary to them regularly . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude. Don't look at that side.

[Translation]

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : We would like that they do their work. We should know about their output and the nation should be benefited from their production and they should get their salaries. It would be our endeavour.

You have made a lot of hue and cry with regard to Haldia unit. Haldia unit was started in 1972 and since then, nothing has been produced from this unit.

15.00 hrs.

For this purpose, several attempts were made since 1979 but despite all the efforts a commission could not be constituted for it till 1986. In this regard a question was also raised in Rajya Sabha. We have constituted a committee for this purpose. The Committee will give its report after examining the all aspects of its working that what can be done and what can not. . . (Interruptions) That report should be submitted as early as possible. We have nominated three members i.e. Shri Satyapal, Shri Jethia and Shri Chakravorty for this committee. They will submit their report. If these units are to be revived then an amount of rupees 5,606 crores will be required for this purpose and which have to be written off. Besides, an amount of rupees 3500 crores are further required. If the Government and the Minister of Finance provide us that amount, then

the revival of the units can be done otherwise I will do my all endeavours on your behalf and then I will inform you the position later on . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, he has not replied to one question. I would like to know whether the Committee of Secretaries have submitted a report on 27th April to revive only two units, the Sindri Modernisation Project and the Namrup-III. Is it so ?

[Translation]

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : I think we should not pay attention to these petty matters.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This is not a petty matter.

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : The decision of the Government will be final. The Secretary is not above the Government. Every thing will be done with the consent of the Government. So we should not pay any attention to these issues. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Government has approved the revival package. After that how could the Committee of Secretaries recommend the revival of only two Units ? . . . (Interruptions) It is a question of national interest . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : I do not know whether the urea money is coming back or not. The urea money involved may be Rs. 140 crore. I think he has mentioned that he is short of money. What is the position of the Rs. 140 crore coming back to the country ? That urea money has gone abroad . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think it has got any relevance to this question. I do not think that you have to answer.

(Interruptions)

DR. ASIM BALA : It is a question of national interest. Please give a ruling on this . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : We have just 28 minutes left with us. I cannot allow you any more. We have a lot of important business to transact today.

Now, Shri S. Jalpal Reddy to introduce the Bill.

15.03 hrs.

[English]

BROADCASTING BILL*

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an independent authority to be known as the Broadcasting Authority of India, for the purposes of facilitating and regulating broadcasting services in India and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an independent authority to be known as the Broadcasting Authority of India, for the purpose of facilitating and regulating broadcasting services in India and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

Shri Rupchand Pal. He has an objection. Please be pointed.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, I am very much concerned about the time constraint. I shall not only be brief but also very very relevant.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know about it.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Always in the past, interdependent Bills had been passed together. I am not going into the contents of the Broadcasting Bill. But the Prasar Bharati Bill was passed in 1990. This Government, in its Common Minimum Programme, had committed that it would implement the Bill without further delay. One year had already passed. I am referring to one debate in the other House when you were the Minister. The hon. Prime Minister at that time said . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He was not the Prime Minister at that time.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Yes, he was not the Prime Minister at that time. But the present Prime Minister, at that time as a Member of the House, said one thing. I just quote one line. He said : "We will meet the challenge when it comes back." The challenge, that is the Prasar Bharati Bill, which has been lying for all these months

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II, Section 2, dated 16th May, 1997.

without being implemented, is proposed to be diluted. So, without even going into the contents of it, I have got very serious objection to the introduction on three grounds.

In spite of the repeated assurances given in the last seven years, it has not been implemented. In spite of the directives of the Calcutta High Court, this Government had appealed for extension of the period. Sir, you were there at that time. The provisions of the Act are being diluted in the proposed Bill.

Thirdly, the Act has been kept in hibernation. It has not been implemented and even without implementation of this Act, it is not only being diluted but it is also being given a decent burial. So, I object to the very introduction of this Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : With my utmost due respect, I do not think that at this stage, anything can be done. The only question that you can raise is whether the Parliament is constitutionally competent or not. I do not think there is any need for the Minister to reply.

The question is :

"The leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an independent authority to be known as the Broadcasting Authority of India, for the purposes of facilitating and regulating broadcasting services in India and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I introduce* the Bill

15.07 hrs.

[English]

MOTION RE: REFERENCE OF BROADCASTING BILL TO JOINT COMMITTEE

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, do you have any other Motion to move ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : In view of the fact that this is a very sensitive and complex piece of legislation being enacted in an original area, I propose that the Bill be referred to a Joint Committee. I will read out my Motion.

* Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of an independent authority to be known as the Broadcasting Authority of India for the purposes of facilitating and regulating broadcasting services in India and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 30 Members, 20 from this House, namely:-

1. Shri Nitish Bharadwaj
2. Dr. Amrit Lai Bharti
3. Shri K.P. Singh Deo
4. Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta
5. Shri Rupchand Pal
6. Shri Sriballav Panigrahi
7. Shri Jung Bahadur Patel
8. Shri Sharad Pawar
9. Shri Suresh Prabhu
10. Shri P.V. Rajendran
11. Shri Kashi Ram Rana
12. Shri K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy
13. Shri K.L. Sharma
14. Shri Nawal Kishore Sharma
15. Shri Jaswant Singh
16. Shri P.N. Siva
17. Shri K. S. Rayudu
18. Shri C. Narayan Swamy
19. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj
20. Shri Ramakant D. Khalap

and 10 from Rajya Sabha;

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the last date of the first week of the next session;

that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall

apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

that this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of 10 members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee".

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of an independent authority to be known as the Broadcasting Authority of India for the purposes of facilitating and regulating broadcasting services in India and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 30 Members, 20 from this House, namely :-

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15. Shri Jaswant Singh
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20. Shri Ramakant D. Khalap

and 10 from Rajya Sabha;

[Shri S. Jaipal Reddy]

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the last date of the first week of the next session;

that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

that this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of 10 members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee".

The motion was adopted.

15.09 hrs.

[English]

SICK INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to make, in the public interest, special provisions with a view of securing the timely detection of sick companies owning industrial undertakings, the speedy determination of the remedial and other measures which needed to be taken with respect to such companies and the expeditious enforcement of the measures so determined and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto and also to repeal the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to make, in the public interest, special provisions with a view to securing the timely detection of sick companies owning industrial undertakings, the speedy determination of the remedial and other measure which need to be taken with respect of such companies and the expeditious enforcement of the measures so deter-

mined and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto and also to repeal the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I introduce* the Bill

15.10 hrs.

[English]

CONSTITUTION (EIGHTY-FIRST AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we have only 21 minutes left with us before we start the Private Member's Bills and Resolution.

SEVERAL HON.-MEMBERS : Sir, what about Matters under Rule 377 ?

MR. SPEAKER : Matters under Rule 377 will be taken up later on because the leaders had met me in my Chamber and it was decided that the debate on Reservation for Women's Bill should start now, in this Session. We will take up the Matters Under Rule 377 a little later, after 6 o' clock.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : What will be done within just 20 minutes ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : This whole house would like to know that what will be done about O.B.C. and Minority . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panškura) : Let there be a discussion. . . *(Interruptions)*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, what will be done within just 15 to 20 minutes ? . . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : We will seek your protection. What will be done about the women belonging

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II, Section 2, dated 16th May, 1997

* Introduced with the recommendation of the President

to OBC and Minorities. . . (Interruptions) We want your protection.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): You are providing reservation just for the sake of social justice. Whether the Muslims will not be able to have an access to this House. Similarly, the people belonging to other classes of the society and backward caste could not be able to get an entry to this House. First of all, please listen about this. Earlier also we had the same objection . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I fail to understand as to how much we can discuss now about amendments in constitution just in 15 minutes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot put this question to the Chair. This is a Bill which is being introduced by the Government, and has to be piloted by the Government. You belong to the Ruling Party. How do you expect me.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Whether the Hon. Prime Minister will now start the discussion. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Prime Minister speak. I would like to know the stand of the Government and whether they want to proceed with it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let me hear the Prime Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : If the Prime Minister himself will move a motion like this for the next 15 minutes then it will become mockery. This is just a publicity please listen about the objection we have.

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : Please allow me to speak . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am only asking the sense of the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : There can not be any joke more than this. Just in 15 minutes Private Members Bill is likely to be taken up. If it was to be brought, it should have been brought earlier, we could have discussed it first. If it is to be discussed in the next session, what is left for us to do today ? . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla and Shri Nitish Kumar may please sit down. Please listen to me.

The limited question, that I am asking the hon. Prime Minister at this stage is, whether the Government is going ahead with the consideration of the Bill or not. That is the only question, I am asking. I am not asking him to take up the Bill now. I am only asking whether the Government is proceeding with the consideration of the Bill. That is all.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, our request is that it is a Constitution (Amendment) Bill a very serious Bill and nothing will be served within just 15 minutes by starting the discussion now. It is nothing except a gimmick.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We have full regards for Hon. Prime Minister, but he will make a full speech . . . (Interruptions) They could have responded.

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad) : The Muslims also have the equal rights, therefore, please listen to us first . . . (Interruptions). There is no reservation for us. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hear the Prime Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, there should not be any difference on such questions. All the disputed matters will now be moved for further consideration without resolving them. Now those matters will just be moved and after speaking five sentences, you will sit down and then Private Members' Business will begin and it will be presumed that discussion has started. But what purpose it will solve ?

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : This is not at all proper. What is the intention of the Government ? What is the purpose of taking up this Bill at this time ?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We would like to know ~~that~~ what purpose it will solve ? We would like to know as to what is the justification behind it. . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : A select committee has been constituted for resolving the disputed matter. A unanimous report was given by the joint select committee after a consensus has been reached. How far this would remain as a disputed matter ? . . . (Interruptions) This will not do . . . (Interruptions) The people are saying that they should be heard. . . (Interruptions) Our points have now become a part of the record.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think you have made your point.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Let us hear the Prime Minister, Let us listen to what he has got to say. What is all this happening ?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : This should have been presented by Law Minister. Hon Prime Minister is standing, what purpose you want to achieve.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Nitish Kumar, I was only asking a limited question whether the Government wants to proceed with the consideration of the Bill or not. I am not asking anything else.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : He wants to read out the text of his speech.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : First he will read out his speech, then only he will move for consideration of the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister is going to speak. Let us hear the Prime Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We also have some curiosities,

they should also be resolved . . . (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker Sir, we are not saying anything. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Nitish Kumar, you cannot do like that. You have made your point. You are my colleague in the Chair.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : You will get the time . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : We are doing great injustice to the Government and to the Prime Minister. At our instance an all-party meeting was called. It was for the sixth time that it was discussed. Almost all the parties wanted that it should be discussed and decided in the House. The Prime Minister agreed to bring it in the House. During the debate those who have got objections can raise them. This is high time. Lady Members are agitated about it. . . (Interruptions) He can raise his objections.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : We want protection from the Chair, Sir, Once the motion for consideration is moved, Members cannot move a substitute motion. Members will not be able to move their amendments. Our right are affected.

MR. SPEAKER : You can still move amendments. Why not ? There is no bar. You have the right to move amendments.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have the right to move amendments.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Yes, we are given that right.

SHRI G.G. SWELL (Shillong) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know when do we have the right to move our amendments.

MR. SPEAKER : You can move them even now. You can give the amendments even now.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Then, I am moving my amendment.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no Just put it there. It will be valid.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : You have prepared the manifesto without discussing it with the party. . .
(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : We have got only ten minutes for discussion on a serious issue. Do not allow it now. I am making a submission that it should not come up at all because it is nothing but a political gimmick on a serious issue.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have a right to listen to the hon. Prime Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : That is what I am saying. Let us first listen to the Prime Minister and then you can speak.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Sir, we have every right to listen to the Prime Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Please listen to us, why are we standing otherwise, it will be an injustice with me . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Just after a few minutes. You will preside over here.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have called the Prime Minister. Shri Nitish Kumar, when I have called the Prime Minister, you cannot do like that.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Please listen to me for a minute. What objections we have. After that whatever orders you will pass, that will be acceptable to all of us.

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU : We have got every right to hear the Prime Minister.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, only ten minutes are left. Go by the List of Business. We have only five minutes that are left before taking up Private Member's Business. No other purpose can be served by setting aside the entire List of Business.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Let us sit tomorrow to pass the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, when the hon. Prime Minister called a meeting of all political parties, certain decisions have been taken; then, the Speaker has been communicated what decision has been taken in that meeting. I am just carrying out the desire of that consensus because of the request from the Government. That is all I am doing.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : My innocent question was this.

MR. SPEAKER : If you are questioning it, then I do not think that it is there. It is not there at all.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : This issue has not been discussed in the Party. We had objected to it. It must be discussed on the floor of the House. You must first hear the view of the minorities. Do not set aside the agenda.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hear him.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down, Shri Fatmi.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Nitish Kumar, look here. I have been very liberal. Now, you are compelling me to go strictly according to the Rule of Procedure.

The Bill has been introduced. It has not been taken up for consideration. Strictly going according to the rules, unless the mover moves for consideration of the Bill, no Member is entitled to speak on the Bill. That is the position. Therefore, if you want to speak on the Bill, everybody will get chance but then it has to be moved for consideration first. Yes, Mr. Prime Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him move the Bill for consideration.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, you

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

called my name. I will not take more than one minute
... (Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record. Whatever the hon. Prime Minister says only that will go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can speak later on.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have given my ruling.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you called my name, I would like to request you that I should be allowed for two minutes more. . .

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT (Hamirpur) (U.P.) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, would you listen the voice of backwards. Injustice is being done with backwards. They are 60 per cent in population and are being ignored too . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You will get the opportunity to speak. But unless the Bill is taken into consideration, you cannot speak. You are forcing me.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : You are taking decision about this big country. You have simplified the matter but the matter is not like this. It is not a matter of consensus. It will be decided in the House. You have allowed me for five minutes. I also want to say many things, but this is not a question only for me. I don't want to involve in it. We all are in favour of it. But without listening to me you have allowed him for five minutes, and later on you gave your ruling. I request that sentiments of crores of people are attached with this. We are two hundred and eighty members in this House who have come here with their manhood. We have not come here on the basis of reservation. We, the people of middle eastern have not asked for reservation and you want to reserve 180 seats

and you don't want to allow anyone to speak even for five minutes. You want to take the decision about the future of this country. You want to change the character of this House. I feel so much trouble . . . (Interruptions) You cannot do injustice with the crores of people. You allowed the members to speak but even then nobody is ready to listen to their sentiments for two minutes and you are saying about the consensus. You will know about the consensus . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is all right. Nobody need to react now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : This is not the way to speak.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : What are you thinking. What are you thinking in this House. You have media, Press, but you don't want to listen to me for five minutes. . . (Interruptions) I myself and the members of the D.M.K. told in the steering committee that how are you talking about consensus. You don't want to listen the views of the people. What is the difference among Sushma Swaraj, Murl Manohar Joshi and Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee's speaking of their ethos. You want to crush the rights of our women. You have introduced such an important bill and it should have been circulated two days in advance. I respect this institution. We have shed a lot of blood in building up this institution, I don't want to say more but want to say that you should take it granted that this Bill will be debated for longer hours and certain people of this House will be exposed. . . (Interruptions) You are thinking about women. You want publicity and trying to humiliate women. If you will cross the limit then we will not spare anyone. About which women you are talking here. We do not want to restrict ourself just for the upliftment of sophisticated women only . . . (Interruptions) Would you not listen to the views of the Members for two minutes.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : He is humiliating the women, these are working women.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No. Please let me speak now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, please do not worry about that. I know that I understand the hurry. Please sit down.

I only want to clarify one thing. Shri Sharad Yadav has gone a little too far to test my patience.

But I have patience. I know what I am doing. This is a Bill which has already been introduced. There is no question of circulation for two days. The Bill has already been introduced. Now, it has to be taken up for consideration.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : But without any notice, how can it be done ?

MR. SPEAKER : You tell me what the Speaker should do when the Government comes and says that this is the consensus of all political parties that the Bill should be taken up.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : We objected to it . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now it is 3.30 P.M. The time of the Government is over. It is the time for Private Members' Business. So, we will take up Private Member's Business now.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Just now you have said that the Bill has already been introduced and that it has to be taken up now for consideration . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No more time for the Government. It is Private Members' time now. I cannot allow you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, may I seek a clarification ? The hon. Prime Minister was ready to move the Bill, as I understand, for consideration. He was here about half-an-hour before the Private Members' Business started. But he was not allowed to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : By whom ?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : By hon. Members.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes. It was mostly by those belonging to the ruling party including the leaders. You are a working

President of the ruling group. What can I do ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Therefore, what I am trying to find out is this. There are many many measures over which the whole House does not have unanimity. But then it will depend on the joint wisdom of the House. This is ascertained by voting preceded by a discussion. This is precisely we wanted. Sir, there been a demand for early consideration of this measure for a very long time.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I am on a point of order. The matter cannot be raised now as it is Private Members' time . . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, why can you not allow me also to make my submission ? Otherwise, you may take up Private Members' Business . . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I respectfully submit . . .
(Interruptions) It seems we have too many Speakers in the House. We have too many Presiding Officers in the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, you are very right. Everybody is a Speaker here.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chatterjee, I have already moved to the Private Members' Business. At 6 P.M., I will take the sense of the House as to whether the House should continue to sit or not and then, I will go according to the rules.

15.33 hrs.

[English]

MOTION RE : NINTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILL AND RESOLUTIONS

SHRI D.S.A. SIVAPRAKASAM (Tirunelveli) : I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 14th May, 1997."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

[Shri D.S.A. Sivaprakasam]

"That the House do agree with the Ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 14th May, 1997."

The motion was adopted.

15.34 hrs.

- (i) **Reservation for Economically Weaker Section People (In Higher Education and Public Employment) Bill***

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation of posts in public employment and of seats in higher educational institutions for various categories of persons belonging to economically weaker sections of the people.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation of posts in public employment and of seats in higher educational institutions for various categories of persons belonging to economically weaker sections of the people."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I introduce the bill.

15.34½ hrs.

- (ii) **Constitution (Amendment) Bill* (Amendment of article 39)**

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted

to introduce a Bill further to amend the constitution of India.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I introduce the bill.

15.35 hrs.

- (iii) **Constitution (Amendment) Bill* (Insertion of new article 31)**

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : I also introduce the bill.

15.35½ hrs.

- (iv) **Price Control Bill***

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad) : I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Commission for the purpose of determining prices of all consumer and industrial goods.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 16.5.97

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 16.5.97

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Commission for the purpose of determining prices of all consumer and industrial goods."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : I introduce the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

(v) Indian Fishenes (Amendment) Bill* (Amendment of Section 3, etc.)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Fisheries Act, 1897.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Fisheries Act, 1897."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA: I introduce the Bill.

15.36½ hrs.

(vi) High Court at Allahabad (Establishment of Permanent Bench at Meerut) Bill*

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of permanent Bench of

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 16.5.97

the Allahabad High Court at Meerut.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court at Allahabad at Meerut."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : I introduce the Bill.

15.37 hrs.

(vii) Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA (Mumbai-South) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : I introduce the Bill.

15.37½ hrs.

(viii) Borrowing (Fixation of Limit) Bill*

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for fixing the limit on borrowing by the Government of India under article 292 of the Constitution of India.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 16.5.97

[Shri Chitta basu]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for fixing the limit on borrowing by the Government of India under article 292 of the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I introduce** the Bill.

15.38 hrs.

(ix) Code of Criminal procedure (Amendment) Bill* (Insertion of new section 25A etc.)

[English]

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagarkurnool) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973."

The motion was adopted.

DR. M. JAGANNATH : I introduce the Bill.

15.38½ hrs.

(x) Constitution (Amendment) Bill* (Insertion of new article 151 A, etc.)

[English]

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY (Nizamabad) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : I introduce the Bill.

AN HON. MEMBER : What about Matters under Rule 377 ? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We will decide about it at 6 o' clock.
15.39 hrs.

[SHRI NITISH KUMAR in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, what about Item No.31 ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Didn't you listen what Hon'ble speaker has said while leaving.

15.39¼ hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL-contd.

(Omission of article 44, etc.)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Before further discussion on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Omission of Article 44, etc.) by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat, Member of Parliament, is resumed, I would like to mention that five hours and thirty-four minutes have already been taken on this Bill as against five hours and twenty-one minutes allotted. On the last occasion, the Chair had announced that the hon. Minister will intervene at the next sitting and then the Mover will reply. For this purpose we may extend the time for discussion, say, by another thirty minutes. I hope the House agrees with it.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : I request that the time be extended further since many members want to participate in the discussion on this important legislation. You may kindly allow some more time so that all of them can participate.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : Sir, half-an-hour time would be inadequate. Many Members want to speak on this. It is a very important Bill. I request that the time may be extended further. Within half-an-hour nobody can have a meaningful discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time for this discussion by an hour ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Well, I extend the time by one hour.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 16.5.97

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : For the sake of information, may I know how many Members wish to speak on this ?

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have received two-three names.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : If there are only two Members from our side, they would not speak, Let the Minister reply.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Well the Minister would reply later on and mover will also reply.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Let the Minister reply.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : His name has been called. So let him speak.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : The Minister is held up in the other House. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it will be better to adjourn the House . . . (Interruptions) Chairman, Sir, whatever has happened and whatever has been going on in the House after the lunch, it will be better to adjourn the House sine die. Its not adding to the dignity of the House. The scene we have witnessed sometime back the manner in which discussion on Private Member's Bill is going on now is making us a laughing stock for the whole world . . . (Interruptions). No business is going on now. Nobody is there to speak from that side . . . (Interruptions) I am saying that the situation is turning to a point which will make us an object of ridicule. I have no other objection whatever you want. How could all had agreed at that time. What has happened that even the members of the ruling party do not now agree with one another. All these things are going on. We should not be angry with anyone rather we should be introspective and should think about our situation.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Please adjourn the House sine die.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please listen to Shri Nidar. His name has been called.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Shri Nidar is not speaking ? . . . (Interruptions)

PROF. OM PAL SINGH NIDAR (Jalesar) : I will speak for two minutes.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support the Bill brought forward by Hon. Bhagawan Shankar Rawat with a view to have a Common Civil Code and the reason why I support that Bill is that when we are in same nation our problems are same, our education policy is same, during our speeches, we say, we think alike and I would also say that ancestors never change with the change in religions. We have common ancestors we talk about Indian culture then why should there be different civil codes and different rules for different groups of people. How could it testify the national unity. This is my question. If we really are interested in national unity, we should being citizen of the same country, follow the same laws and the common rules. I would like to say that if we will maintain the status quo of the separatism the differences will widen further more we can deliver a good speech for a quite length of time but we failed to understand and express ourselves with regard to the religion when situation demanded so such a situation can develop in every sphere. In this context I would like to say that we talk about personal law in our country. It is also told that we talk on the basis of religion. There is no such situation. It does not look nice, when all living being are created by the God and all have equal rights, then why should there be differences in their faiths. One of the two women living in the same colony, gets full respect and the other gets only one fourth of it. Why this difference is there. If we think in humanitarian terms the women should get equal status as men.

The women should have equal rights. In this context people putforth their own arguments and refer their own book. I want to say that they are free to accept any book. But it should be accepted fully. It should never be followed according to the convenience.

If the rules of conveniences are applied, the rules of punishment should also be applied. This is also a situation. In this context I would like to say something that just now when we were discussing and the Hon. Prime Minister was speaking on religion, every member asked to let him

[Prof. Om Pal Singh Nidar]

speak first and all the members claim that they have the equal rights then why the double standards are there with regard to Common Civil Code. One women is divorced after moving the Court while the other women is divorced by just pronouncing the word 'Talak' thrice. Aren't they residents of India. In this context I remember a couplet of a poetess of Pakistan, she said the couplet in a melancholy mood—

"Talak de to rahe ho, mujhey garuro kahar ke sath,

Lekin mera joban bhee lauta do mere mehar ke sath."

Thus, it is a very important question. It reflects the agony of a women. Who says that you are putting me to distress in your self conceit. Today you are divorcing me at the age of 52-60 years but are you able to give me back my youth ? Leave aside the human beings, is God himself able to do that ? If God forms the man, even then it cannot be reversed.

I would like to say one more thing that is we have different values different system. But it is not sufficient Mr. Chairman Sir, I am addressing you only, please give me an indication as to how much should I speak on this, so that I could elaborate or cut short my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Speak as much as you wish you yourself have given in writing that you would like to speak for a short period. You yourself can define this short period.

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to ask one more thing that the people, who oppose this bill, oppose the common civil code. I would like to ask them that have they ever seen their history ? I do not want to go in detail. But I would like to give an example. My friend lives in my neighbourhood. One day I asked him during discussion that your name is Navi Bakhsh, I asked that what is your father's name ? He told me Maula Bakhsh. I asked his grand father's name, he told his name as Khuda Bakhsh. I asked him, what is his name, he said with a blush that has name is Ram Bakhsh.

Now, when we all are one, we can Worship in any manner. If we pray in a mosque, it would make no difference, we have to Worship the God. We can pray in Temple, we have just to worship him. You may pray in a Church, in a Pagoda, in a Gurudwara, it does not make any difference. But law is above all the nationally accepted values. The Country which has one constitution, one law, same sunshine and the rainfall all over and which has equal

relations with its neighbouring countries be it Pakistan or China and where a bomb shell or an epidemic afflicts all without discriminating them as Muslims or Hindus or Christian, why should there be such accretion that there should be one law for one segment and the other for another segment.

And even than the people are opposed to it. I would like to ask a questions in four lines. From all those Persons who oppose the civil code. I ask a brief questions

"Bansavali dekhkar Batayen ki hum unko kya
Bansajon mein kanha ke gulam nahin Ate !"

That is to say that despite different religions, values are same. I remember what Taj Bibi said. Though I am a Mughal lady yet I will remain an Indian (Hindrani) such a surrender ! The same as 'Raskhan said in Pahan ho to wahi Raskhan'. That is to say such a broader vision I have extended such a great preaching a little it further—

"Bansavali Dekhkar Batayen hum unko kya,
Bansajon main Kanha ke gulam Nahin ate hain.
Aaj kuch bhi kahen vey kintu itihās
Mein kya unke charon Dham nahin ate hain.
Dada-Pardada hamare jo bhi usme kya
Unke Baap-dada ke naam nahin ate hain.
Aur hai Chunauti Ram ke virodhiyon ki to
siddh karen ki Unke Purvajon mein kya
Ram Nahin aate hain."

The People who say that our law is different. We treat one man as one witness but two ladies are treated as one witness. This is not written in any of our books. I would like to ask that in which book is it written that travelling in an aeroplane is justified. If it is, please let me know. That is also against the religion. Is it written anywhere that we should contest elections. Nowhere.

Neither It says that we will become MP, neither has it been written that we will chatter while sitting in AC. It has nowhere been written that we shall enjoy all these luxuries but still we all are doing that. Every thing is not governed by religion and hence human beings make some changes themselves in the interest of the country. The motion moved by Shri Rawat that there should be uniform civil code for everybody, I strongly support it and it should also be done in the field of education in the field of defence, in the field of religion and also in social, and political fields. I would say that in national perspective and in national interest, there should be uniform civil code even in the economic field. That is why I have said that we can not

reduce or extend a thing but we can endeavour to do so. We should try for this: Just to talk of patriotism without setting examples and just to discuss about civil code without following the same we cannot go together neither can it do any good to national security.

I would like to make one more small point. Preaching is an easy job but just preaching can do no good. I have to say some thing in this context. We have no civil code in the House itself. Some persons stand up and whenever they wish to say something.

They speak whenever they want and some persons keep their hands raised for a full month. They can not raise their voice. They are gentle, well cultured persons. I do not mean to say that others are uncultured but the person who is thoroughly gentle, well cultured, can not get a chance to speak. It seems that he will get the chance only after making noise. Therefore civil code should be enforced in the House itself. Every body has come here after getting elected in their own way on equal footing. You should say it very gently. This need not to be said with anger or agitation. Therefore in every sphere of our society when a man claims his rights to equality, this also calls for the civil code for women, children and of aged and the handicapped persons.

In this very context if the people oppose the civil code and say that they should also get the equal rights in the country, I oppose it because I feel uniform civil code as an abuse. And when we say that we too are the sons of India and have equal rights, I do not agree with rather I oppose it.

In this context I would like to mention a line. This country really belong to us. One can summarise a long speech in just one line. Although these are only four lines but they have a wider meaning.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Have you yourself composed these lines.

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : These are also composed by me. In real sense, I do not believe in borrowed honour. Whenever I recite, I recite my own composition only :-

"Sachmuch mein voh desh hamara hai
Isiliye Prano Se Pyara Hai
Hai Sahhi Bharatiya ke Bete
Yeh Kathan Bahut Bemani hai
Jo Ma Ka maan Bechata ho
Kya wah bhi Hindustani Hai ?"

This is a matter, to be deliberated upon, whether we should also treat such persons as Indians. This is not acceptable.

I would like to conclude my speech after saying one more thing in short. I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister particularly, that now a days anyone uses abusive language at any time and even indulges in contempt to the Supreme Court. As a whole these things are not good. If they want to make any provision they should do it and if they want to implement any rule they can also do that but they should implement it fully and not partially. If you want to implement the Personal Law of each religion then it should be kept in mind that a provision for chopping the hands is also there and the value of women votes is half. We are ready here to support it and there should not be any vested interest behind it.

My friends have asked me and as you told me. I will take my seat just after saying four lines — that this code of conduct should be implemented. It should not be delayed and be implemented immediately from today itself without any discrimination. If you really talk about the national unity, integration and brotherhood then one thing is clear that there should not be any double standard in such matters. No country can move forward through double standard. Introspect yourself and think above the lines of caste and creed that whether it is in the interest of India or not. Even if the God put impediments against the interest of the country then we should have the courage to tell him that the interest of the country is first for us and the God, comes thereafter only then the country can move ahead. To quarrel with each other and to protest on petty matters and to be afflicted by such things are neither attached with the social aspects in any way nor democracy demands it. Therefore, the country is most important. Country is Ishwar, Allah and God and when we would accept this fact then there will be no question of opposing the Code of Conduct.

Therefore while supporting it and requesting my all friends I am reciting last lines that all should support it rising above the Politics, of Caste and creed. This is in the interest of all of us. There is one more reason regarding this that the entire country is perturbed with the menace of population explosion which is misforming as Bhashmasur—as a result of which all the schemes fail and by the time we make out figures, one and a half lakh more people are added in our country which results in shortage of everything. If my friend Ramoowaliaji has a strong will power and if he wants to do something for the welfare of the Society—although he speaks only after

[Prof. Om Pal Singh 'Nidar']

making a solid background—then there is one "Ram Ban" medicine (Panacea). You can replace the word 'Ram' if you like it and it does not make any differences. I withdraw my words and what more can I do. I like poetic expressions very much. So far as Walia word is concerned being a poet I know more about jugglery of words (*Interruptions*). I would not like to comment on Ramoowaliaji here. Everybody is connected here with Ram. We are connected here with two things only—Ram and Kam (work).

If you want the welfare of the society then uniform code of conduct should be implemented. It will certainly have an impact on our population and would also assist to arrest the growth of our population. When the issue pertaining to protection of the rights come up then why the rights of crores of women of the country are still insecured ? If there is any uniform code of conduct then their rights will automatically be protected under the same base. They will have the right to express their views and if we are not in a position to do so then we have no right even to call ourselves human beings and also to talk about humanity as it would not serve any purpose.

16.00 hrs.

Therefore in the interest of the country, Society, development, religion and anything else this uniform Code of conduct is very important in this country. Lastly I would take my seat after saying a few lines on the same point which is raised earlier and if you really want to bring a true democracy in the country, then it is such a sword which falls on every one. It can fall even on me therefore to claim rights only will not serve any purpose. Any women whether she is mother, sister, or wife has equal right like us. This code of conduct should also be maintained in our family, in our lives and conduct also. It has a very wide scope, so do not confine to it in a limited sphere and only then you can call it true democracy but we have been talking about democracy only for the purpose of getting vote, and in regard to economic and social matters but we never adopt the same in our family life and day to day conduct. Thus it could not be treated as true democracy. Democracy of immature minds can not be called democracy. It can not be like an earthworm which has 13 hearts by nature but it is very delicate. We should take it seriously that democracy of conduct is very essential and it is the very basis of the democracy. No body knows when the anger of one person can perish the democracy of other person.

That is why I am reciting that

"Sachha loktantra lana Chahate ho desh me to kisi ek Vaykti Ko na devta Banaye; Bhavna Jagana Chahate ho deshbhakti ki to ek Parivar kehi geet mat gaaiye"

(Do not adorn a person as God if you want to bring true democracy in the country and if you want to arouse the sentiments of patriotism do not worship the members of one family only). These are not my views but are the views of Dr. Ambedkar Ji. He expressed these views in this very House. He said that "Worshipping a particular person, can lead to dictatorship and it can in no way bring democracy" There is no question of any race. It is a matter of heart and not of the Party. Sometimes big political hierarchy created and we should have to get rid of them. Give respect to an individual, worship a person. But whosoever will be deserving can achieve greatness himself. A person should be applauded only on the basis of his works and not on the basis of his birth and this is how we get an acquaintance with democracy and start worshipping on the basis of one's deeds by breaking all the bondages of birth. Therefore I recite :

"Sachha loktantra lana Chahate ho desh mein to, kisi ek Vaykti Ko na devta Banaiye;
Bhawana Jagana Chahate ho deshbhakti ki to, ek Parivar he ke geet mat gaiye.
Rashtriya ekta ki baat karte ho yaar,
Pahle ek achar samhita to laiye.
Chahate ho des ki akhandta to avilamb,
dharayen vishesh samvidhan se hataiye:
Jai Bharat, Jai Shri Ram.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Chairman, Sir. Just now I have come to know that the Bill, which is to be discussed today, has been brought forward by our colleague Shri Rasa Singh ji and Shri Bhagwan Shankar ji. I was thinking that Rasa Singh belongs to such a state and how can he bring such a Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This bill has been brought forward by Shri Bhagwan Shankerji and not by Shri Rasa Singh ji. You please say Rawatji.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : As he belongs to such a place where the colour of turban differs from district to district, the style of tying the turban also differs and he can be recognised by the style of tying the turban as to which district, society and place he belongs to. It is also unity in diversity ?

I have said as to how my friend has brought forward this Bill. Now, I have come to know that this Bill has been brought by our colleague Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat. It has been mentioned repeatedly. Our colleague has expressed his views.

It is true that every body has his own views and ideology in our country and as a consequence thereof the basis of democracy has been strong. The country adopts the ideology which is found suitable for the country after taking views of the people having different ideology and that makes the country strong.

This is a religious country and there are no different views about it. We all feel that our country has been a country of Rishis-Munis and Saints and Sufis.

You go any where, you will find different feelings, you go to any area, any place you will find a spirit of worship.

Today after fifty years of independence if we remained united, it is due to only these feelings. In this country every body's views, each religion, each creed and every man have been given due respect and due to this there is a feeling of love every where and that is why our country is strong. In my speeches I mentioned about my village. In my village if anybody falls sick, people gather in the evening to see him. People come to ask as to how he fell sick and whether he has taken any medicine or not and whether Doctor has been consulted or not? And which doctor has been consulted and whether Doctor has attended him or not. The neighbours ask that how your children are being looked after and thus so many people come to see him and in this way his expenditure increases so much that he goes for a walk in the evening so that people think that he is fit and not ill and do not come to his house and he may save his expenditure on serving tea to them. But in America if any body dies, his neighbour comes to know about his death after ten days. In our country this is the reason that people of every religion are living like brothers and sisters and give respect to each other. This has been the greatest ideal of our country.

I have read a book "Freedom at Midnight". In that book Mr. Churchill has mentioned some where. "Do not worry, give them freedom, they would not be able to maintain it even for fifty years. They have different religions and customs." The English people had also said on that very day that there is great diversity and they will not remain united. But this country had so much courage and strength

that we remained united despite the fact that there are diversities. Its main reason was that in our country every body was given due respect equally. One of my brother has made a reference of Shri Ambedkar ji. He had himself mentioned at many places in the constitution that if it remains the basic feature of this country nobody would be able to divide this country. The day when this basic fabric becomes weak, this country would also become weak.

My brother has referred it in a poetic form. A poet can express his views in any manner. I am not a poet. But it is true that after travelling throughout the country, you must have seen that we have different customs in our States.

Mr Chairman, Sir, our hon. Speaker Shri Sangma ji also presides over the house from the same chair in which you are sitting. You go to his state and see that what customs are prevalent there. Here, in your State after marriage the girl goes to the house of the boy but in his state after marriage the boy comes to the house of the girl. The daughter is the property holder there and not the son. The daughter has been given the right of property as a child. You go to Nagaland, there you will find different customs. You go to Kerala and you will find different customs there. But all are happy with their customs. This is the root cause of prosperity of this country. In my view if we bring uniform civil code then we will weaken our unity in diversity.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if you ask us that we should sit here since morning, we shall sit here and there is no difficulty. But if you say that there will be no lunch break today, we shall feel hunger even at 11 o'clock and will go out for lunch. If no restriction is imposed, we shall sit throughout the day and nobody will say that he is hungry, but on any day when it is told that nobody will take lunch, on that day every body will feel hunger at 11 o'clock. Similarly, if we talk so much about uniform civil code, people will become more eager to know as to why this restriction is being imposed. He can do any thing with his own will. My hon. colleague has mentioned about our sisters. It is correct, you will find many such incidents, many such cases in our society where there is total uniform civil code. There are many such cases in which marriage takes place in the morning and separation takes place in the evening. If the remaining amount has not been paid, it is told that you may go to Panchayat, only then I will accept. But there are such places also where in the event of the death of the elder brother, his wife becomes the wife of his younger

[Shri Rajesh Pilot]

brother. No court and no society is required there. This custom is still in vogue in the society. So far as this practice is concerned, I am of the opinion and I have been saying that the more you will emphasize on these matters today the more changes you can bring about in this regard.

Our muslim brothers have their own customs. They have their own religions and they follow it and accordingly christians have their own customs. We solemnise our marriages according to our own customs. At some places it is solemnised by "Puja" ceremony while in other places it takes place through 'Fera' ceremony where in bride and bridegroom go together around the sacred fire. We should be ashamed of it that in our State, Shri Rasa Singh ji is present here, yesterday I was seeing the photographs in which a five-six year old child was getting married through 'Fera' ceremony and the father or brother of that child was taking him in his lap while solemnising this ceremony. The party to which Shri Rasa Singh ji belongs is in power there. I do not know what is being done by that Government.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : The Government is making efforts to do away with this practice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is being abolished for which efforts are being made.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : You have asked as to what is being done by Government. I told that Government are making continuous efforts to abolish it.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balia) (Bihar) : The marriage of five years old child was being solemnised ?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Yes Sir, the 'fera' ceremony of a five-six year old child was being performed by taking the child in the lap. This is also a custom. We do not want to continue such customs, we are mentioning evils of our society. Today also, there are so many things which are prevailing in our society.

The efforts should be made to eliminate such evils by educating the society. But as you people make propaganda. . . (Interruptions) It is true that there are some evils in our society. A reference has been made about religion. In some religions such customs are recognised and if we interfere in such things, it goes against the sentiments of the people of our country. It will have an adverse effect. Some of our brothers want that national integration and

a sense of brotherhood should be strengthened in our country. They are very clear hearted persons, they should compose such poems so that our sentiments could be expressed in a proper way and a sense of affection with each other may grow further. It has been said that some Articles may be deleted. This matter is under consideration since the last many years. The issue of Kashmir is being pointed out. That Article 370 should be abolished. When I was in the Air force and I was going from Guwahati to Nagaland, I was stopped at Dimapur. At that time I was about 19-20 years old and was a pilot officer. They asked me whether I had a proper permit to go there. I told them that I do not need any permit. I am in the Army and I have to go to Kohima. They said that without a permit you can not go there. It is an incident of 1965-66 and at that time anybody was allowed to go there after obtaining proper gate pass. Perhaps such restrictions were due to insurgency there. Such incidents are happening in the country. The matter differs from state to state. So far as Article 370 is concerned, it was imposed there keeping in view the sentiments of the people of Jammu and Kashmir at that time. All were expecting that all these things would be sorted out during the next 20-25 years and every thing will be clear and there will be no need of it but we could not create such an atmosphere.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : The leaders did not make any efforts. They exploited the situation by considering it as a vote bank. This is the only misery and this Bill has been brought forward to overcome it.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Efforts were made. We had made efforts sincerely. If I say some thing then you will mind. You made the efforts only to show the people that you are making efforts. Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi had paid a visit there and at that time, I was the Minister. The news was published in news papers that Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi will hoist the national flag at Lai Chowk. The National flag at Lai Chowk is being hoisted for the last 40 years. What he will hoist there ? In Kashmir every Jawan has the flag in his hand, every soldier is holding firmly a national flag in his hand there. Our sisters have become widows there. They are sitting here because the tri-colour, did not move even an inch. They said that they would hoist the national flag we said hoist it, but what is the reality behind it you know better. He did not move beyond Jammu, then he asked for a plane, and a plane was provided. . . (Interruptions) They went there by the plane and hoisted the national flag for two minutes and came back in the same plane this is how they hoisted the National flag in

the country. Our ideology can differ, but for the sake of the country we should stick on only one ideology. We can also be on the wrong side. I am not saying that we are always correct. You can find various short comings in ourselves but all the parties will have to think over it rising above the party politics and that is better in the interest of the country. Don't think that whatever BJP has said is in the interest of the country. Tell us what is wrong in it but you donot talk about that. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI I.D. SWAMI (Karnal) : Don't say that BJP has not done it. BJP did not frame the constitution. The makers of the constitution wrote in the constitution that there should be a common civil code, constitution has been amended ninty times. If you don't like it delete it too. But donot say that BJP had not done it. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have given your name to speak.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : If anybody wants to cross check, he can do so. It is an interesting subject.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : They have taken their seats. This is being done from your side. It is better if it would have been from that side.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : It is correct. That the constitution was framed. Constitution was not framed for just two days. Constitution is for the country. Our party is working for the country for the last fifty years. The way it is serving the nation we have been trying in the same way. Every thing should go according to constitution in the country but you take up only those things which are slightly different and they sentimently till towards this side. 370 have been in operation for the last 50 years. During these ten years, but after your number has increased to such an extent what new has happened suddenly that, you want to raise it just now. You make speeches in U.P., Moradabad about it, which looks nice. Our brother from Moradabad will hear that today not even a single yard of land can be purchased in Kashmir which is in our own country. Nobody tells about the annexation of Kashmir with India but much sentiments are attached to it because accession of Kashmir in India was a great event, and some how this

accession took place smoothly. Our brothers were worried because we had given them assurance nobody will take it otherwise. You just give half information, hide the halfone when I will be told that you can't even purchase 2 yards land in Kashmir, this is my country and I can't purchase. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Sir, I have a clarification I respect Mr. Pilot very much. He is very senior member, I am also a freedom fighter, I would like to invite his attention towards certain things. When draft of section 370 was presented in congress working committee then the entire congress working committee had unanimously opposed it. Nehruji was out of the country that time. The Gopal Krishna Ayyangar ji approached Sardar Patel, because Nehru Ji was out of country and this being an important thing and it has to go to constituent Assembly. So, he told that till the draft was not passed by Congress Working Committee, it could not be sent there and asked for help. Though they had differences but inspite of that, Sardar Patel assured him and asked to call the meeting again so that they could discuss. Assuring the members of the Working Committee, he said that it will gradually fade away. When Kashmir Assembly will be constituted, they will have their own law, own assembly and there would not be any need to have any section such as 370 as this matter will automatically be closed. It is purely on temporary basis. So please have faith in him and let it go there. Then only this draft was brought in the Constituent Assembly. Thus, it was brought here for a limited period. If parties talk today for its withdrawal, then you term them communal and sectarian and those who say about making it permanent, which was a temporary affair are termed as secular. It is a great irony. This is the bad luck of this country that framers of our constitution also included prohibition in directive principles. A provision has been made by the members of the constituent Assembly and the congress in the constitution that in this country which is the land of Rama-Krishna, Govind Singh and Nanak and the land of Sages, Liquor will neither be manufactured nor sold and nobody will consume it. I bow my head before them who wrote these things keeping in view the 5000 years, history of the country, the accreditation, dignity and cultural back-ground of this country, the mother India.

Section 370 also comes under it.

Sir, what ever you are discussing, today under the directive principals, is regarding Comman Civil Code . . . (Interruptions) Supreme Court has said thrice about common civil code . . . (Interruptions) if you take out

[Shri I.D. Swami]

Directive principal, Common Civil Code will automatically be done away with. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : In my opinion, you have delivered your speech. Whether Article 370 is deleted or not. We can atleast delete your name from here.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Chairman, Sir. He talked about Congress working committee. It is true you read, when I have differences in working Committee, I have also tried my best to read but did not pay much attention to it. Our president is an old man and sometimes he refers to 1922 and I fail to reply, Now a days, I attend working committee meetings after reading books. It is right that whatever you said, I did not go through it. But so far as I am concerned, I told that when Article 370 was brought, there was the feeling that gradually every thing will be in order and there will be no need for it but as I told you that due to one or other reason, you have prolonged this. What were the rules about Kashmir and gradually where this matter has reached. We were trying to bring Kashmir in the mainstream. Now you are raising issues about hoisting flags, removing 370, bringing uniform Civil Code, but we are also the citizens of India. . . (Interruptions) we have never asked to go back to pre-1952 position.

What I feel is that such sentiments will not make the country strong, on the contrary it will become weak. In these fifty years, all the three institutions of the country are being viewed in high esteem but today when the country is loosing strength day by day then it is our duty that we should not speak a language which makes our country weak and uniform civil code is an indication of it. If we think about the change, we will talk to our brothers that your religion contained these things and it has this disadvantage. So again sentiments are involved here. As I said if we keep ourselves hungry for the whole day, nothing happens, but on saying this that today no food will we served, we feel hungry even at 11 o'clock. Therefor the habit of talking about uniform civil code daily should be stopped.

There are different types of customs in our country. Don't talk about religion, talk about the society. Different states have different dresses, languages. Tomorrow you will impose another restriction. You know that once, when we tried to propagate Hindi in Southern States, what was the outcome.

We should not hurt the sentiments of the people by keeping the country united in such a way. Shri Rawat might have brought this bill after giving it a serious thought. But when I listened to my colleague that he wants to bring the uniform civil code in the country, it is impossible, because every thing can not be equal. We are trying that every State should maintain its own identity and now time has come when we will have to listen to the problem of all the states. They have their own regional problems and we will have to tackle them in that context. If you go to North-East you will feel that we should make some adjustment with the people of area to bring them into the mainstream. There are several parts of the country even today where people ask what is happening in India ?

People of many states asked.

[English]

have you come from India ? They still ask you that question.

[Translation]

This does not mean that why did they ask this question to me. This is a thing to make them understand that.

[English]

this is also a part of India where I am standing. You are my brother. I have not been able to meet you, I have not been able to talk to you. But we both are brothers.

[Translation]

This is one approach and the second is that they asked me as to whether I am coming from India. This Uniform civil code which our colleague has brought under the Private Member's Bills. I will only say that, he should not go ahead with it. However this bill has been brought with good intention to strengthen feeling of the people, but his main objective will not be fulfilled, it will rather harm us. I know Rawat ji very well, his heart is very clear. He has brought this bill according to his party's ideology. His personal views may be different. But I feel that he should not go ahead with this bill.

May it be the question of this Bill or Article 370 or any other matter of this nature relating to some states, we should not give a fillip to any such thing ? We are passing through a very critical time and we do not want that what Mr. Churchill said at the time of our independence, shall come true. He had said that "give them independence and don't worry, India will disintegrate

automatically. He had no belief that they would remain united. I was going through some speeches delivered on 14 of August in the Constituent Assembly Hall. Many people had expressed such views. Dr. Radhakrishnan had said about corruption. Dr. Rajendra Babu had said that we believe in different religions and as such we will have to show a great courage to live together, we should exercise restraint and adjust with each other. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru expressed same views in a different manner. I request to Rawat Ji that he should not proceed ahead with this bill. The freedom provided in constitution to the people of all religion, should be maintained. When no difficulty has been experienced during 50 years, it is not expected in future also. If there is any problem, we should solve it with consultation of persons of other religions. It will be better if we go ahead respecting each other's sentiments and do not bring law in it. Legal pressure or otherwise would be harmful. It will hurt their sentiments. They will feel that they have no right to put forward their views freely and follow their traditions in their own way in this country. It will cause anguish all over. The matter of Uniform Civil Code should not be raised because, it will cause all sorts of problems in every state. With this I would request and hope that my brother Shri Bhagwan Shankar Ji would not continue it any further.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) : The Constitution (Amendment) Bill is brought forward by hon. Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat. In my view, it is too much of a reactionary Bill. I, therefore, rise to oppose the bill. I want to know from the Hon'ble Member as to when your Party will be in power, I wish it should not. . . (Interruptions).

PROF. RITA VERMA : It means you believe in God.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : We swear before the God at the time of marriages etc. I was saying that God forbid if you government is formed, but if your government is formed will you be able to enact such a law in the country ?

I was listening to the speech of hon. Vajpayee Ji during the discussion on confidence motion. As far as I remember and it may be my memory is weak or I have forgotten. He said that you vote for us, we will leave the issue of Uniform civil code. Do you want a Uniform civil code for the sake of votes ? You have ill intention behind this. Therefore, I said that can you have such a law in the country ? If such a law is formulated. . . (Interruptions).

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Vajpayee did not speak in the context in which hon. Member is speaking . . . (Interruptions) I am telling just for your information.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : If hon. Member is on the point of order, should I then sit down or should not yield.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sometimes we should yield also.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : I am yielding continuously. If the chair does not yield, you yourself can understand what will happen ?

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Just now former Prime Minister's name was mentioned and I think his speech has not been quoted properly. He said it in another context. He did not say that he would leave it. He had said that the issues on which consensus cannot be arrived at could be taken up later on. The way the hon. Member has presented it to confirm his own views is not fair.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : If hon. Member agrees to withdraw, he should do it today itself. This chapter will automatically be closed. You are also saying to withdraw. But there may be difference in regard to the emphasis given to this issue. I have no objection. Even if this bill is passed by the Parliament, could it be implemented ?

We have a law that no one will take dowry and refrain themselves from taking anything in 'Tilak'. I am from Bihar State. I know that the rate of boys in Bihar is high as compared to other states, as the money demanded in 'Tilak' is quite high in Bihar. We have framed a law that neither we will give nor take anything in 'Tilak'. However, the more a person gives in such ceremonies in our society, the more great he is called. The various castes of the society where this 'Tilak' custom was not prevailing there also this has started.

The people who have been assigned with the responsibility of implementing this law are themselves involved in giving and taking of 'Tilak'. This is going on in broad day light in front of every body's eyes. When we could not be able to implement this anti 'Tilak' law, whether it will be possible for us to implement a uniform civil code after passing a law in the Parliament in this regard. The question is whether the society will accept it. I think that the society will never accept it in any form. Whether an elected Government can get it implemented forcibly. It is not at all possible. An Hon. Member was saying that if you think that this law is complicated and even if it is enacted, it could not be implemented, society will not accept it, then what was your intention to bring this bill in the House. That is why I am saying that the intention behind bringing this bill in the House has not been good.

[Shri Ramendra Kumar]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member was saying that if country is one and united, there should be one law for every one. Though Common Civil Code has not come up yet, the country is one and united. Therefore, there should not be anything like "A fair face in a foul heart." Whether you want to disintegrate this country by this law. Our Society and country are one, but you say that we should frame a Common Civil Code to keep country and society united. What I want to say is that you want to break the unity and integrity of the country by enacting a Common Civil Code. If we bring this law than it will be termed as an anti-national act and we cannot pass such law.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. member was saying that it has been envisaged in our constitution, but I want to say that several such things are provided in our constitution. Our constitution provides equal rights to men and women, but even today man and women are not given equal wages in the factories. We could not even provide equal status to men and women under this constitution. Similarly, same provisions have been made about literacy, whether society has been worthy enough to hold it. All the sections of the constitution could not be implemented as it is because the country has not been able to retain them. I was listening to Mr. Pilot. He said that we cannot buy land in Jammu-Kashmir. I want to ask whether we can buy land in Santhal Pargana region of Bihar ? There is a law, under which neither any one can buy land nor sell. Do not talk about Jammu-Kashmir. It is another thing that we can not buy land, as we do not have money. There are separate Tenancy Acts for Chotta Nagpur, Santhal Pargana and Bihar. When Bihar is one, what is the need of having three laws for one Tenancy act.

Hon. Member was saying to enact one law for this purpose. We are one State. No separate Jharkhand has yet been formed. It will come into existence in future or not, I do not know. In Bihar we have enacted three types of Tenancy Acts in regard to land. Non Tribals can not purchase land of tribals in Chota Nagpur and that can not even be sold without prior permission of District Commissioner. When you can not purchase land even in Chota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana of Bihar, how you are talking about purchasing land in Kashmir ? . . . (Interruptions) Why are you always raising Kashmir issue ? That is why I would say that neither you want to purchase land nor you are concerned about Common Civil Code. You always take up that issue which can create communal

tension. Except this you donot talk about anything else. Sometimes you say that people of Bangladesh are coming. I was listening about it in the House and did not speak deliberately. When Bangladeshies are coming, we say that situation is very grave, but when Nepales come you do not say anything about it. Thousands of people come to Bihar from Nepal. You always keep mum about it. If your intention is clear that no out-sider should enter in our country, you should make it clear that no one should be allowed to enter. You say that except muslims, others are welcome. This is quite amazing. Thus you keep your votes intact by just talking about Hindu-Muslims.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is the season of marriages. I have to often go to Bihar. It is very troublesome. Recently I went to attend a marriage. I was invited from the bride's side. When 'Barat' arrived the hosts served Dhua-Paani. Many members may not be knowing about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not Bihar, Assembly. This is the National House. Therefore please explain what is Dhua-Pani.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, some members say about common customs and traditions. I am talking about this very point. I do not know whether this custom is there in other states but in the our Bihar when 'Bharat' arrives, the bride's, party sends 'Dhua-Paani. One person carries water in a pitcher and the other prson a sword. They go there where the 'Bharat stays, alongwith a pandit. It is a different thing as to whether the Pandit is original or impersonating but Pandit ji is necessary. One person was speaking against brahaminism on American centenary. I asked whether a Pandit was called for 'pooja' when you and your son were born ? He said 'Yes'. I asked why was he called. Similarly I asked what Pandit asks at that time. Bride groom's party asks where have you come from ? They say that they have come from Kamroop Kamakhya.' He again asks why have they come ? They reply that our bride is ready and now we have come to invite bridegroom. Learned persons are sitting here who swear by the religion. Please tell me why did he say that they have come from 'Kamrup Kamakhya.' There are so many religious places, why didn't they refer to some other place. I hope that some Hon'ble Members will reply to it because you are the upholder of Hindu culture. We stand nowhere. Please think over it, why did they say that they have come from 'Kamrup Kamakhya'. Another thing they ask is why have they come. The answer is that the bride is ready and

they have come to take the bridegroom. is there only one custom in the society you are talking about ? When we have no uniform customs and traditions amongst ourselves how can you bring uniformity among all religions. You are in an awkward situation. Therefore, we should not indulge in such things which can endanger the freedom and unity of the country. I do not want to go in length. Just now you were talking about Dr. Ambedkar. Dr. Ambedkar took recourse to the 'Boudh Dharma' during later period of his life. You tell why did Dr. Ambedkar took recourse to Boudh Dharma ? He did this just because of your hypocrisy. He was ruined, not allowed to survive and you are referring to him. You talk of Supreme Court. who did violate the Supreme Court most. You swore before the Supreme Court but broke that promise in Ayodhya and you are talking about Supreme Court. . . (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : What is going on in Bihar. Just see the plight of them whom you supported . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : First you admit that you have violated and then reply. . . (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Rai, I am saying to forget about the past and think of the future, try to do what you can easily do. Atleast now you should come to the right track.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Bury the hatchet, and drop this Bill too.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : I was saying that hon. Member was talking about the Supreme Court. Who violated the promise after swearing in the Supreme Court. Who cheated the Supreme Court. Who disobeyed the Supreme Court. Therefore, why do you talk of these things. You obey the constitution for your own ends and otherwise might is right. Therefore you do not talk of the Supreme Court. Do not talk of constitution. Which constitution provides for bloodshed and assassination, which Supreme Court has given such decision. Which constitution provides for fratricide. In which law it has been written. But you are trying to capture power by this bloody way. You want to indulge in bloodshed to get the power. You should, therefore, leave this ambition. I, therefore request very politely to leave this country united and let the society be united for the sake of the unity of the country. This Bill should never be passed. I would request the hon. Members not to pass this bill under any circumstances.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wait for a minute. The time

was increased for one hour but there are so many Members to speak.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, please give one more hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time is being increased for one more hour.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : I do not agree, Sir, My Bill has to come.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But you have given your name to speak on this Bill.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I withdraw my name. I do not wish to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Those who wish to participate in this debate have given their names. Only three Members could speak today. I have the name of 13 more Members who wish to speak after which the hon. Minister has to intervene. In the end, the mover also has a right to reply. What is the sense of the House ?

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Sir, extend the time for two hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We extend the time for one hour. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The period is extended for one hour.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Sir, please extend it for two hours.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : The Private Members' Business is up to 6.00 o'clock. Let us know up to what time you are extending the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are not extending the time of the Private Members' Business. I was trying to know the sense of the House and everybody except you was in favour of extending the time.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I have no objection.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want to say ?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I want to know if we are going to extend the sitting up to six o'clock so that I can go.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are free to sit or go.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : If my Bill is not going to come, I will go.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Try to have patience.

[Translation]

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA (Phillaur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, please allow me to speak.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Hon. Chairman, Sir, hon. Member Sh. Bhagwan Shankar Rawat. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Please tell me whether my 377 will be taken up or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN : When Mr. Speaker was going, he said that he will see.

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Please give me sometime to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Have you asked to speak on this Bill, which is being discussed here.

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA : Yes, I want to speak on this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are in the list. Please sit down.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose personally as well as on behalf of my party the constitution Amendment Bill 1996, moved by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat as a private member. I would like to submit that our country India is great. This is a country with unity in diversity. Here Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians are all brothers and the entire country is full of diversity. Its Fundamental Principle is unity. It is secular according to the constitution. Being secular, it is harmonious to all religions. Every religion is honoured and there is no legal intervention in any religion. In all these diversities, unity is the fundamental principle. This bill is not fit for the present day. I oppose it. In his constitution amendment Bill he has proposed to delete article 44 which is an extension of Fundamental Rights provided under article 25 of the Constitution. Certainly, the unity in our country after 50 years of independence is a unity in diversity. This unity is because of the fundamental rights provided under article 25 of the Constitution. Article 44 of the Constitution which provides for different customs and traditions for all the religion, is an extension of this article. Every citizen of India has a right to Choose the religion.

Only this right is a binding thread in this country to keep it united in its diversity. Therefore, it is not proper to raise this question in the present situation. It will be a threat to the unity of the country. A person like me considers this bill as a conspiracy to disintegrate the country. Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Member who has introduced the Bill, to withdraw it so that the unity in diversity of the country and patriotism can be kept intact and the secularism provided in the Constitution to strengthened. It will be in the interest of the country and its unity. Through you Sir, I would like to request all the Hon'ble Members of this House not to support this Bill so that this country can march forward maintaining its unity and integrity.

Many things have been discussed here till now Ramendra Kumarji discussed about many customs & traditions. Pilot Sahab has also discussed about customs & traditions of Rajasthan. We belong to Hindu community. If we want to have one law and uniform Civil Code in the country, then efforts should be made first to unite our own family. There is reference of Social justice in the Objects and Reasons of the Constitution amendment bill introduced by Shri Rawat. Have we ensured social justice for the exploited and the sufferers in the Hindu society during the 50 years of Independence that we want to impose uniform code on all religions. Among the four sects—Hindu, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians, Hindus have major role. Now I would like to ask him, if he wants this bill to come into force, has he ever thought of the laws formulated but not implemented so far for the exploited and downtrodden people among Hindus, and where untouchability still exists. When affuents go to the temple, they go straight to the front row even if they are late. But when a poor person wants to worship, he is not allowed to remain in front row, rather he is pushed back. I would request him that the upper class of Hindus among four sects, should strengthen their own unity equality and social justice first and then they should think of making uniform civil code in this country. Only then it will be justified,

Swamyji has mentioned that in the primary objectives of the constitution formulation of civil code has been envisaged. It means that the Civil Code will be incorporated in constitution, only when every body will be ready to accept it by heart and social justice is given to all. But in the present situation of the country, there is no unity even amongst the majority of the Hindu society. Untouchability is still continuing amongst them even after making the laws. Ramendra Kumar Ji had also discussed it. We advise that first you should try to bring in unity, equality in your family and provide social justice to all. 50 years have passed after

independence but we have not been able to bring equality in the Hindu society which is in majority. I would request him not to give more emphasis to the bill and rather he should try to bring unity amongst affluent people who surpass all others even in temples. Then only we can justify the Bill.

We oppose this bill for the sake of unity of the country and through you, request Rawat Ji not to pressurise for the bill in the interest of the country, to strengthen unity in diversity and I also request the house not to support the Bill. With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (Jammu) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to oppose this draft legislation. As many of my friends, have expressed their views, I also feel that our country is a vast country where followers of various religions live. We have many regions and districts where either Muslims, or Christians or Hindus are in majority. In Punjab Sikh brothers are in majority. If you look towards South to North and East to West, you will find that in each village one or the other community is in majority and all the communities live together cordially. This is not from today but since very long time they share their happiness and sorrows. I went to the marriage of the daughter of Sh. Suresh Kalmadi who is a Hindu and I was surprised to see the manner in which marriages are solemnised at Poona in Maharashtra where I compared the marriage amongst the Kashmiri pandits of Jammu region. The system of marriage among the Kashmiri pandits and dogras of Jammu and Kashmir region is different. The system of marriage which I saw amongst the Hindus of Maharashtra was that the marriage was solemnised in 10, 15, 20 minutes in a very simple manner. Now one can ask Kashmiri Pandits to adopt the same system of marriage as in Maharashtra. The sikhs first shortcut the system that marriage party will come back the same day after having the feast, but in our Hindus, marriage party used to stay for three days. However, today Hindus have learnt and adopted the system of Sikhs who go and comeback same day after solemnising the marriage. They just have one time feast. Now a days when there is a threat of terrorism, it is safe too to get back the same day. Today all have adopted it. They adopted because they liked it and no law was required for the purpose.

Therefore my point of view is that the persons of different areas, castes and communities adopt their own code which they like better. Whether we can have only one code for all ? If someone says that it is the area of

our Gujarat, it is the area of our Orissa and there are many districts where average rainfall is better and they have to face the situation of floods and also there are some other districts where people have to face the situation of drought and average rainfall is poor. If such resolution is brought here that there should be better rainy season every where or at all places in Gujarat, will it be possible ? Therefore it is the grace of the God. There are some hilly places in India which are covered with snow and also there are some other places where temperature is very high during summer season and we are not able to tolerate the heat. People of different areas use to wear different types of dresses and take different kinds of food and even their style of living is different, even then we are united.

I would like to ask my colleagues that whenever India is attacked do all the communities not fight with them collectively ? Even though our coats are white, we all are Indians. We sacrifice for the security of India. A reference was made here that when Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi had gone to Srinagar they were not aware of the weather of Kashmir. They went there in ordinary clothes and when they reached at Jammu it started raining. Hundreds of people, who went there from plain areas, had to face great difficulties. The woollen clothes i.e. sweaters were out of stock in Jammu and Udhampur cities shops. Everyone was in search of woollen clothes and nobody could move ahead from Udhampur because all the routes were closed.

17.00 hrs.

These people were not aware that that was the area of heavy snow-fall and snow-fall has taken place there and it was not possible to move ahead. I don't know as to how Rao Saheb was persuaded. These people were sent to Srinagar by plane and any how they hoisted the flag there and came back. I would like to know, whether hoisting the flag by Dr. Joshi there was a right step. Shri Gulam Rasool Kar is our M.P. He had awakened the people in each village against the terrorists activities which were started there by Pakistan. He also had a dialogue with terrorists and took a stand against them and travelled from Uri to Kazipur with a tri-colour in his hand. Being a muslim brother he served the nation and there is no other example as such. He reached there from Delhi or from UP and worked against the terrorists alongwith the local people in the panicstricken atmosphere prevailing there. He did very important job there and is continuing today also. He had been attacked eight

[Shri Mangat Ram Sharma]

times. Today also he is under "Z" plus security cover. A number of muslims and hindus have been killed there. The people of all communities have been killed there. Nobody who is a nationalist and has faith in the ideology of Hindustan and does not like the ideology of Pakistan, can be the enemy of our country. Similarly whether Sikhs are the enemy of our country ? No, Sardar Beant Singh was killed. He went from village to village along with his friends and made the efforts to improve the atmosphere. Today this is wrong to say that Sardars (Sikhs) don't have a sense of patriotism. They had also made sacrifices. This country is common. All communities have their share. Every community has contributed to strengthen this country. Therefore, we should not take any such steps which may create doubt in the minds of minorities and may hurt them.

There are about twenty tribal castes in Hindu Religion. Every caste in every state and district has its own customs and traditions in our country. If any such law is enacted that there should be a uniform system in the entire country, it will not be possible to implement it. The existing system is here since the fifty years of our independence. Now, why it is being contemplated to bring such a law ? We have fought several wars against Pakistan during these fifty years. Bangladesh was freed by our forces within two and half years, and achieved world fame. General Arora belonged to the Sikh community. Pakistani General Niazi has surrendered before him. This great task was performed by a person belonging to Sikh community. Likewise there is also the Samadhi of Brig. Usman who had sacrificed his life in the war. Abdul Hamid, who belonged to U.P. had also sacrificed himself during Kashmir war. We remember him with great respect. In 1965 when insurgency was started for the first time and intruders infiltrated in Kashmir, Din Mohd. Gurjar had informed first of all, about it. We give respect to each religion. The value of each religion its beliefs, and modalities should be recognised. We should not take any such steps which may create doubts between each other. We should not impose our views on others.

Sardar brothers have made marriage a less expensive ceremony and Hindus adopted the same. Therefore if B.J.P. people are doing something in a right direction, then we should certainly follow it. Just now we have been discussing about Article 370. The Englishmen went to meet Maharaja Pratap Singh, the grandfather of Karn Singh. They wanted to have a cantonment in Jammu & Kashmir. They desired to live in Kashmir like Shimla in the summer season, but they had an eye on Kashmir. Like England,

Kashmir has a cold climate. Therefore they were thinking to acquire some land there so as to capture it later on. The Englishmen said that their Viceroy is interested to get some land in Kashmir for setting up cantonment and would build some bungalows here to accommodate their officers who will come to this place to pass summer season. Maharaja Pratap Singh was a very shrewd man. This Article 370 is of that period and did not come into existence during the rule of Shaikh Abdullah or Farooq Abdullah so that it should be given a religious colour. Maharaja Pratap Singh was a very clever man. He told to Englishmen— You are the rulers of India. . . (Interruptions). It was before 1947. In 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh was on the throne. . . (Interruptions). How can you be under us. If you live in our State, you will be under us. But when we are under you, how you can be under us. Therefore, we can not provide you land in Jammu. He did not provide any land there and no cantonment could be established. Englishmen tried their best but they could not be able to succeed in their manoeuvre. At that time, the Maharaja said that the people of Punjab and other states are quite forward whereas people of Kashmir are poor and simple. They have small holdings and if it is opened for all then big capitalist and Nawabs of Pakistan will come here and acquire the entire land. In such a situation where his subjects will go. He declared that no outsider can purchase land there. Only a person who is a domicile of the State should get this opportunity. He should be a State subject. In other states people are literate. That is why he imposed the restriction of domicile of State. He should also get priority in the State services. Nehruji had rightly said about this article that it will lose its grip with the passage of time and indeed it has weakened. The state was brought under the jurisdiction of Auditor-General and labour laws were implemented there. There are numerous laws passed by the centre and were adopted by the state later on. Several such laws are implemented there. Now, here we have the issue pertaining to women's Reservation. We will implement it in our state. Thus, whatever law is enacted by the Centre, it is implemented there after some time. There is not much difference between the Centre and the State laws. That is why I would like to say that if we would implement any law forcibly in Jammu-Kashmir it will lead to a revolt. They themselves are convinced that they should be brought under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, Auditor-General and the same labour laws should be enforced there. Every law has been enforced there, one by one but nobody raised their voice. Now, if they are forced to implement these laws, they will think that it is a calculated move and it is unnecessarily being thrust upon them and will result in revolt. Therefore, I would like to

urge that we should think over these issues and about this state rising above the vote politics. Just for the sake of getting vote, we should abstain from creating communal disturbances. If we are strong enough and also get it passed, what more we will be able to gain. We are strong and all Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims and Christians are united. For the unity and integrity of the country we are always united. We have our own small customs which should be allowed to continue. If they understand that customs prevailing in other states are good then they will themselves adopt them and there will not be any need to enact a law in this regard.

With these words, I would like to tell Shri Rawat not to take it otherwise. He is a very senior and experienced member and he should withdraw it and allow everybody to live in peace and harmony in India. If your ideology has a strong base then they will never leave it unadopted. Shri Banatwala would himself say that this law is good and it should also be applied here then it will really be a thing of joy. If the law is good, the minorities will themselves come forward, our people will come forward. Then only we would think that they are convinced. Wait for some time, if the law is really good, which I understand is not good, then the people will come forward to adopt it. I want to mention here that one religion is more dominant in America as the Christians are dominating there, even then they have different laws for each State. Similarly, India is a big country having different customs, therefore we should not mind it. Let the people prosper and act like a ruler. When B.J.P. President Baldevji was elected to Parliament in 1977, he issued a statement in Jammu that he will not take rest till Article 370 is scrapped. At that time Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri Advani were in the Government they told him not to say anything about scrapping of Article 370 and keep mum, let it will go on like this. Therefore, I would say that this does not seem appropriate to raise such matter and create such an atmosphere and tension while sitting in opposition and taking evasive actions when you are in power.

Therefore, I appeal to Shri Rawat again not to create such an atmosphere that would terrify the minorities in India as has been said by Shri Rajesh Pilot just now. . . (Interruptions) Let it continue as it is and wait for the appropriate time. With these words, I oppose this draft Bill.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Mr. Chairperson, Sir I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity. Before I deal

with this subject, I have a very humble request to make to Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat. He has brought before this House a very important matter on which this whole country, all legislatures especially the highest panchayat of this country, this Parliament of the country should deliberate upon. But the fact remains that ours is a multi-lingual, multi-religious and multi-cultural society. That is our biggest strength. So, when the debate was going on in the Constituent Assembly, as pointed out by the hon. Member from the BJP, it was deliberately decided not to make this particular item mandatory. Even though this issue was discussed and debated in this country at great length in the Constituent Assembly, at various fora, in the Congress Working Committee and in various forums of the Congress Party, we have deliberately decided that until the country is ripe, until every community, every religion, every group is in a mood, is prepared to accept this reality, then we have to wait for this.

The very essence of Hinduism is tolerance. In this country, every religion which started in the country of its origin, is flourishing. Certain religions have already vanished from the country of its origin but they are still flourishing in India whether it is Zoroastrianism, Judaism or any other religion. These religions vanished from their own country of religion, they are surviving in India. This great tradition is the greatest contribution of Hinduism in this country. I believe, because of the tolerance of Hindu religion we could take different cultures, different beliefs, different religions to assimilate into the Indian culture. That process was the biggest strength of this country. So, in this country when you think of common civil code, this is one issue on which we should be extremely vigilant and careful.

My hon. friend, Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat who moved this Resolution really initiated a dialogue. You know very well that we have been discussing this issue for the past two Fridays. This is the fag end of the day and the last day of this Session. Today, this is not a subject on which we can exercise voting and accept or reject this Resolution because this is going to have a wider implication on the minorities of this country. Who are the minorities in this country ? India is the second largest Muslim country in the world. We are a secular country. What is the population of the minorities in this country ? After Indonesia, India has got the maximum Muslim population in the world. Each religion has got its moorings, its beliefs and its traditions. If we fail to understand that for certain political reasons or for certain circumstances of convenience, forget the past and come to a hasty conclusion, it will be an unfortunate day for this country.

[Shri P.C. Chacko]

A very seasoned leader, a very seasoned political person like Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat, After initiating the debate, has given a good opportunity for the country to bring this to the notice of the intelligentsia. Now I think, it is fair and proper that he withdraws his Resolution because in this Parliament, Resolution are being brought the Bills are being brought and they are not always for a trial of strength alone. Like that, his Resolution is also to initiate the discussion. For the last 50 years, it was said that, we could not do anything. When are we going to do this ? Very angrily I have heard some Members asking these questions. Such social transformations will take generations together. After the partition with bleeding hearts, the people who fled from India to Pakistan or the people who fled from Pakistan to India are still living with monuments of those horror days. So, we cannot think of a situation until, we by intent and by heart, adopt a situation and decide together that we can think of a new legislation or a new situation.

Sir, many hon. Members especially from the BJP were pointing out that in all other countries, there is a Common Civil Code. This is a very wrong notion. It is not true. It is not the situation prevailing in many countries of the world. It is because, when different religions coexist, it is bound to happen that there will be different Personal Laws. This is not something happening in India alone. This is happening in many countries. How can we distort the history and facts ? This is for the basic principle of coexistence. We have taught a new culture to the whole world. We have taught the world about how the basis of religion can coexist. We have seen the bloodshed in many other countries on the basis of caste, on the basis of religion. People were fighting with each other. People were dying. We can go back to the history and see how wars were fought on the basis of religion. How many martyrs were created on the basis of religion ? Probably, innumerable number of martyrs were created in the name of religion. Can we think of that past which is even horrifying, even hounding the memories of the people living today ? That scar is still on our conscience. When our forefathers, knowingly or unknowingly, were witnessing the situation which is against the conscience of humanity, that is still on our conscience. It is a big question mark.

So, I am sure, what we are initiating a discussion like this, we are throwing a thought before the people. Shri Bhagwan Shankar has done that in an eminent way. Now, it is our culture, it is our tradition, it is our belief and it

is in the Indian blood that we tolerate other religions and religious groups. So, after initiating a dialogue, we have to decide collectively that we withdraw this Resolution and let this process continue which is going on. I think, it can be an ideal situation where all the groups of different castes, and societies should go by consensus on every issue. Not only on the Personal Laws but on every issue, consensus is necessary and that is the essence of the Indian social life. It is not only our polity. The essence is consensus.

Here, on many issues, we are not able to come to a conclusion. For example, some Members were pointing about the most controversial Bill which came up today and everybody was on the reservation question, about the implementation and other things. Probably, there was some difference of opinion. But it should be our collective wisdom to see that we are not going to the stage where confrontation is the attitude, especially like Uniform Civil Code. I am not blaming anybody, I am not questioning the intention of anybody. Who is your next door neighbour ? We forget about this religion. So, Shri Rawat, in our locality, when our next door neighbour belongs to some other religion, we all feel that we are all sons and daughters of *Bharat Mata*. We do not see to which community, our neighbour belongs to. We are like sons and daughters of same mother and same father. We live in this country like brothers. So, we should not spoil that atmosphere. By any legislation, you can quote any number of discussions which took place in the Constituent Assembly, you can say that there is a logic, you can say that it is technically necessary and you can say that there is certain specification for such discussions.

But we cannot forget the fact that there is an underlying unity between all the different sections and the different groups of this country. When the Ayodhya mosque was brought down, whatever was the intention of the people working for or against it, a symbol of secularism had fallen in this country. It was not the question of a mosque, it was not the question of a place of worship, it was much more than that. When we are moving something we may say 'all right, you remove this mosque, take it away and construct the mosque at some other place'. It is easy to say that. At the same time there is another belief that it is a sacred land and it should come to us. One can have this belief. We can debate it, we can have discussions on it in a healthy way. But we cannot go to the streets on this issue. When it happened, what befell the whole country ? We were degraded before the humanity. Before the whole world our faces were blackened

because of what happened on the 6th of December in Ayodhya.

Knowing that, a senior Member like Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat should think over it. Last time I had the privilege to request Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat that after a good debate he may please withdraw this Bill. He thought that we can have some more discussion. There are so many things on this subject which should be further discussed. But, taking an adamant position is not right. As you know, this is a Constitution (Amendment) Bill. You know very well what is the requirement to pass such a Bill or to put the Bill to the vote of the House. We cannot go to that extent. We can definitely raise issues. That should be in a sportsman's spirit. But beyond that we should not go. If we go beyond that, probably we cannot go on the reverse gear. That happens in a country like India. Issues are sensitive here.

About the Muslim Personal Law there was a very unfair criticism on Friday two weeks back when the discussion was going on here. I was watching that with a painful heart. These are sensitive issues which should be dealt with only by learned people. People were speaking in a very lighter vein that according to the Muslim Personal Law one can marry four times, one can give *Talaq* without any precondition and all that. When such issues are debated in a lighter vein, that affects the spirit of unity. If you go through the record of those discussions, many things have been said which should not have been spoken on a sensitive subject like this. That affected the sentiments of the people. Should we create a situation like that? In an election when we are fighting against each other, when we are thinking of the politics of vote-banks, then all these things may be relevant to us. When we forget the elections and go to our remote villages, when we see the Muslim brethren living just across the compound wall of our houses, then we forget all these things. Basically we are human beings.

Let us give them their right of faith. It is a basic right provided in the Indian Constitution. Everything which we speak, everything which we deliberate here or try to put in the Constitution as amendments should not go against this fundamental faith of the Indian Constitution. There is a right to have one's own faith. Faith may not be very rational. But, on faith you cannot have a debate saying that it should be like this or like that. It cannot be put in a straight jacket. It is a relative matter. So, the freedom of faith is a fundamental right in this country. If we are going into issues which effect the faith of a religious group,

we will be treading a dangerous area. So, the debate on these issues should be very careful. In our anxiety to find fault with somebody or in our anxiety to make retort to the previous speaker we might have gone into various arguments. But this kind of efforts affect our unity. In India we cannot afford this.

Many things have happened after the Independence days. After 15th August 1947, a horrible situation was prevailing in the country, especially in the northern part of the country. But after those agonising days are over, when we are making efforts to collectively move towards a better social order, it is our responsibility, our fundamental duty to be together and strive for a better India.

A better India is not only for Hindus, not only for Muslims or not only for Christians; a better India is for every Indian.

Certain other aspects are also there. This issue should get only a low priority. This is the problem which our political parties are facing today because this issue should be regarded a low priority issue and should not have been brought forward here. The Bill to provide for a common civil code has come up. I am not arguing against the logic of his argument but the question is, is it a high priority issue?

Today, during Zero Hour, nearly thirty hon. Members were raising the issue of drinking water. Even after fifty years of Independence, hon. Members of Parliament, on the last day of the Session, raise the issue of drinking water. There are so many other issue of social injustice which are crippling the society. Those issues should be on high priority. If we are saying at six o'clock today, 'Let us pass this Constitution (Amendment) Bill', it is not so easy to pass a Constitution (Amendment) Bill and say that there is a common civil code in this country.

They cannot take this issue so lightly. They think, it is fundamental to their belief. That is the thinking of each religious group. We should educate them. We should give them sufficient opportunity. We should try to understand them. We should not be underestimating them, denigrating them, denigrating their personal laws. Perhaps, there are people belonging to various religions and communities, who believe that the personal law is sacrosanct and sacred, which cannot be amended. This belief is not in India alone. We can see this in many other countries also.

We cannot put religion in a rational rectangle. A religion may have its basis which may not be very rational

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in the angle of one who believes in another religion. This is the situation where really a transformation of mind, transformation of thinking is necessary.

Why did the founding fathers of our Constitution decide that this should be in Directive Principles ? Certain aspects were included in the Directive Principles and certain others were included in the Fundamental Rights; various chapters were arranged in this way because they were wise enough to understand the intricacies of this problem and how this problem would affect the country. So, it was decided, 'Let the time be ripe. Then, we will think of that.' Nobody in this country is of the view that this should never be thought of, that this should never be discussed. So, we have to wait for a situation where willingly all our brethren, belonging to all religions and religious groups, decide that we can have a consensus and common opinion on certain issues.

If we try to pressurise your viewpoint or if we try to put pressure on others beyond a point, what happens is that we are likely to go only on the reverse gear. It is a natural process. I am sure that a very senior and balanced person like Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat can very well understand the implications if any community says, 'No, it is our right. We are going to force a decision on you', to other communities. We cannot afford this.

Wherever we see religious groups or communities fighting each other and bloodshed is there, India is always there as an example. With all the aberrations, with all the unfortunate incidents like that of the 6th December, 1992, still India is an example to the whole world. When the fight is going on in Yugoslavia, when the Serbs are fighting the poor Muslims, wearing crosses and saying, 'Christ is our God and we will fight the other community', wearing the crosses and holding guns in their hands, when they are raiding on the other minority communities, whether it is Serbia or Yugoslavia or wherever in the world where a religious fight or war is going on, our country is an example. We cannot afford to make this amendment because we have been arguing on this issue that it would affect the sentiments and the finest chord which binds us together. Such a situation should not arise.

If at all a Constitution Amendment of this kind is necessary, I have a humble suggestion. We have to go down to the various strata of the society. We have to involve a large number of people. I have a humble opinion, a feeling that we who belong to various political parties

are beyond these four walls of Parliament. We can have a kind of a dialogue or discussion. We oppose the BJP and we cannot compromise with the BJP but we can have a dialogue on various issues which are confronting this country.

So, these are certain issues on which the political parties would have to try to have a kind of consensus in this country. Now where are we going ? People are voting for you and voting for us; does it mean that we can do whatever we like in this country ? For the future of this country and for the sake of future generation, before tampering with such sensitive issues, we must remember that we have a moral responsibility. We have a Constitution; we have a fundamental obligation towards the people of this country.

We, the political parties, are representing the people; we should have a dialogue outside. Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat has initiated a new kind of a discussion in this country. Let that discussion go on in various States, in various social groups and among various political parties; and let us argue this issue outside in a healthy atmosphere.

When we want to have a one line Constitutional amendment in this country, what does it mean ? Suppose we decide to pass this Constitutional Amendment, Bill, what will be the implications in this country ? Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat himself would not be able to take it back tomorrow. We cannot unleash a situation of horror and violence in this country. What we want is a transformation of mind and a transformation of thinking. Let us initiate that kind of a thing.

This country needs a kind of a dialogue on many other issues. You know that, Sir. We are on a path of confrontation today—whether it is a political issue or a religious issue or a social issue. We do not have a solution, other than a confrontation. But confrontation is not going to lead us anywhere. This is a country which has tolerated all the religions of the world. This country has welcomed all the religions of the world. When we welcomed Buddhism, when we welcomed Judaism in this country, we welcomed them with both the hands. We were prepared to receive the goodness in them; we were prepared to accept them; and we were prepared to receive the basic goodness in each religion. So, now we cannot say that they should behave in such a way and should not behave in such a way. That will be against the basic understanding. People have got a tremendous faith in this country. The inner chord, the underlying fact or the underlying strength of this great country is that we have got tolerance. When

there is even a remote impression that our tolerance is weaning away, then this country is gone.

We may have political crisis at the Centre or in the States, but we will come back. We have seen this during many crises in this country. Such crises will come and go, but India remains strong. Why ? It is because we have an inherent strength in India and an inherent strength in our society. If that inherent strength is go to only deliberately, we should not be a party to that. We should not be a party for spoiling that inherent strength deliberately or otherwise. So, here is a situation probably.

I welcome the initiative, but I oppose this Bill. I have a humble request to make here. We have enough discussion and many more hon. Members want to contribute. Last time, you may remember, Sir, that when Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat wanted that the priority should be retained so that we can have a further discussion, we have even amended the rules of the House to do that. We are never against a discussion; we never wanted to shut out a discussion. We wanted that and the whole House agreed to it. We decided to amend the rules and the priority was maintained; and this was kept alive. So, we have got an opportunity today to discuss this. That discussion should be held in an atmosphere of friendship, in an atmosphere of peace and in a calm atmosphere; there should not be hatred amongst religions, amongst groups; and there cannot be a feeling of hatred. If we are thinking this in the background of hatred, it is unfortunate.

Every religion is thinking that the Personal Laws are sacred and sacrosanct and they cannot be changed. That is the strength of their survival. So, the best method we can adopt is not to try to question the Personal Laws of other religions. But there has to be a change from within the religions themselves. Every religion should think and their leaders should think as to what kind of a reform has to take place within the religion. That process is already on, I think. Nothing is standard in the world; everything is under the process of change. Probably, there may be some distortions here and there. That is why, some hon. Members were highlighting those distortions. It is good that we are speaking it out. But let us speak with respect, let us speak with love, let us speak with affection. When we speak with ill-will and hatred, and say that others' Personal Laws are not good, what would it create ? If you want a real change of heart, then we can approach this issue only with mutual respect, mutual regard and mutual affection. If that happens, a change will take place within the religion. The religious leadership would take the

initiative to change whatever is not desirable in a modern social set up. We are waiting for that kind of a change. Our founding fathers said that when the situation is ripe enough, then we can think of that.

Even after 50 years—do not put it in a time scale like 50 years or 60 years. It may require sometimes 100 years and sometimes ten years. You cannot measure it by years or time, it is a change that has to be willingly accepted—we have to wait for that kind of a situation. The wisdom of this House is requesting the hon. Mover of the Resolution and all Members who are supporting this Resolution, after highlighting the issues involved in this subject, that this issue is kept alive. And more than the issue and its technicalities, we respect the sentiments of every religion and faith. If that basic concept of India, the tradition and heritage of India, is flowing in our minds, then we cannot go and try the strength on this subject in this House. I have no doubt about the outcome. But I feel that we should not take things to that level because they may affect us. What we are doing with both the hands, we may not be able to do it tomorrow. What happened on 6th December ? That happened on many occasions. Let us not repeat that once again, thereby pricking the conscience of our own brothers, thereby leading the society to turmoil and unpleasant situation. So, I do not want to go into more details on this issue.

Certain personal laws, explanations, the circumstances in which the personal laws of every faith which has developed, its social and historical background, have also to be taken into account. The background, the period and the history of Muslim personal laws have also to be taken into account. I do not want to go into all those things. There are experts who are here who can deal with them. When the social situation was so unbearable, Prophet Mohammad decided that there should be some system or arrangement and thought that this society cannot go whichever way it likes. Let there be some system. It was an effort to systematically work out the methodology for the growing of the society. That had resulted in the origin of the personal laws in that period of time, in that historical context. But if we take things out of context, and if we say that these personal laws are not acceptable, then we cannot deal with that now. We have the experience. We have the knowledge of the past as to why and how we should deal with things. So, on an issue like this, the way some hon. Members have dealt with in a lighter vein might have affected the feelings of some people. We did not mean that and you did not mean that. But let us not repeat it. So, let the posterity decide, let the future generations

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decide that at this point of time, Members of Parliament took a bad view on a subject which is sensitive and which has far-reaching consequences for the future of this country. Let us have a matured approach to the problem in that way. This is my humble and fervent appeal to my friend, Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat.

This is an issue which can upset the balance of the society. Let us not go to that extent and press for voting. If you go to logical conclusions, normally, many issues will come up. It may be convenient to the Government or not convenient to the Government. The winning or losing of the Government is not the major problem. I may also support the Government but it does not mean that I want to defend the Government on everything or that the Government should not have any inconvenience. This is not my intention. Government may be inconvenienced at some point of time. Last time, the hon. Law Minister said that there were only ten minutes and he wanted to make a long speech. We are waiting to hear the Law Minister and the response of the Government on this issue. How can we go about and why should this debate occur every now and then ? People are arguing both the sides. It may not be in a superfluous manner. So, the Government also might have deliberated on this subject. They will come with the official view of the Government. But we should not go to that level. Whether the Government accepts it or not, whether it is inconvenient to the Government or not, should not be the problem now. People sitting there and here may see their positions. But that does not mean that it is inconvenient to the Government. That should not be our attitude. You can have it on any other subject. We can have it on a subject like the Budget or a policy or a programme but not a subject like this. This is a very very sensitive and sentimental subject and this may lead to a situation whereby the unity of the country may be threatened. I am sure that my hon. friend does not want that situation to develop.

So, my humble request to the Member is to withdraw this Bill so that the fruitful discussion continues. I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak. I request that the Bill may be withdrawn and if it is not, I oppose it with all the might at my command.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI (Gaya) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak. I rise to oppose the Bill which is brought in the House. I want to oppose

this Bill, because in India there are people belonging to different religions. As you know that when the incarnation of Adiguru Shankaracharya and Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh, took place, many caste like Kori, Gobar, Ghuiyan, Chamar, Dom, Dushad, Kalwar, Tel, Dhobi, Nai came into existence. I want to know how these castes were created. When the people in power face crisis, they start talking in terms of caste. They have created new castes. When poor people supported Laloo, then they felt envy-Why ? You have divided the people in various castes. A 'Shudra' is beaten if he drinks water with 'Lota', you have tied the bell in their throat, you have tied the 'handi' and broom. All the castes have been made by you. But you have started talking of uniting them today.

Restrictions have also been imposed on touching the idols of Gods and Goddesses but the temples for these Gods and Goddesses are constructed by a 'Ghuini-Chabani' namely Bhagwati. There are 'Babaji' for worship of these Gods and Goddesses. I do not know about the whole country, but there was a gold idol in the Vishwanath Temple, which has been stolen away. Whether a Ghuian-Chamar used to go there for worship ? When only Panditji was there then where the idol has gone, who was involved in its theft, how all this had happened and what was the modus operandi in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN : One hour was extended to complete the discussion on this Bill, which is over now.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : It should be extended by one hour more.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. It is extended by one more hour to complete the discussion on this Bill.

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI : I want to say that you want to unite all the people. But you make love with any girl, when you desire to do so and if she gets conceived you neglect her by saying that you are not interested in her friendship. In such circumstances she had to commit suicide. She is ousted from the society. What are reasons that a minister's son is allowed to do anything with any poor girl. If you want friendship with the poor, you had to change your mentality. But when such an occasion comes you talk of 'Roti and Beti' and casteism, - I want to ask that to which direction you want to take the society and how ?

When poor society is going to a direction today, you thought that which law should be enacted to divert the poor from that way. Then you presented this Bill, but how will you remain, with any one. In this country the people believe

in different religions, some are Kabir-panthis, some are christians, some people believe in the Sikh religion of Guru Nanak Dev. You say that inter-caste, marriages should be encouraged, but the wrong way which you are following, we are unable to persuade our children to follow that way. For the sake of religion, where do you want to take us and, how do you want to take us to that way. You do not allow us to worship. Whether the feeling of untouchability has vanished now. We have huts and when Lalooji has brought some improvement in the condition of those huts, it pinched the rich people.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : How Lalooji has come in the picture. . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI : You give your views afterwards. . . (Interruptions) When Lalooji has tried to improve our houses, all the persons have become restless. Some people live in 'Pucca' house and some in 'Khapralls'. You will have to reduce the difference between the status of poor and rich. Tulsidas has said that.

One day 'Kaliyug' will come, 'Kshatriya' will step down and 'Shudra' will rule. When you think so, I must be enthroned as Prime Minister. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRI BHAGWATI DEVI : I will take only one minute. I want to make it clear that this Bill should not be passed in the name of religion. Hindustan is a garden, where people of all religions live. All religions preach non-violence, so they should not be abolished.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I strongly oppose the Bill introduced by Shri Rawat. This country belongs to all and religions have no importance here. Here importance is given to the freedom of every religion. India is a vast country where we can find all the religions which can not be found elsewhere in the world. We have different customs, traditions, way of living and worshipping. The uniform civil code bill has been introduced today and reference has been given about Article 44 of the Constitution which enumerates Directive Principles but it has no relation to Fundamental Rights. It has been written in the Constitution of India that India will be democratic, socialist and secular. Secularism does not mean that you can do whatever you like. Everybody has his own religion and there should be no confrontation between one religion and the other. Muslims believe that everybody should advocate his own religion and should

not oppose the other's religions. Let everybody advocate his own religion and there is no interference or compulsion in 'La Ilaha Abidin'. By bringing this Bill you want to intervene through back door. We have our own method of marriage. We divorce women according to 'Shariat' which is legal, natural and according to 'Quran'. You should first look at the Hindu society if you want Uniform Civil Code. There are many customs and traditions in which somebody worships fire, somebody river, somebody mountain, somebody snake, somebody worships water of the rivers and somebody treats fish as God. I worship 'Shiva'. You worship Ram and Krishna. You all go to "Dargah and Sangam", We have our own 'Basharat'. In Kashmir.

You immerse the human remains in 'Ganga' and now you want to adopt one thing today and the other tomorrow. All people should have a common system. India can be united on the basis of single language. You wanted to thrust Hindi 40 years ago but there were reactions and people didn't leave English. Today after a lapse of 40 years, we feel that Hindi is gradually spreading its roots there also and everybody is accepting Hindi. Gradually a common language is emerging.

It is atrocity on sentiments. In this way you can not keep India united. Responsibility to keep India united lies with us and the common man. It may be Congress or any other party, we have made sacrifices for this country. We have pushed the Britishers out of here to get independence. We have abolished the bureaucracy and feudalism. Is uniform civil code a hindrance for the progress of India? You are the representative of big Jaghirdars and capitalists. Through constitution it was decided that this will be a socialist country. Which bill have you brought to remove the Jaghirdars. What restriction have you imposed upon the big Jaghirdars, Capitalists and Industrialists. What good have you done to the poor. What benefit would be drawn for the poor and the society by enacting the Uniform Civil Code, What good it will do to the country rather it would increase the disputes and conflicts. There are a number of laws in the country. Could you abolish the dowry system after enacting the anti-dowry Act? Had you imposed any restriction on child marriages? Does the Child marriages not take place in the country today? Now there are laws, but earlier, there were restrictions. But when through literature, newspapers and the media we made them aware of its problems, then only people could realise that the child marriages should not take place. It is the matter of great shame for this country that we do not think that the mother who gave us birth was once a girl. At the time of a girl's marriage you ask about the dowry proposed to be given. You do not think

[Shri Gulam Rasool Kar]

that your mother too was a daughter. What step have you taken towards this.

I like to submit that whenever some one delivers the speech then the people from among you, the people of BJP give reference of Article 370. you have understood neither the Article 370 nor the constitution. We had an accord with India, we acceded. Presently there is conflict regarding agreement of Article 370: The agreement, to include this Article in the constitution of India that Kashmir should have the right to form its own laws, was made with Sardar Patel, Pt. Jawahar Lal and Dr. Ambedkar. If you would break this agreement, you know its consequences. At present there its ceasefire line in Kashmir. There are 90 member of U.N.O. They have one office in Kashmir one in Rawalpindi; one in Siyalkot and one in Surjeet Garh.

Instead of asking for abolition of article 370, why don't you educate the people about these things. What will you get after abolishing Article 370. You will not have the right to purchase land. The law regarding purchase of land, doesn't have any relation with the constitution. That was the State subject law of Maharaja Pratap Singh, Until it is changed you will not have to right to purchase land in Kashmir. I would like to say that we don't had this restriction of state subject from the point of view of religion.

We put it as state subject because capitalist Jagirdars, Wealthy people will come to Kashmir with a view to purchase the land and the people of Kashmir there will become landless, so we have kept this restriction. You do not talk about article 371 A, B, C, D, E, F which is made for the Northern States. Kashmir is a Muslim majority State. You want to reduce their number. I would like to say clearly that Kashmir is crown of India. Out of twenty two, states, of a Muslim Majority State exist in federal structure of India. It is a matter of pride for us and for all Indians. Your deeds couldn't change the geographical structure, rivers and people of Kashmir. We have made great sacrifices and after these great sacrifices, we had obtained this right. Therefore, I would like to say clearly time and again that a lot of hue and cry is raised about the abrogation of Article 370 but by doing so nothing could will come out, nobody would be benefitted, neither The Hindus nor the minorities. The need of the hour therefore is to educate the people in this regard. So that the people would have better understanding of the issue which will be better for the country and every community. When community will understand that this will be a good thing for them, they

themselves will come forward and compel to change this position. It is not an occasion to discuss such a matter.

I strongly appeal to you particularly to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee that your leaders will rule the country. Is this the way to rule the country ? You want to effect changes in our muslim personal law and Shariat law which is injunction of Quran, but we will never let you do that, we will oppose it tooth and nail and throughout life and upto the last.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in this discussion on Common Civil Code while deviating from the main issue generally, only one thing is being said that the customs of a particular Community would change. It is misleading since Common Civil Code has nothing to do with customs. When Hindu Succession Act was passed, Hindu Marriage Act was passed and Hindu adoption Act was passed, the customs of Hindu did not change but some laws were made to remove the shortcoming in Hindu Code Bill.

18.00 hrs.

At that time no advice was taken, no need of forming any consensus was felt, but the then Government had thought that if that was done, it would be in the interest of the country and that community. Similarly, if we remove the shortcomings of the law of other community by passing Common Civil Code, it would not only benefit that community but would also create an atmosphere of equality in the country. Common Civil Code was included in Directive principles for creating the atmosphere of equality.

MR.. CHAIRMAN : Swamiji, please sit down, you can continue when this discussion would be taken up during the next session. I is 6.00 p.m. now. If the house agrees, we can take up the matters under Rule 377.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : I am on a point of order. Hon'ble Speaker had said that Women Reservation Bill would be taken up at 6 p.m. You were also present in the house at that time. While in chair the Hon'ble Speaker had said that Women Reservation Bill would be taken up at 6.00 o'clock. . (Interruptions) I have put up my point. Why are you making noise. . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not to conduct the House, you please sit down. Hon'ble Speaker had said that sense of the House would be taken at Six p.m. and therefore we took the sense of the house and accordingly we are taking up matters under rule 377.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : You have not asked the other thing for taking sense, please ask that also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Speaker would come by that time. You please don't worry.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : You have caused worry and now asking as to why I am worried. You know as to why I am worried.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we shall take up matters under Rule 377. Shri Chhatra Pal Singh.

18.02 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need for construction of a bridge over river Ganga at Anupshahar in U.P.**

[Translation]

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH (Bulandshahar) : Anupshahar under my parliamentary constituency Bulandshahar is an important commercial and religious centre. There are many educational institutions here. It is situated on the banks of river Ganga. On the other side of Ganga river is Badaun district but there is no permanent bridge on river Ganga for connecting these two districts. During winter season, a pontoon bridge is erected but during the remaining 8 months of the year, there is no arrangement to cross the river as a result of which the people of both districts have to face difficulties and it adversely affects the trade, education and religious feelings.

Through you, I would like to request the Union Government to construct a permanent bridge over river Ganga at Anupshahar.

- (ii) **Need to open L.P.G. outlets in Ratlam and Mandsaur districts of Madhya Pradesh**

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : People at many places in Madhya Pradesh are facing lot of difficulties due to lack of L.P.G. connections. In many cities the waiting lists for L.P.G. connections have become very long. The situation is such that there is shortage of fuel in rural areas and the demand for L.P.G. has been increasing in small towns also. Alongwith big cities, there are also some places which had been district headquarters or the state capitals earlier. Jawara in Ratlam district and Shyamgarh, Manasa and Garodha in Mandsaur district are prominent among them. These places also fulfil all the requirements for opening gas agencies there.

At last, I would request the Minister of Petroleum to

open L.P.G. Agencies in Jawra town of Ratlam district and Shyamgarh, Manasa and Garodha of Mandsaur district so that the problems of consumers could be solved. In this context, I would also request that new gas agencies should be opened at such places where the waiting list is long.

- (iii) **Need to transfer one Post of AIR Correspondent from Bhuj Akashvani Kendra to Rajkot**

DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA (Rajkot) : Justice has not been done to the six border and coastal districts of Saurashtra by creating only a post of news correspondent for Akashvani Kendra of Rajkot which is the old capital of Saurashtra region of Gujarat. It has adversely affected the news coverage of this area in national news. There are two posts of news correspondents at Bhuj Centre. Therefore, we all political representatives, social organisations demand that one post of Barraki (Bhuj) may be transferred from Bhuj to Rajkot Kendra so that this region could find place in national news.

The Union Government is requested to take action in this regard at the earlier.

- (iv) **Need for Early Implementation of Economic Package Declared for Jammu and Kashmir**

[English]

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (Jammu) : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Union Government to a very important matter relating to economic package declared for Jammu and Kashmir State by the Government of India.

Sir, the proxy war by our neighbouring country has brought untold miseries to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and lakhs of people have lost their home and means of livelihood. Unemployment has touched new heights and economic development suffered immensely. From last year, however, the winds have changed and favourable climate set in. The Government of India responded to this changed situation and last year the then Prime Minister announced economic package for the people of Jammu and Kashmir not only during his visit to the State but also on the floor of the House.

Apart from economic package, there is also urgent need to grant following reliefs.

Rehabilitation and grant of relief to the tune of Rs. 25,000/- per family to Pak occupied territories of Jammu and Kashmir and relief of Rs. 1,00,000/- per family to erstwhile West Pakistan Refugees in Jammu and Kashmir

[Shri Mangat Ram Sharma]

as recommended by Jammu and Kashmir Government and also grant of citizenship rights to them.

Rehabilitation and relief of Chhamb Refugees.

Rehabilitation and increase in relief to Kashmiri Migrants and not to force them back till complete normalcy in the valley returns.

I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister to implement the declared concessions to Jammu and Kashmir for the prosperity of the State.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please read the text.

(v) Need to implement the recommendations of Mandal Commission strictly

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, reservation in Govt. services was provided to the persons belonging to other Backward classes in accordance with the recommendations of the Mandal Commission. Some years back, the Union Government have implemented the relevant orders in this regard but the departments are yet to implement those orders due to which the targets fixed by the Government for the progress of backward classes are not being achieved.

Alongwith it, I also want to say that the other Backward classes cannot progress unless reservation facility is given to them at the time of admission in educational and technical institutions. Other Backward classes should be given age relaxation on the pattern of relaxation available to the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes for examinations being conducted by U.P.S.C. and they should also be given more opportunities for appearing in these examination.

Therefore, the Union Government is requested to implement the recommendations of the Mandal Commission strictly. Parliamentary Committees may be appointed which can review the progress made by various departments in this regard.

(vi) Need to set up a Steel Plant in Public Sector in Jahanabad, Bihar

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards my parliamentary constituency Jahanabad. This area has been a terrorist affected

area since 1967. This area consists of three districts. Jahanabad is a new district. There is no major industry in Jahanabad.

It is a backward district. This area is facing the problem of unemployment as a result of which youth are adopting the path of extremism. Water is available in abundance in this area and coal and iron deposits are also available nearby. There is only one steel plant in public sector in Bihar namely Bokaro Steel Plant. We are going to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Independence of the Country. Our first Prime Minister, Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru, had introduced the policy of setting up of Industries in public sector. We have been deviating from that policy as a result of which unemployment is increasing, extremism is increasing and the whole of the area is being privatised.

In this situation, the Union Government is requested to set up a steel plant in public sector in Jahanabad so that unemployment may be removed and extremism may be wiped out from Jahanabad parliamentary constituency. It would be profitable to set up steel plant there because all the three raw materials are available nearby.

(vii) Need to Instal Telephones at Public Places under the Scheme for providing Telephones in every village

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Sir, the department of telecommunications has been extending telephone facility in all the villages of the country and this job is being executed on priority basis, but due to the faulty procedure, the real benefit of these telephones is not reaching to the common people. Most of these telephones are installed in private houses on the basis of party affiliations due to which these are not properly maintained and stop functioning after six months.

Therefore, I request the Minister of Communications to streamline the procedure of installing the above telephones and that these telephone should only be installed at public institutions, Commercial centres or these should be provided only to the educated unemployed under PCO Scheme. The security deposit for these telephones should also be increased so that the these telephone remain functional.

(viii) Need to provide necessary infrastructure at Hyderabad Airport to Encourage Agro-Export from Andhra Pradesh

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Mr.

Chairman, Sir, the Andhra Pradesh Government has been requesting the Government of India for the last several years for some of the facilities to be provided to encourage exports and to ensure all-round development of the State and the prominent among these are :-

- (i) Direct international cargo flights from Hyderabad to foreign destinations;
- (ii) Cold storage facilities at Hyderabad Airport; and
- (iii) Providing of infrastructure and staff at Hyderabad airport for importing plant and materials through Hyderabad airport not notifying it as plant quarantine and fumigation station.

In the absence of the above facilities at the Hyderabad Airport, the export of horticulture and floriculture products are facing avoidable difficulties. Further, in the absence of quarantine facilities, import of seed plant materials is also suffering. Our State Government had also written to the Government of India to ensure that orders concerning the above issues are issued at the earliest. It was also pointed out that the Central Warehousing Corporation and the Andhra Pradesh State Trading Corporation had approached the National Airport Authority of India to set up a cold storage at Hyderabad airport. But for some reason or the other, the establishment of a cold storage at Hyderabad Airport has not materialised with the result that the farming community in Andhra Pradesh is adversely affected.

I request the Union Government to expedite the above mentioned works which have been pending for long so that the agro-industrial development of the State may take place which is very essential for the progress and prosperity of our nation.

(ix) Need for Construction of Building of Madnoor Post Office in Nizamabad District, Andhra Pradesh

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY (Nizamabad) : All India Postal Employees Union, Class-III and EDAS Branch Banswada, District Nizamabad, Andhra Pradesh had represented for construction of departmental building for Madnoor Post Office on the donated land including the staff quarters. The present Post Office at Madnoor is located in a rented house far away from the central village. The people have to walk longer distance which is very inconvenient to them. The villagers have donated land for the construction of Post Office and also for construction of staff quarters.

In addition, there was a long standing demand to upgrade Banswada Sub-head Post Office as Head Post Office as it caters to the Savings Bank Account and RD Account holders of Banswada, Bichkunda, Birkur Madnoor, Pittlam and Jukkal areas. In this regard, a representation was forwarded to the Government on 19 October, 1996. Seven months have passed since then, no action seems to have been initiated by the Government.

I urge upon the hon. Minister of Communications to take action for construction of departmental building for Madnoor Post Office and staff quarters on the donated land which has been available to the Government. Moreover, Banswada Sub-Head Post Office may be upgraded as Head Post Office immediately.

(x) Need to give ten percent houses under Indira Avas Yojana to the minorities.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): The Government of Bihar has introduced the policy of providing ten percent houses under Indira Avas Yojana to the minorities. It is a good step. The Union Government is requested to implement this policy in the whole country in order to improve the standard of living of the poor Muslims because a large number of Muslims in the country are living below poverty line at present. At the same time the cost of Indira Avas Yojana should be increased because the cost fixed at present is not sufficient for constructing the house.

Therefore, I request the Government to make announcement regarding providing 10 percent houses to minorities under the Indira Avas Yojana.

(xi) Need to rejuvenate Fertilizer Units in the country particularly in Bihar

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balai) (Bihar): There is an urgent need to rejuvenate the Chemical and fertilizer units in the country not only to increase constantly the agricultural production in the country but also to make the country self-sufficient in foodgrains and competitive in the world markets. A decision needs to be taken urgently to rejuvenate the units functioning under the control of Hindustan Fertilizers and Fertilizers Corporation of India particularly the Barauni and Sindri fertilizer units of Bihar. Keeping in view the infrastructure available in Barauni, Certain specialists, Committees and previous Government have made recommendation for its reconstruction only in

[Shri Shatrughan Prasad Singh]

Rs. four hundred crores. Import of fertilizers costs more and setting up new factories would cost twelve hundred crores of Rupees.

Therefore, the factories of our countries should be rejuvenated from every point of view.

(xii) Need to Formulate a Comprehensive Policy for Revival of Sick Public Undertakings

[English]

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol) : The present state of suspense for the sick public sector enterprises, if continued any longer, might end up doing irreparable damage to the enterprises.

The jurisdiction of BIFR to deal with the sick public sector enterprises appears to be a misconceived approach for solving the problems of the public enterprises. The delays involved in the disposal of cases by the BIFR are well known. Moreover, the decisions of the BIFR are not binding on either the Government or the enterprises or the workers or the financial institutions that have provided capital to the public enterprises. Any of the interested parties can go in for appeal in the Courts against the decisions of the BIFR, turning the entire process to an infructuous exercise.

The most urgent task for the Union Government, therefore, is to formulate a comprehensive and well-defined policy package for viability of the Central Sick Public Enterprises.

(xiii) Need to take steps to increase the production of Coal in South Karnapura area, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the South Karnapura coal belt of Bihar has deposits of high grade coal. Despite this the production of coal has been declining every year. It is being said that coal production is becoming increasingly difficult due to non-availability of the technique of thick seam mining so far. The thick seam mining technique is available in other parts of the world.

18.18 hrs.

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO *in the chair*]

Therefore I request the Government to increase the

production of coal in South Karnapura area of Bihar.

(xiv) Need for Early Completion of Certain Pending Railway Projects in West Bengal

[English]

PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the long-standing demands of the people of the districts of Jalpaiguri and Coochbehar – (i) Gauge conversion of line from New Jalpaiguri – Siliguri Junction- Alipurduar Junction leading to Bongaigaon; (ii) survey for integrated Railway networks in the districts of Coochbehar leading to Dhubri, Assam have not been undertaken though these two schemes have already been included in the 1997-98 Budget. These demands have been raised from time to time and the Chief Minister of West Bengal has already drawn the attention of the Government to complete these two railway projects. The economic development of these areas depends largely on these projects and these two projects would be revenue earning routes of the Indian Railways.

I do urge upon the Government to take necessary steps so that the above-mentioned projects may be undertaken without any further delay as these two projects are hanging for a quite long time.

(xv) Need to project the interests of betel leaf growers, particularly in Lalitpur district in U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, cultivation of betel leaf is undertaken on a large scale in Bundelkhand division of Uttar Pradesh. The Farmers have to work hard and spend a lot on the cultivation of betel leaf. Sometimes the growers have to suffer heavy loss because of the damage caused by the insects and fire incidents. It is so serious that the farmers have to sell their property to make their both ends meet. The Government have not prepared any such scheme by which the betel leaf growers could get a place in world market and earn profit. The Government should implement compulsory crop insurance scheme for Betel Leaf and the State Government should bear the half of the insurance premium. The Union Government should take initiative for the implementation of such insurance scheme. In addition to it, the Government should make arrangement for pesticides and irrigation facilities to the farmers. If the Government does not pay timely need to it, the farmers would stop cultivation of betel leaf. In Pali area of Lalitpur

district in Uttar Pradesh farmers have been suffering huge loss for the last three consecutive years due to fire. The Agriculture Minister has assured that he would enquire into it and adequate assistance would be given to the farmers for the next crop.

Therefore, the Union Government is requested to give adequate assistance to the farmers.

(xvi) Need to Expedite Drilling Operations for Oil in Sunderbans Areas, West Bengal

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : Sir, a news item appeared in the Daily Ajkal (Bengali) on 1.5.1997 that an American Organization, namely, "Energy and Geo-Science Institute" 3-man Committee led by David Hafab declared that no potential for drilling to search oil existed in the Sunderbans Area of West Bengal. The Oil and Natural Gas Commission, which had earlier failed in its attempts to locate oil, however, had now signed an agreement with the American Organization. Mr. David Hafab made an announcement that the American Institute would be conducting search for oil in nine delta areas in the world including the Sunderbans delta.

As you are aware, Sunderbans is the most backward area in the country. So, it is high time that the US experts are urged to undertake the drilling operations in the area without any loss of time, as any oil exploration will be a great boon for the Sunderbans.

(xvii) Need to take steps to Revive the Sick Fertiliser Units in Public Sector

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers to the fact that import of fertilizers, especially urea, in the year 1995-96 was 37 lakh tonne, i.e. Rs. 2700 crore and in the year 1996-97 it was 23.28 lakh tonnes, i.e. Rs. 2000 crore. The cost price of one ton of imported urea was 240 to 250 dollars, i.e. in Indian currency it would be round about Rs. 9000 crore totally. On the other hand, the Government is spending Rs. 7000 crore for the production of urea through Durgapur Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation of India. If the import price of Rs. 9000 per ton is given to the HFC, Durgapur, it would not be a loss making unit.

In the month of August 1995 the decision of the Cabinet was to revive six units, that is, Durgapur, Barauni, Namrup (H.F.C.), Sindri, Ramagundam and Talcher FCI

with a revival package of Rs. 2200 crore. But, no decision has yet been taken. If the restructuring of the units are done, the production of fertilizer would be 23 lakhs tonnes at a time when about 20 to 30 lakh tonnes of fertilizer is still being imported.

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers is investing Rs. 635 crore to set up a new thermal power project in Rajasthan. KRIBHCO is investing in Mangalore Fertilizer and Chemicals which is a private sector whereas the Government is not ready to invest in public sector enterprises. It is not even ready to be a guarantor of operating agencies who are ready to invest. The Government is not ready to make them stand on their own feet. If it is so, the working class will fight against the Government until and unless they come out with flying colours.

So, I urge upon the Government to please look into the matter seriously. It should not be treated the working class as a slave. The working class are the pioneer to set up India as developed country.

(xiii) Need to Improve Telecom Services in Southern Assam, particularly in Karimganj

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj) : Rural telephones in southern Assam particularly in my constituency Karimganj (SC) are useless for all practical purposes. They remain dead even for local calls and STD/ISD are rare occasions. Local exchanges are not augmented and the setting up of new exchanges is yet to be taken up. The installation of microwave/UHF system in my constituency is yet to begin although approved long before. Karimganj should be made a "Telecom District" along with the creation of a post of "District Telecom Manager". There should be provision of a ten channel UHF system as stable media from Dullabeherra to Karimganj to facilitate STD/ISD.

So, I urge upon the Government to look into the matter and do the needful at an early date to facilitate rural telecommunications.

(xix) Need to lay standards for quality of Silver-wares.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA (Mumbai-South) : Sir, the Silver-wares and other items used on large scale in India. If there is the mark of 100 touch on the silver wares and the price is fixed for ₹100

[Shrimati Jayawanti Navinchandra Mehta]

per cent pure silver, it is all right. But the price of silver wares everywhere including the big metropolitan cities is based on the hundred per cent purity of Silver, whereas in most of these silver wares the silver content is less than sixty per cent. Other alloys are used in place of silver. The consumers do not get articles of pure silver inspite of paying more price.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to bring about a legislation so that the purity of silver wares can be certified and the prices thereof, could be fixed accordingly and the exploitation of consumers may be stopped.

(xx) Need for early completion of T.V. Transmitter Project in Cannanore

[English]

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore): North Malabar in Kerala is the most backward region in the State of Kerala. In all developmental activities, the districts of Malabar lay behind other places in Kerala. It is unfortunate that in the field of information and broadcasting also, this region has to narrate a story of neglect and discrimination by the successive Governments. Even the Malayalam programmes telecast from Trivandrum Doordarshan Kendra are not being received here with adequate clarity.

Cannanore, Kasargod, Wyanad and certain areas in Calicut districts are deprived of proper reception. After constant and persistent demands, the Government had ultimately decided to put up a high power transmitter at Cannanore for the benefit of the people of these areas and ultimately foundation stone was laid at Cannanore by the former Information and Broadcasting Minister more than a year back. It is deeply disturbing to note that thereafter no work whatsoever has commenced on the proposed TV Transmitter at Cannanore. The people of this area are deeply agitated over the lethargic and indifferent attitude of the authorities. I earnestly request the hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting to kindly expedite the work on this project.

(xxi) Need to amend Rule 15 and Rule 16(1) of UPSC Civil Services Examination Rules so as to provide Reservation benefits at every stage of civil services Examinations

SHRI P.N. SIVA (Pudukkottai) : Sir, the Civil services Examination consists of three parts, viz., Preliminary, Main

and Personality Test. The Rule 15, its proviso and Rule 16(1) of UPSC Civil Services Examination Rules give liberty to UPSC not to apply the rules of reservation in the first two parts of the Civil Services Examinations conducted every year.

Reservation, by its very definition, is meant for the socially and educationally backward sections.

In all the three stages of the examination, viz., Preliminary, Main and Personality Test, relaxed standards should be applied wherever necessary after following the procedure as referred to above. But what really happens is that in the Preliminary and Main parts of the Examination, instead of choosing the first 50 per cent on the basis of marks secured, the list of SCs, STs and OBCs is taken apart and the first 27 per cent, 15 per cent and 7.5 per cent among the OBCs, SCs and STs are chosen to appear for the next stage of the Examination. Then, of the remaining candidates who are only other castes, 50.5 per cent are chosen on the basis of the order or merit.

I request the Central Government to bring suitable amendments or modifications to Rule 15, its proviso and Rule 16 (1) of the UPSC Civil Services Examination Rules in such a manner that at every stage of examination, the rules of reservation ensure that 15 per cent, 7.5 per cent and 27 per cent are provided to SCs, STs and OBCs after excluding those among them who made it in the open merit list.

(xxii) Need to chalk out a programme for Rehabilitation of people displaced by Narora Atomic Power Project

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, an assurance was given during the setting up of Narora Atomic Power Project in District Bulandshahar in Khurja Parliamentary Constituency and National Thermal Power Corporation in District Ghaziabad of Dadri Assembly Constituency that adequate arrangement of rehabilitation would be made for the affected people and adequate development of the area would also be ensured. Unfortunately, the Government has not taken suitable steps for the rehabilitation of displaced persons of these projects and the displaced persons have been rehabilitated at such places where water logging is a common feature during rainy season. The people of the area have neither been provided alternative employment in these projects nor has the farmers been paid adequate compensation. The roads

falling under these projects in Narora and Dadri area are in a dilapidated condition and there is neither primary school nor dispensary and toilet for the children of displaced persons. Displaced persons are leading a miserable life.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to chalk out a programme for the rehabilitation of the people displaced by Narora Atomic Power Project and National Thermal Power Corporation (Dadri Area) under Khurja Parliamentary Constituency and take effective steps for the all round development of the area. Simultaneously, the developmental action plan should be implemented immediately.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : May I make a submission ? We have the names of 46 hon. Members here. Already, the text of the matter is before the House. I suggest that all the texts would be sent to the hon. Ministers and the hon. Members would be getting the written replies. If you all agree, we can do that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, Sir. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me complete then you can say. I will go only by the sense of the House. What I suggest is that I would read out the names of the hon. Members who have given their submissions. Those names will be read out and since the texts are here, those hon. Members would get the replies. Those matters would be taken as raised in the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are 46 names. It is going to take a minimum of two hours.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise a matter of urgent Public importance . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know the other side of the argument. I want the sense of the House, please. Let us not waste the time of the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : It was stated that

everyone would get a chance to speak. . . . (Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho) : Sir, 46 Members will not be present. Hardly half of the Members will be present . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay, then, we will go ahead with this.

(xxiii) Need for early construction of Usaid Ghat Bridge at Chambal

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Morena) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the foundation stone of Usaid Ghat bridge on Chambal River was laid by former Prime Minister Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi but the work on this bridge has not started as yet. The construction of this bridge will immensely benefit the people of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh as this bridge connects the two states. The people of both the states are facing a lot of difficulties due to lack of a bridge.

Therefore, it is requested that the Union Government should take immediate steps for the early construction of Usaid Ghat bridge on Chambal River as Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had laid foundation stone of this bridge.

(xxiv) Need to take steps to solve the drinking water Scarcity in Ranchi

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the whole of Ranchi city and its surrounding rural belt is facing acute scarcity of water. Water has to be fetched from miles away. People are resorting to 'Dharna,' demonstrations and road jams, every day. The water level has touched quite low. People going to hand pumps for taking water have to stand in queues for hours together. Several incidents of scuffles have also taken place in which one person was even reported to have been killed. This incident took place a month ago. There is no regular supply of electricity. Half of the hand pumps installed are not working. The hand pumps are not being installed where they are needed most.

The Union Government is therefore, requested to take expeditious action to solve the problem of potable water and instruct the State Government to find out a solution to this problem.

(xxv) Need to Create a Separate District of Balrampur

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur) : Mr. Chairman Sir, Gonda is the largest district of Uttar Pradesh at present with 25 blocks and a population of 40 lakhs. Balrampur and Tulsipur tehsils of my Parliamentary Constituency share their borders with Nepal. This area is rich in forest wealth but the farmers and citizens of this area are being deprived of facilities due to slow pace of development. The administration of Gonda district falls short of being effective due to its geographical peculiarity. Only recently, many new districts like Firozabad, Haridwar, Maharajganj, Siddharth Nagar, Sonbhadra, Bhadohi, Mahoba, Amroha and Kaushambi etc. have been created in Uttar Pradesh.

Late Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru during his visit to Gonda, in 1962 had accepted in principle the demands of local people for creating a separate district of Balrampur.

Therefore, I, through you, would urge upon the Union Government to declare Balrampur a separate district without further delay.

(xxvi) Need to review the composition of National Safai Karamchari Ayog

SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI (Bijnaur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, National Safai Karamchari Ayog was constituted on August 12, 1994 and its term was due to expire on 12th August, 1997. But the Minister of welfare wound up the commission on 31st March, 1997. I was also one of its members. The hon. Minister has constituted another commission on April, 1997. The newly constituted Commission has inducted only one member from Lucknow who is associated with Safai Karamcharis. The remaining five members do not have any knowledge about the problems of Safai Karamcharis. So far as the constitution of the commission is concerned, two members have been inducted from Punjab and two each from Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow), while the state of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat etc. have been left out. The Minister of welfare has inducted his favourite persons in the commission and they are there to serve their vested interests and they have nothing to do with Safai Karamcharis.

Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to include at least one member in this Commission from the opposition party and one from Delhi. Only such persons should be included in the Commission who are well versed with the problems of Safai Karamcharis so that the

commission may undertake some positive works.

18.41 hrs.

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

(xxvii) Need to provide loans to Unemployed Youths in Chambal river area

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH (Bhind) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thousands of acres of cultivable land on both sides of Chambal river in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh is getting converted into ravines due to soil erosion. If this soil erosion is not checked, Bhind and Morena districts of Madhya Pradesh will be converted into ravines of Chambal in the next hundred years. The amount made available by the Government for checking soil erosion has been misused rather than utilised as per the report of the Government.

If Chambal Valley is to be kept green and cultivable, I would request the Union Government to provide loan to the local landless and unemployed youths on reasonable rate of interest and hand over the ravines to them on lease in order to make it cultivable.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had assured me to speak for half a minute . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : Sir, with your permission, I would like to say something. The Prime Minister of Kirgizia is here and I am to have official talks with him at 7 P.M. So if the hon. House permits me, I would like to take leave of you now.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, I think that commitment is important.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South-Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, What about the Women Reservation Bill ? Will it be moved in the House or not ? . . . (Interruptions) It has to be moved for consideration.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Law Minister is here.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if

the Prime Minister leaves the House, it will lessen the important of this Bill.

You please get it moved by him. . . (Interruptions). I am on a point of order. If the Prime Minister moves this Bill, it will add to its importance. You please get it moved by the Prime Minister.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : You may speak later on.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I am addressing the Hon'ble Speaker, and not you. . . (Interruptions) Is there any restriction even on speaking ? . . . (Interruptions) I can at least make my submission . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : You can make your submission.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You do not have to react.

(xxviii) Need to take steps to check the pollution of the Desang river in Assam caused by certain Industrial Units

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat) : It is a matter of great concern that in spite of the fact that the Supreme court is seized of the pollutions of all sorts perpetrated by the industries, a few industries including public sector undertakings still pollute the sources of drinking water in a defiant way by pouring out the effluents and wastes to the river system, particularly in Assam. To mention a particular case, the Namrup Fertilizers Limited, a Government of India Undertaking, has been merrily polluting the river Desang, a major Tributary of river Brahmaputra. As a result, people living in a 50 Kilometre radius in Siosagar District of my Lok Sabha Constituency, Jorhat cannot use water for drinking. It is a tragic sight that thousands of people living on both the banks of the river are deprived of the natural source of water. To add to their woes, resource crunch of Government stands in the way of making available alternative source of water by installing deep tube wells. Either funds should be provided to the Fertilizer Units for installing effective recycling plants and other effective mechanism or they should be asked to close down. Even other public sector oil industries like ONGC and IOC are equally responsible not only for polluting water sources but also adversely affecting vegetable production, paddy fields and sericulture farming. I urge upon the Government to ask an expert environment organisation like NEERI to probe into this rampant pollution

or order these industries to take corrective measures.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, I am on a point of convenience, If you assure us that you are adjourning the House *sine die* after matters under Rule 377, we will have the convenience to leave.

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot say that now. It is a matter of a few more minutes. Many hon. Members, whose names are here, are absent.

(xxix) Need to Mitigate the Hardships of Visa Holders Visiting Jaisalmer and Barmer in Rajasthan

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I represent district Jaisalmer and Barmer which are situated in Western Rajasthan along the Pakistan boarder. During the 1947 partition, a number of families of this area were separated. Also during the 1965 and 1971 conflict, a number of people had migrated from India to Pakistan and vice versa.

I would like to congratulate the UF Government and the then External Affairs Minister Shri I.K. Gujral for liberalising the visa policy under which both the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan had agreed that the citizens of both these countries will be permitted to visit their respective relatives on either side of the border.

I am sorry to point out that the visas issued to the relatives of the inhabitants of my area i.e., Jaisalmer and Barmer, are permitted and restricted only to Jodhpur city. This restriction has been enforced by Pakistan Embassy for the two to three months only. Jodhpur city is around 300-350 km away from the actual villages and hamlets where they wish to visit.

The very purpose of their getting visas to look up their near relations is defeated. This is causing not only mental but also financial hardships of the people of my area. The affected visa holders are not only Muslims but Hindus are also included. I agree that certain areas which are sensitive and next to the border may be excluded from the visas of visiting relatives. But the restriction to stop them 300-400 km before their actual place of destination is not justified.

Therefore, I strongly recommend to the Government of India that this aspect as mentioned above may be looked into and the visas be issued in such a way so as to avoid all hardships to visiting relatives.

(xxx) Need to improve telecommunication facilities in Agra, Mathura and Ferozabad districts, (U.P.)

[Translation]

PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' (Jalesar) : Sir, the Department of Tele-communication is infested with several ills these days. Complaints to this effect are received all over the country. There is negligence, dishonesty and dereliction of duty prevalent in the telecommunication centres situated in Agra, Mathura and Ferozabad in Uttar Pradesh and among the personnel working in these centres Incharges, General Managers, Deputy General Managers, District Managers, Sub-divisional Officers and Commercial officers. No telephone connections are being given in city and rural areas without bribe. There are wide spread irregularities in the allotment of S.T.D. and P.C.Os. Despite Governments instructions, the Members are not being consulted nor are their letters being responded to.

I, through you, request the hon'ble Minister to get this matter investigated and punish the culprits and he should also safeguard the rights of the local people and also provide telecommunication facilities in these areas.

(xxxii) Need to open a Central School in Chatra District (Bihar)

SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL (Chatra) : Sir, the Chatra district in South Bihar which is the most backward district, is bereft of any educational facilities. There are no educational institutions in this district and as a result of it, there is resentment among the local people. This is also a very sensitive district from the law and order point of view.

Therefore, I request the Government to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Chatra district and necessary directives should be issued to the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan in this regard.

(xxxiii) Need to prepare a Comprehensive Plan for Integrated Development of Saran (Bihar)

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the district of Saran in Bihar has zero industrial growth since Independence and does not have any working industry in small, medium or large scale except one, located at Marhowrah. The cottage and handicraft industry

is absent and there is no source of employment. The district is totally based on agriculture. Still, there is no agro-industrial or processed fruit or fruit production unit. The district has the lowest percentage of infrastructural facilities, a large number of dilapidated school buildings and the poorest growth rate. Every aspect of economy coupled with poverty, unemployment, migration of labour, handicapped persons etc., are predominant. The Department of Planning and Programme Implementation must publish a white paper on the district of Saran (Chhapra) and prepare a comprehensive plan for integrated growth and investment activities.

(xxxiiii) Need to provide Stoppage of Purshottam Express at Anugrah Narayan Road (Bihar)

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) : Sir, Aurangabad district area falls in between Gaya and Dehari-On-Sone station under the Eastern Railways. The distance between Gaya and Dihari-On-Son is 120 Kms. No express or long distance mail trains halts at any of the stations situated in Aurangabad district area, while just 18 kms away at Dehari-On-Sone station and at Sasaram station in the same district all the mail and express trains have stoppages.

The Indian Railways is not operated only on the commercial angle but it does consider the poverty, backwardness and public interest as well. The Aurangabad district is a very backward district. It is amply evident from the fact that, whenever I call the name of my district, I have to call the name of Bihar simultaneously, otherwise it is generally mistaken for Aurangabad of Maharashtra. Therefore, Aurangabad needs to be linked with rail line and there is a need to provide stoppages of main and Express Trains at Anugrah Narayan Road and Rafiganj.

Therefore, I request the Government to provide stoppage for Purshottam Express at Anugrah Narayan road.

(xxxv) Need to declare Sardar Sarovar Project as a National Project

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the construction work of Sardar Sarovar project in Gujarat is in the advance stage. Rajasthan has got 5 lakh cubic ft. water under the Narmada water dispute tribunal award. That water would be made available for

drinking and irrigation facilities in Jalore and Barmer districts in the deserts of Rajasthan.

I demand that. Sardar Sarovar Project be declared as the national project in order to provide drinking water and irrigation facilities in the deserts of Rajasthan.

(xxxv) Need to ensure balanced growth of various regions in the country

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, it is a matter of concern that regional imbalance is growing fast in the country thereby the noble purpose of growth with social justice underlying our planning exercise is defeated to some extent. As a result, serious discontentment and even frustration engulf the common man in backward areas and also weaker sections threatening the fabric of our society and national integrity.

It is, therefore, of paramount importance that this problem is properly addressed with all sincerity and seriousness so that balanced development of various regions and prosperity of weaker sections are ensured.

(xxxvi) Need to enforce Hill Service Cadre 1992 in Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Uttar Pradesh Government on 25th November, 1992 implemented a Hill Service Cadre 1992 in the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh for the purpose of appointments, promotions etc. in 31 departments. But the Government has not taken any action for the implementation of this Service Cadre. Thousands of posts are lying vacant in U.P. and thousands of youths are still jobless due to non-implementation of this cadre.

As large number of posts are lying vacant, this has affected the development process as also seniority and promotion of thousands of employees. Various employees' organisations are agitating to press the demands for the implementation of this cadre.

The resentment is increasing due to non-implementation of this cadre fully despite the assurance given by the Finance Minister in the last session.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to issue strict directives to the Uttar Pradesh Government to implement this cadre immediately.

19.00 hrs.

(xxxvii) Need to fill up the Post of Member (Power) in Bhakra and Beas Management Board from the State of Punjab

[English]

SHRI MAJOR SINGH UBOKE (Tarantaran) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Bhakra and Beas Project is the mainstay of economy of the Punjab as well as Haryana and Rajasthan. The management operations and maintenance of the Bhakra Beas Management Board are entrusted to three whole-time members, namely. Chairman, Member (Power) and Member (Irrigation). Out of three whole time members of BBMB, two posts were vacant and only the Chairman remained. The Chairman of the BBMB was to retire on 28 February, 1997 but he is being retained on the pretext that the other two members were not there. Now that the post of Member (Irrigation) has been filled up since 10 April, 1997, the post of Member (Power) is still vacant. The post of Member (Power) has been always with an engineer of the PSEB due to the fact that Punjab was the biggest partner of the BBMB. There has been a number of representations to the Ministry of Power from the PSEB engineers appealing it to adhere to the practice of retaining the post of Member (Power) for the Punjab engineers and make the appointment without loss of time so as to tone up the administration of the BBMB. There have been doubts that the post of Member (Power) may not be given to Punjab.

I therefore, urge upon the Ministry of Power not to break the convention of giving this post to the Punjab State Electricity Board engineers and make an immediate order to safeguard the interest of Punjab.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not speaking under Rule 377. I rise to beg pardon for the mistake I had committed in the morning. Today morning, I suddenly spoke very loudly during the zero hour. You always protect every Member and give them opportunity to raise their points. We all have high regards for you as well as the chair. However, I am very sorry for shouting in the morning. Therefore, I beg your pardon before the entire House for the mistake I had committed in the morning. I would not have felt free unless I had begged your pardon. That is why, I have risen to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Okay, Thank you.

19.03 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (EIGHTY-FIRST AMENDMENT)
BILL — *Contd.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Law Minister, what is your proposal on this item No. 30, Women Reservation Bill.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : Sir, I am for consideration of the Bill. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : You give chance to all. We should also be given a chance.

MR. SPEAKER : You get a chance to sit here.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Please speak later on after me. Mr. Speaker Sir, my submission is that this question was raised in the morning also and there was much hue and cry. At that time, the hon. Prime Minister wanted to speak but could not speak as he had to go for some urgent work. It seems that there are doubts in the minds of the people on this issue. I would like to submit that the hon. Prime Minister is not present here so the House can wait for him and in between we should find out such a way that there should not be any obstacle in the motion of Constitutional Amendment. This much is my submission to you. It is neither been adding to the dignity of the House nor the people would accept what we want to do. If you accept my submission, I think that the disputed hour can be averted.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am also to say something. If the suggestion of Chandra Shekhar ji is accepted, then a wrong tradition would be set up in the House. The difference of opinion in a democracy are but natural. There can be separate opinions on the motion moved by the Government for Constitutional Amendment and for enacting a law. That opinion should be expressed forcefully in the House. But the House has accepted such a resolution on which the Hon. Prime Minister can not speak. Now, the hon. Law Minister is being stopped to speak. The unfortunate situation is that the ruling party, has been stopping him

to speak. Such a thing has never happened on democracy . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can listen to him.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Now, we do not want to listen. . . .(Interruptions) I am not worried at all about the passing of the Bill on women but the Bill was referred to the Select Committee. It has returned from there. Chandra Shekhar ji is giving the suggestion but the discussion and suggestion on it is over. If more discussion is needed for it, it can be done. The method for it is that the ruling party should call on its meeting separately but should not play with the House, which is being done today. No such behaviour should be done with us. You have differences with the hon. Prime Minister, You have differences with your Government, then raise that in your own house. . . .(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to warn that . . .(Interruptions) if only some people are allowed to stop the functioning of the House, as is being allowed today, then this House would not run. The democracy would be in danger . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI TASLIMUDDIN (Kishanganj) : This Bill has been introduced only for a few people . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, I substantially agree with what the Leader of Opposition has said. This is not a Bill which is being introduced today. The Bill has been introduced long time back. The whole country has, at times, to debate on this. This was referred to the Select Committee. Many Select Committees' reports have come with minutes of dissent. There are also minutes of dissent so far as this Select Committee's Report is concerned. Then what happens ? This is the floor of the House which will ultimately decide. But today with great pain, we are all witnessing what is happening here. We cannot discuss the minutes in this House which is the biggest, greatest representative body. The Prime Minister cannot utter one word. The Minister is almost physically being prevented.

Sir, we can certainly express our views. You have been kind enough to make it very clear, if at all any clarification was needed, that every Member will have a right to submit

amendments. Let there be discussion. Let the Bill be defeated on merits. But let us not behave in a manner which puts everybody in a light which is certainly not a glowing light.

If this House will have any meaning, if there is any parliamentary democracy to survive in this country, my appeal to everybody here including my friends in the Janata Dal – I need not express here my respect and affection for them – that you can decide whatever you like. But let the House function in a manner which will not affect our credibility and our prestige as a nation. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : People of various parties are in it(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Maybe, I am saying to every party.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : You have mentioned the name of the Janata Dal. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is because, you know, what happened in the morning.

What has happened here in the morning ?(Interruptions). Even in B.J.P. also there are some(Interruptions). Let them say that. . . .(Interruptions). Therefore, what Shri Chandra Shekhar has said is also out of agony. . . .(Interruptions). Shri Chandra Shekhar, you have also said it out of anguish that this is not the thing which should be done. . . .(Interruptions).

It has to be done on a party level. You come and express your views. During the discussion, everybody said, 'No'. Even then the Government had two meetings. The hon. Prime Minister had called two meetings with all the Leaders of different political parties on this very issue. The views were expressed in those meetings. Ultimately, the hon. Prime Minister said that the Bill will be brought as it is. And then you are obviously throwing it open for discussion, throwing it open for amendments and changes. It may be passed or it may not be passed.

Therefore, Sir, I am appealing to all sections of the House. This is Parliament of India. This is Lok Sabha. Let us discuss. May it be a controversial measure, but we can

discuss it in a manner which is befitting us and the standing of this House and thereafter, you can do it. . . .(Interruptions). Why today ? 'Yes' because we all insisted. . . .(Interruptions).

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : This decision was taken at the eleventh hour(Interruptions).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, what will happen ? Everybody knows that after the hon. Prime Minister's initial statement, it has to go to the next session. Heavens would not have fallen. This would have at least shown the commitment of the Government. We have been pressurising this Government to bring this Bill. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee talks about it every day in B.A.C. and everywhere and she is saying that she is representing and articulating the views of our women colleagues here, our sisters.

Therefore, this has happened every day. We are also seeing on television our sisters from all political parties standing on the steps of the Parliament and demanding taking up of this Bill. Shall we also not pay respect to their views ? Then, at least let it be discussed and decided.

I do not know why this is happening and why there should be such feelings of anger and mistrust. Let us do it in a manner. Let it be defeated, if it is to be defeated. But let us discuss it in a manner as we should do that.

Sir, you have expressed many times and that is our view. I am appealing to all sections of the House; 'You defeat it, if you do not want it; try to change it.' We will have the entire inter-session period for this. You can discuss it among the political parties. Nothing final is being decided today; not a single clause is being passed today. I do not know what is this urgency that you must stifle it here and now. Therefore, this is my appeal to all sections and I am sure, Sir, you will provide that leadership to us. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you very much. At last you have given me an opportunity to express my views. Sir, be it the Government or the House, justice can not be done with the resolution moved in the House to provide reservation to the women. As Somnath ji was saying right now that had the discussion on it been initiated today, heaven would not have fallen and the hon. Prime Minister or the hon. Law Minister could have an opportunity to speak.

Sir, I would like to urge upon through you that heaven

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

would not fall, if it is taken up in the next session and the period in between is utilised for solving the disputed issues. Sir, I would like to put forth a few points very honestly. If this Bill intends to give one third reservation to the women in Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly, then justice is not being done with the women. Those who are moving it do not have clear intentions. The Select Committee has been set up. After much efforts, the Select Committee has been set up in the House. The way in which the question hour was suspended and it was stated that we want to give a signal and message to the entire world that this Bill has been passed without discussion and also the Constitutional Amendment Bill has been passed. We would give the signal to the world that nowhere in any big democracy it has happened but we want to do it in our democracy. We would not like to give any signal to the world for other problems. We do not want to make progress and give any signal in any other matter to the world but we want to give signal in this regard. Anyway, we do not have any objection on it but the next day the discussion was held and at last it was decided that the matter should be referred to the Select Committee.

Now, I would not like to say any thing with regard to the composition of the Select Committee but I was among those who raised the disputed issues. I had also given my remarks. I do not take it as a remark of dissent. But as per the Parliamentary traditions, the remark of dissent is considered as the remark of approval but our remark is of approval. We would like to have a vast scope of that Bill. We have said that the women should get reservation. We have cited this example that today out of the 39 lady Members only four belong to O.B.Cs. We have said that there is no harm if reservation is made for O.B.Cs. Women in the reservation for women.

I would like to submit that the commission on women is there but there is no provision for O.B.Cs. in it. There is no provision that one Member would be of O.B.C. There is not even a single woman belonging to OBC in the National Women Commission and here the people claim that they represent all the women. The population of women is 50 percent and there are 60 percent O.B.C. people but is anyone speaking for the O.B.C. women out of those 50 percent women. When we urge upon those who run institutions in the name of women that they do not pay heed towards that. They claim that the rest of the things would be decided by them. Who are they to decide the rest of the things. It would be decided by the House,

but what is our attitude towards it ? We want that the women should be given reservation and arrangement should be made for the women of O.B.C. also in it. The Ministry of Law has sent a note that without providing reservation for the men or without giving verticle reservation, generally it is not possible. The Government had called on a meeting of the leaders. The President of our party, Shri George Fernandes had attended it. In that meeting he said that he would write in five sentences. The amendment would be done at a time. I would like to know the reasons of objections to it. If the other sections of the Constitution are amended and the women of O.B.Cs. get justice then what would be wrong. But when we demand for it, it is said that we are against the women. There is none to hear. We do not get verticle reservation. We want that when reservation is being given to women, then the interests of the O.B.Cs. women should be safeguarded. But that was not taken into a right direction.

Today when I met the hon. Law Minister, the effect of it was or him also but I failed to understand it. Perhaps it was in his mind that we want reservation in the entire Lok Sabha for the O.B.Cs. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we just want reservation for the women belonging to O.B.Cs in the reservation you are providing. We do not want that doors should be closed for them also. I would like to know that who will get tickets. The women who would be on the front line, would get tickets. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am concluding. Unless we provide reservation within reservation to the backward class women, they would not get a proper place.

This is not the way to decide the contentious issues that they will accept the decision of the jury but will not budge from their position. No efforts have been made to solve the contentious issues with an open heart, I would say so. This Message is being given across one country that those who are demanding reservation out of proposed reservation for women, they are opposing women. But we are not against the reservation for women. They say today that let this bill be passed as it is, women from the O.B.C. would be included in this at a later stage.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we would not accept such things. The Mandal Commission report was implemented and as a result of that the turmoil which gripped the entire country, we know well about that. If sometimes there will be reservation separately for the women of the O.B.C., will the country be not put on fire ? All other questions will be left out and this single question will shake the entire country. We, therefore, want that this provision should also be made at the same time. So that an understanding

should emerge and there is no such thing through which we want to divide the society.

Finally, I want to say that this bill is a revolutionary one. The basic concept of it is very radical. Therefore, the House should not be divided on such issues. We have had adjustment on many issues earlier also. Take the case of the Panchayati Raj Bill and the Constitution (Amendment) Bill which was brought in, they are saying today that note of dissent was not given by the people of the C.P.M. we were demanding direct election that direct election should be held at least at the primary secondary level. The people of the C.P.M. were not in its favour. But finally when the report of the Select Committee was presented, they started lobbying. We said that direct election should be held and people at lower rung should also come up but the people of the Marxist Party then again started lobbying. It was decided in the meeting of the leaders that there should be no differences on such a issue. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : Have patience to listen to hard facts.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I now want to conclude. The contentious issues were settled and the Panchayati Raj Amendment Bill was passed in the same form with consensus. The then Prime Minister of that time

is present here. So, there is nothing like that we are giving sermons to other people. There are contentious issues. These should be resolved. These should be passed in the house with consensus and this is my only submission.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : In a matter like this, it is not my intention to treat it as a mere or gratuitous advice. All the hon. Members can decide for themselves. I am only appealing that let us proceed according to the rules and norms of the game. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am still expressing my views and meanwhile he has interrupted me. Now they want to force it by way of a legislation and they say that they will consider it that way only. They do not want to go along with consensus amending rules in some way. They want to bring this Bill on the hope that the B.J.P. will issue a whip and the Congress will also issue a whip and they will get it passed. I want to make an appeal to you that this is a radical Bill. You should give a free hand to all on this issue. You have made many points which have

had far reaching consequences. We would like to appeal to you that it should be decided in such a situation that no whip will be issued and members should be allowed to vote according to voice of their conscience. They will be forced to vote once the whip is issued. The issues which are hidden under this Bill, should be disclosed before this House so that nothing remains untold. Because this house is the Supreme institution. And do whatever you want and we will accept that.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make one thing clear about 33 percent reservation for women. I am in favour of providing them 50 per cent reservation. You may increase it to 55 percent. It is written in the constitution of this country under the Poona act about the people who are backward and most backward socially and economically that the society would be run by the male community only, there would be caste system. Caste survives through marriage institution. The Hindu community of India is male dominated. The greatest ill of this country is caste system and this is survived by woman. A man passes his life in Slavery right from childhood to old age. If there is any movement for the development and emancipation of women in this country, they will have to be liberated from the caste system. This house never paid attention towards this. When I say so, people from all quarters make a fun of me. If you want this country to make really great, a revolutionary proposal should be brought in for the elimination of caste system. This would ensure freedom to the women of India. I have said time and again that we were not at all against this Bill, we are rather in its favour.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg your pardon. I spoke out of grief in the morning, I really apologise for that. I was speaking in a good vein because we got our due of the Mandal Commission after 50 years. We constitute 52 percent of population but we have got only 27 per cent reservation. Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the occasions of marriage, death and rituals performed at the time of birth and death, we served the people of the Hindu Community wholeheartedly, it was not a sikh, muslim or christian who served them but in return they treated us savagely. This country is testimony to that. This House is aware of that. Our Dada Somnath Babu is quite a gentleman. I know that poke fun at him or at Shri Atalji is very painful to us. Shri Chandra Shekar has also given a suggestion. Our democracy has become 50 years old. I never raised the issue of Mandal Commission in this House after its implementation. If democracy will be saved, our country will be saved. This House stands a testimony that we were not against this

[Shri Sharad Yadav]

reservation. I urge upon you to increase this reservation upto 50 per cent. But I do not agree with Nitish Ji. This country consists of four sections of people. First are downtrodden and scheduled caste, Second are the farmers community and people of the scheduled caste who work for them, third are people belonging to higher castes and fourth are people of minority communities such as Sikh, Muslim and Christian. You first conduct a census of these sections of people and conduct a survey and then provide reservation for women in proportion to their population, if you really want to provide reservation to women and to do justice with them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this Lok Sabha, we have 200 members from the farmers community whereas this number was only 13 in 1952, in the first Lok Sabha. We do not come here with the help of reservation. Dr. Lohia, Chowdhary Charan Singh and Jai Prakash did not belong to a poor family and a lower caste. It is because of the public, our strength has increased in the Lok Sabha because they have given us a chance. The people of farmer's community have been toiling for the thousands of years.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Dalits are also coming here by contesting elections.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I am also making the same point.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sharad Yadav, if you can shorten it, it would be better. I do not think we can go on debating like this.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I accept that constitution should be amended suitably. I will not stretch it further.

MR. SPEAKER : If you could, you must do.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It will be better, if you can.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We will have to do so.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, We will have to prolong this issue. We want to express our views

in this House honestly. People belonging to upper castes are working in the highest institutions of the country. Whether they are magistrate or judge or officer or in any capacity . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Whether it is C.B.I.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Leave all these things they are prevailing upon in the Courts, Clubs, decisions and lawyers. If Jethmalani ji had not taken the case of Mandal Commission they would have not got any Lawyers for it.

It is a good thing that Atalji has made him minister. He has protected us otherwise Mandal Commission has not been into existence. The fate of our 33 percent population depends on them. He would hurt our interest by tampering the papers. Therefore we want that representation should be given to our Women even at the cost of our life. Are we committing any Crime ? Do you understand the difference between our women and their women ? Our women can work in the fields, they can cut grass, they can do hard work and go to the jungles in the night bravely. Our life is full of hard work and courage but it has no self respect. The women belonging to higher castes are clever, wise and they have sense of self respect They play Sitar, Guitar and sing songs. We sing Birha, Alaha while the people of higher castes sing Dheem Palasi and Rag Darbari. These people play all the instruments whether it is sitar, guitar or Sarangi. Mr. Speaker, Sir, as such we do not want that our interests be hurt by them. Due to this doubt, we are opposing this bill. Atal Ji, it has not happened once, it has been repeated many times. The same thing has happened in matter of Bofors and other cases. When the matters related to corruption were raised here, we did not support them. We did not ask for reservation in fifty years and then we came here for six times. We did not ask for reservation. You tell me if we have asked for reservation in the elections for the people of backward classes. We never created controversy over it. You have opened this Pandora's box. I tell you if you touch the issue of casteism, it would have dangerous consequences in India. Buddhism has gone to overseas while Hinduism is still prevailing here. Do not open this Pandora's box and if you want to open it, do justice with it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you hold the highest office of the House, therefore, no one else can gauge the intensity of pain better than you. In India, highest concern should be shown to the Adivasis. The female dominated culture is prevalent in Adivasi Society while Hindu society is male

dominated one. This dominance needs to be broken. The Government should introduce a bill in this regard. The people are likely to resort to revolution. Harmony will be shattered and Atalji's bid to unite the Hindu Society does not seem possible. I would just like the reservation to be increased to 50 per cent and everyone should enjoy his right in accordance with the population. I do not want to put hurdle in its way but it is not for the first time that the efforts in this regard are being hampered. This time, it is a constitution amendment. This matter is not an ordinary issue but it is related to our future. We would not let the struggle done by our ancestors from Kabir to till date, go in vain and will continue to struggle. If we go on requesting in a humble and polite manner under the existing rules and regulations, decency and decorum and you always turn down our requests then there is no other option left for us than to do this. I beg pardon if my utterances hurt anybody's feelings but I have explained the point just to show that after fifty years of independence, the hornet's nest should not be disturbed by torching the issue otherwise the country's future will be bleak. The women from all over the world, in an assembly, had rejected this bid. Reservation exists nowhere in the world. . . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : You could not express your views in your own party but here you are speaking uninterrupted. . . .(Interruptions) Please, raise your points in your own party. They find themselves unable to decide. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Please stop this topic now. How far do you want to drag it ? . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever he is saying, we had raised the topic in the party and in steering committee also. Shri Mulayam Singh is present here alongwith the hon. Members of D.M.K. and I am also present here. I also told not to raise this issue, it is not that I have not said and this is not the issue concerned with the Government only. With these words, I conclude.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, I was told that I would be given an opportunity to speak. Let me speak for five minutes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will have to take a decision now. Whether two more hon. Members speak or 50 more hon. Members speak, I do not think it is going to make and

difference on my decision.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, at least let one of those speak with whom this bill is concerned. Would not you give me five minutes. He has been speaking for 20 minutes. Let me also express my views. I would like to conclude within five minutes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I can assure you that it will not make any difference to my decision. If you want to speak, you can speak, I can go on listening, but my decision is the same.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir atleast let me speak. This bill is concerned with us. Please give me five minutes. You have allowed the people to speak for 20 minutes each.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very sad that we are being painted in wrong colours. It's political reason is quite clear. [English] We are being painted in wrong colours. [Translation] It is a reality which is before us, we did not stand up to stop the hon. Prime Minister. We did not even stand up to stop the hon. Law Minister. No one should think that there is some one to favour and protect the democratic norms. We also know the democratic norms but we have said that the hon. Prime Minister should say something which should be the final words but prior to it we must be heard and there after the Government should decide the manner in which it wants to run because this is not the way that suddenly the Bill is brought at the end of the session. We do not know if you have stood up to express few words to move the motion. We do not know if you have risen to pass the Bill. We do not know for how long the session would be prolonged today. We do not know if you have unanimity over increasing the session for two days or more. I had risen to know whether I would be allowed to speak or not. It is not the way of democracy that you bring and introduce the bill in this way and when we wanted to say it, we were not allowed to say it. Today when I am saying it, when I want to know it, it is being given the political colours as if we are violating any democratic norms.

[English]

Let nobody think that he is the repository of the democratic norms.

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say only this that we want that this bill should be discussed. We want that when it would be considered over, when it would be discussed, we would also be able to say that reservation should be given to OBCs and minorities. Without it, there is no social justice. I don't know why you are going ahead with only one issue and not prepared to take the social justice in proper way. After all we wanted to say it. I don't want to say this thing regarding women quota, but the fact is that a conference of world Inter-parliamentary Union was held in our country. World conference in regard to empowerment of women was held in February recently. The world respects the world body and the quota for women is being resisted by IPU. The world body is saying that there should not be such quota but you say that we want to send the message.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Are we discussing the Bill already ? Please Conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I want to say that this bill should be discussed in detail. If you want to give any message by saying a few sentences, it means nothing except political game.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please be limited to this you are not going into the merits of the Bill now. Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Why am I saying that this bill should be introduced in the next session ? There are two reasons for that.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : How can these things come when we are going into the merits of the Bill ?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : We should take this up not now, but in the next session.

MR. SPEAKER : I have understood your point.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : One reason is that a note

was circulated on behalf of the Government in leaders meeting yesterday.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You could have finished your speech in one sentence by saying 'why not in the next session ?' That is all.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : This is the point that people say that we do not know democratic norms. The note which was circulated in the leaders meeting yesterday, it was mentioned therein that the welfare ministry would consider about the O.B.Cs. but there is not even a single word about the minorities. When the Government are considering about the O.B.Cs., they should continue it and when they make up their mind on all points, then a discussion should be initiated in this House. Not even a single word has been uttered now about minorities. No unanimity was arrived at yesterday. The members of the muslim league, Etahadhe Musalmin and the D.M.K. are present here.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think, you have made your point, Shri Banatwalla.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : We understand that it has been presented in a wrong manner and it has been tried to gain political mileage. We want that there should be a discussion on this Bill in a straight forward manner and not in the manner we have started today. We don't know—

[English]

I do not know whether 50 per cent of the total membership is today present or not.

MR. SPEAKER : We are not going into that issue. But you are going beyond the issue.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : The manner in which this issue has been presented here, is only a political gimmick. In the next session, there should be a detailed discussion on that. This is the point which we want to put up before the Government through you because we were not allowed to express our views. We should not present it in that manner before the people and the country.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : Sir, we are not discussing the bill. We want your ruling now.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today with very heavy heart I rise here to express my views. The Bill which was brought here as a revolutionary initiative has become a matter of force not only in India but in the entire world. . . . (Interruptions) When you are not bothered about it only then it became the matter of force because you have made it like this.

This Parliament is functioning in this country for the last 45 years and you are here in various capacities but prior to this perhaps you must have not seen such scene ever before which has been today in this House. Today the Prime Minister could not present this Bill due to the opposition of the people from his own party. The Prime Minister, who claim to run this government on the basis of consensus could not reach at any unanimity on this Bill.

Just now I was listening to the views of Nitish ji and Sharad ji. From that it can be concluded that this Bill be moved for consideration. In this regard my only suggestion and appeal is that when this Bill was sent to Joint Select Committee so that some improvement can be brought in it. Perhaps all improvements, solutions could not be brought in it. After that as per the rules of this House, as reported by the Select Committee, today it has to be placed for consideration of the House. You are not presenting this Bill today for voting. The people, who are talking about the next session. This Bill will certainly come up in the next session, today it has to be moved only for consideration, I stood here to say only this. Precisely I stood here any to say this must. . . . (Interruptions). Banatwalla ji please listen to me. . . . (Interruptions). I stood here to say only this that all the modalities of congress outside this House has been completed. Meetings of Joint Select Committee and all party leaders took place, but in these meetings it became clear that neither in the joint Select Committee nor in the all party leaders Meeting, the matter of entire house was discussed. Therefore, it was decided that decision must be taken in the House. My request is that if the matter is taken outside the House and is decided by the Joint Select Committee or in the all Party Leaders meeting, then the views of all will not be known. Now, if you really want that the solution is acceptable to all or the objections raised are solved, then

there is only one solution that the discussion on this Bill must be done only in the House.

That's why we wanted that once this bill should be moved for consideration. Whatever Mr. Nitish Kumar has said in five minutes, it is to hamper the introduction of this bill and actually this should be taken up at the consideration stage. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you give him 25 minutes time instead of five minutes so that he could express his views in detail. Give 20 minutes time to Shri Sharad Yadav to express his views on all the communities. You allow three-four days time for holding discussions on it. The members sitting opposite to me too want that their views should be conveyed to the Prime Minister and since this bill is being brought in its original form, I would like to say that if any change in the form of the bill takes place, it will take place only after discussions are held in this House and only then it will be acceptable to all. All the modes outside this House have become redundant. These have failed to solve the remaining problems at so. Let this bill be moved for consideration. The discussions will be held in the next session and then Shri Banatwalla, Shri Owaisi and Shri Fatmi can say all what they want to say and then if the Government wants to bring in an amendment after the discussions are over, it can bring in amendments. After the Government amendments are brought, the bill should be passed in its original form. But to stop consideration is not a solution. This bill be moved for consideration Discussions should be held in detail only then the problem will be solved.

So, I would like to make an appeal to you to accept this fact. let the bill be moved today for consideration. The discussion will be held in the next session and the bill will be passed with the amendments, acceptable to the Government.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : With a heavy heart I want to make an appeal to all my colleagues. What is happening here today in this House is being observed by the whole world. That has not raised our prestige. What is happening is really discussion. If that be so, then why not put it for discussion ? This is my first point.

My second point is, everybody is free to give any amendment that he or she likes. Therefore to keep our prestige I would appeal that let the formal consideration of the Bill be taken up and then in the next session it can be resumed.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to say that more than 30 crores of Muslim are living in this country and they have many problems but if any issue is discussed in the select Committee without taking Muslims into confidence, then what will happen to the Muslims ? I would like to say that atleast 20 percent reservation should be provided to the Muslim population and then this issue should be considered. The OBC issue is also a complicated one. If reservation for women is implemented in this way then it will do not benefit the women belonging to poor and backward classes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think it is enough.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : The Muslim population will be at loss and representation of Muslim population in the country will get a set back.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is Okay, enough.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : That's why I would like that this issue should be considered seriously.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think you have made your point.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : This Bill should not be brought at present. It should be postponed for next session.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think it is enough. I do not know why you want to speak on this.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : The entire House and all the parties be taken into confidence. The Muslims should also be taken into confidence. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you so worried ?

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : Thereafter decision may be taken on this issue because injustice has been done to us so far in this country and if it is repeated then the history and the House will not forgive any one.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now. It is enough.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : I would recite two couplets then I will conclude my speech.

Sutune daag par Rakhte chalo sitam ke chirag
Jahan talak yah Sitam ki syah Raat chale.

Please listen to one more couplet. I am reciting this couplet particularly for the attention of the entire House.

Khurach-Khurach ke na mitao in nishanon ko
Hamare naam se, shayad tumhara naam chale.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please listen to me now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is no end to it.

I will be very fair and the rule is very clear. There are two aspects. One is the right of a Member to move the Motion and the second is the consideration of the Motion. As far as consideration of the Motion is concerned, I have the right to defer it. The House can decide to defer it. Therefore, discussion on the Bill or consideration of the Bill can be deferred and it will be deferred. But as far as the right of a Member to move the Motion is concerned, I do not think that the Speaker has the right to deny that right. Therefore, the Minister will move the Motion for consideration and the consideration of the Bill will be taken up in the next Session. Now, the Minister may just move the Motion for consideration.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Sir, as directed by you, I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you very much.

19.53 hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members may kindly rise in their seats for Vande Mataram.

The National Song was played.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

19.54 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die

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