

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Part IV)
(Eleventh Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XIV contains Nos. 1 to 12)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

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Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)

Friday, May 9, 1997/Vaisakha 19, 1919 (Saka)

<u>Col./line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
(i)/2	Vol.VIV	Vol.XIV
2/15	1995-95	1995-96
39-40/6	1.23 49195	1.13 48195
67-68/24	49.80	49.90
139/26	The Minister of state of the Ministry of Coal (Shrimati Kanit Singh)	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Coal (Shrimati Kanti Singh)
169-170/10	4.37	4.34
243-244/10 (from below)	124.37	124.38
329/8 (from below)	Shri Iliyas Azami	Shri Iliyas Azmi
335/10	Shri Iliyaz Azmi	Shri Iliyas Azmi
351/29	Shri Amar Roay Pradhan	Shri Amar Roy Pradhan

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, May 9, 1997/Vaisakha 19, 1919 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at two minutes
past Eleven of the Clock*

[SHRI CHITTA BASU in the Chair]

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, this is for the first time that I am in the Chair during Question Hour. It would be my endeavour to see that as many hon. Members as possible are allowed and I seek your cooperation with all humility.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Workers Participation in Management

*481. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether worker's participation in management scheme has been implemented in all Public Sector units of coal industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether production has increased after implementation of this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b): The scheme of workers' participation in management of public sector coal companies is broadly in conformity with scheme of 1983 notified by the Government in so far as it relates to the levels of participation, subjects to be included for discussion and the method of arriving at a decision.

The joint participative/consultative fora have been operating at the following levels:

- (i) Corporate level
- (ii) Subsidiary companies
 - (a) Company level
 - (b) Area level
 - (c) Colliery level

At corporate level: All policy matters relating to wages and service conditions of employees, production, productivity, cost, health, welfare, safety and all such policy matters which may have a direct bearing on the industry.

At other than corporate level: Production, productivity, cost, health, welfare, safety and employees' grievances which may be raised from time to time.

(c) and (d): The participative approach to management at the area level and colliery level has made a basic contribution towards reduction in mandays lost due to strikes/bandhs, etc, and has helped in the improvement of industrial relations climate in the organisation. These in turn have contributed to overall increase in production and productivity. To illustrate, in the case of Coal India Ltd.

	1994-95	1995-95	1996-97 (Prov.)
Production (M.T.)	221.54	237.05	250.65
Output per man-shift (Tonnes)	1.62	1.75	1.82

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission I would like to state that there is variance in the Hindi and English texts of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 481. It is an unprecedented incident. Information about Public undertakings have been sought in the English text, whereas in the Hindi version, information have been sought with regard to the private sector. The answer has been prepared by the Ministry on the basis of the English text of the Question. The error so committed, is regretted.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Chairman Sir, if you see that foot note it has been written in it.

[English]

'Original notice of the question received in Hindi'

[Translation]

It means that the question was originally in Hindi, then why the reply was prepared on the basis of the English version. I could not understand it. If there is difference in the text, it might have occurred due to the mistake of the translator. But if the answer had been prepared on the basis of the Hindi text of the question taking in view that the question was originally in Hindi. Member asking question would have received the desired answer. Why the reply was prepared on the basis of English version which was wrong?... (Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir yesterday also the same thing happened. Yesterday also there was wrong reply of a question in Hindi. The question and its answer, both were altogether different.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have received this Hindi version of the question only at 9. A.M. this morning and the answer given by us was based on English version of the question, which I had already sent to the Secretariat yesterday. Therefore, the answer is regarding all public sector undertakings. The answer has been laid on the table of the House.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request you to postpone this question for the next sitting of the House.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, such thing has happened yesterday also. 'Prakhand' was translated as 'Anumandal' and 'Up-Parimandal'. The mistakes in translation are being committed very frequently. The translation of the original question is altogether different from the question. It is a serious matter. We want your ruling in this regard so that such mistakes do not recur.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There has been a reply in English also. I think the hon. Minister will reply to the supplementaries. If any points are there, the Minister will reply.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: But due to wrong English translation, the sense of the question has totally got changed.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Allow me to continue with the Question Hour, please. If the questioner points out certain things, he can very well do it at the time of his raising his supplementaries.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR: The Minister has just now said that her ministry had received this question in English and therefore, she is replying taking into consideration the English text of the question. In English the question is whether workers participation scheme has been implemented in the Public Sector. The Minister has replied only with regard to Coal India. I would like to ask whether Coal India is the only Public Sector undertaking and whether there is no other Public Sector undertaking except it? There is Sigeni coalfields in Andhra Pradesh which is also a public undertaking. Neyveli Lignite is also in the coal Sector, that is also a Public undertaking; why the Minister did not cover it in his reply.

The second thing which I want to say is that with regard to coal India it has been replied that talks are held with the representatives of workers on the corporate level, but this scheme is not for holding talks. I know that there is a Joint Negotiation Committee at the level of Coal India which holds talks on matters like the wages of the workers, and their Service conditions etc. but my original question is whether in Coal India, there is any representation of

workers in its Board of management? So how the selection of the representatives of workers is made for the Board of Management. The Minister may please reply clearly.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no participation of workers at Board level. When there is no representation of workers in the board of management the question of their participation does not arise. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: The National Language should not be insulted in translation when the original question is in Hindi, the answer should also be given in the context of the Hindi text of the question.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Sir, who is officially responsible for wrong translation? You must fix the responsibility for wrong translation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall get it examined.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Somebody has made a mistake either at the Secretariat level or the Ministry level.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As I said, we shall get it examined.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: One cannot turn upside down. Kindly fix the responsibility.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. We cannot fix responsibility just now. Your point has been taken note of and the matter will be examined.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR: Before asking the second supplementary I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Chair to this fact that in the reply given by the Government, it has been stated that workers participation scheme has been implemented at all levels but hon'ble Minister is replying here that workers participation scheme has not been implemented at Board level in Coal India. The Minister may please reply as to why there is contradiction in both these answers? Which reply of the Minister may be considered as true because on the one hand, the Government says that this scheme has been implemented at all levels but why this scheme has not been implemented in coal India? Why such answer was given, why there is such contradiction? Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want you to ask the Government why this mistake was made why the House was misguided. It is a serious issue. I urge upon you to take necessary action in this regard at your level.

In this regard, I would like to know from the Government that if there is no provision for workers' participation at the Board level in Coal India, whether in all the subsidiaries of Coal India, such as E.C.L, P.C.C.L, P.C.L, W.S.L, A.C.L. etc, I don't want to name there all. Uniform schemes have been implemented or different schemes have been implemented in them? What is the position regarding their meetings. Whether these are on annual

basis, or half yearly basis or quarterly basis? and whether it is not a fact that workers participation scheme has not been implemented in each company? Whether regular meetings are hold or it is hold once in six months, for months or three months and what action being taken by the Government to implement the workers participation scheme effectively?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, whether the Government propose to include the representatives of workers in the board of the company under the workers participation scheme?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as the question of all companies is concerned, there is uniform pattern participation in all companies National Forum for participation has been set up. The issue like welfare measures for workers, production cost, Health, Welfare, security and the grievances of the employees are taken up in it and steps are taken for removal of various problems of the workers. Workers are consulted. Joint crisis Committee has been set up for coal industry which I.N.T.U.C., I.T.U.C., C.P.U.S., H.M.S., and B.M.S. are represented and its meetings are held on quarterly basis.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I am working for the employees of Hindustan Zinc, as their representative, I very well know that what does mean participation should be on the top level, in J.P.C. The day-to-day problems of workers and matters related with production are discussed in the meeting with top level management. From the reply of the Minister it appears that there is no participation of workers in management there. The officers know as to what does workers participation mean and where there is workers participation in management such irregularities can not be committed there and the problems of workers get automatically solved. Therefore, I would like to know as to in which fields and what type of workers participation is there? Won't do if you merely say that participation is not there at the top level only. It should be stated separately that on which level and what type of participation is there?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as the participation of workers is concerned it is there in the matters like Housing, education, entertainment and environmental works. There is also an internal call for removal of public Grievances, so far as industrial relations, is concerned, the Government have increased the salaries of employees and also the welfare schemes in C.I.L. I have got statistics in this regard.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, the number of strikes in the year 1992-93 was 53. Today the number of strikes is 27. During the year 1992-93 there was a loss of 535852 mandays whereas 120407 in the year 1996-97 witnessed loss of 120407 mandays. The loss in production ...*(Interruptions)* If there was no participation ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a part of the question.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: It was Rs. 531.334 per metric ton in the year 1992-93 and Rs. 162283 per metric ton in the year 1996-97. If we see statistics on this basis it reveals that there has been participation of workers in Management in each and every field and that's why we have been able to progress day by day. Due to their participation the number of strikes have also decreased. In welfare works the Consultative Committee consulted all the employees and all the workers participate in all the welfare activities. Therefore we have reached at with there participation we have reached a stage where even the loss incurring companies are making profit.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the statistics given by the Minister show that workers have participated in saving and gearing up this company. But type of workers participation, which we want is not there in Coal India and its subsidiaries. If there was participation, there should be the participation of workers in policy making we want that there should be participation of workers in policy making.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will there be participation in management also?

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Would you take any concrete steps to make the share holding of the Government of India meaningful in Coal India and its subsidiaries such as C.M.P.D.I.L., so that there may be participation of workers in policy making.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are other important questions. Please put your question.

[Translation]

Three year were taken in finalising N.C.W.S.-5 sofar whereas N.C.W.S.-6 has also become due. You are not at all aware of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Acharia ji, you ask the question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I would like to ask whether the Minister would take any concrete steps to make this participation meaningful and ensure the participation of workers in Coal management?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir we would consider the suggestions made by the hon'ble member and take the action thereon if needed.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Basu Deb Acharia has just said that there should be participation of workers in policy making. In the reply, you have expressed satisfaction regarding industrial relations. It is all right. But the policy of the Government is against Coal industry. As per the speech of Finance Minister import

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duty had been reduced from 85 per cent to 30 percent, later to 20 percent and now it has been reduced to 10 percent. The orders for lacs of tons of Coal are being signed. If the imported coal reaches India, it will cause unemployment because the coal based mills will close down. If there had been workers' participation for protection of their interest, this bid would have been opposed but you are not able to do it. I would like to know as to what the Govt. is doing to stop this import which is posing a serious danger to entire coal industry?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as the question of effecting reduction in the import duty is concerned, it is a policy matter. I do admit that it will increase the competitiveness in PSUs and they will increase their production more and more so that the coal is not imported.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know whether the concept of workers' participation in management is practised in reality? The Govt. has mentioned in the statement that while revising the wages, a discussion is held with the representatives of workers. You have cited an example of coal India, telling that a strike took place there and mandays were increased. I would like to know as to how many unions are there in the undertaking under the department of coal, the number of recognised unions out of them and the unions which have been given representations in the committee? You stated that they are consulted while revising the wages but the wage revision had been done long back. It has well there is a mention of increased production in your reply but where the issue of workers' participation in the management has been covered in it? What are the details of the efforts made by the management to increase the productivity?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are five recognised unions in Coal India Ltd, viz. INTUC, AITUC, CITU, HMS and B.M.S. They are consulted at the level of JBCCI of CIL. So far as the participation of other

trade unions is concerned, due to non emerging of any consensus among various trade unions, it has not been decided as to how many representatives of the workers will be there in the management and what will be mode of their representations. Therefore, their representatives are being consulted of various levels.

[English]

Pending Court Cases

*482. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

SHRI B.L. SHANKAR:

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

(a) the number of cases pending in different High Courts and Supreme Court since 2 years, 5 years, 10 years and above ten years:

(b) the details thereof High Court-wise and Supreme Court, separately; and

(c) the details of the steps the Government have taken for expeditious disposal of those cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(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. Conferences 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

Pendency of cases in High Courts (As on 31.12.1996)

Sl. No	Name of the Court	Upto 2 year	Over 2 years and upto 5 years	Over 5 years and upto 10 years	Over 10 years	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Allahabad	195,029	232,921	263,106	174,399	865,455
2	Andhra Pradesh	71,190	47,169	16,953	309	135,621
3	Bombay	79,392	75,223	61,531	17,912	234,058
4	Calcutta	50,182	43,634	80,286	90,210	264,312
5	Delhi	43,391	34,895	42,808	32,443	153,537
6	Gauhati	21,687	8,590	2,671	70	33,016

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
7	Gujarat*	39,357	19,461	22,251	10,884	91,953	*As on 31-3-95
8	Himachal Pradesh	10,050	4,467	2,627	22	17,166	
9	J & K	39,639	33,053	20,277	3,445	96,414	
10	Karnataka	65,586	59,232	25,156	991	150,965	
11	Kerala	142,446	64,773	10,478	126	217,823	
12	Madhya Pradesh**	40,243	25,877	17,226	2,796	86,142	**As on 31-12-95
13	Madras	173,499	78,131	47,374	11,636	310,640	
14	Orissa	39,099	20,486	5,394	1,841	66,820	
15	Patna	47,404	25,031	14,090	6,785	93,310	
16	Punjab & Haryana@	64,573	41,794	43,194	17,310	166,871	@As on 30.9.96
17	Rajasthan‡	42,130	34,115	16,624	5,409	98,278	‡As on 31-3-96
18	Sikkim	69	17	2	0	88	
<i>Pendency of Cases in Supreme Court (As on 31.12.1996)</i>							
Regular Matters		5,654	4,058	4,241	2,633	16,586	
Admission Matters		5,241	816	486	117	6,660	

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, the statement shows the serious condition through which our judicial system is passing through. About 30,80,000 cases are pending in various High Courts and Supreme Court. Over 10 years, 1,74,000 cases are pending in Allahabad High Court. Ninety thousand cases are pending in Calcutta.

Over 4,00,000 cases are pending for over 10 years. There are cases which are pending for the last two or three years and even for a longer period. If we add the total number of cases pending with the judicial system, it will come to crores. The Indian judicial system is not costly and time-consuming but it is also torturous to the people who are suffering and going through the drudgery of running from court to court.

We are talking of judicial reforms and all these things. But in spite of these things, this is the state of affairs. We know that justice delayed is justice denied. Most of the people who are going to the courts are being denied justice. In this context, the hon. Minister says that a series of steps have been taken to improve the situation. I want to know what are those steps.

He has also stated that these things are closely monitored. I would like to know the method of monitoring. What is the result of that? Can he show that because of such monitoring of a number of cases in three consecutive years, the pendency has decreased?

Is it a fact that the Judges are hearing cases and they keep the judgement pending for long? I want that these two things should be clarified by the hon. Minister.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: Sir, I fully agree with

the hon. Member, Shri Hannan Mollah, that the situation in our law courts is really alarming. The pendency has been increasing day by day. If I cite figures from 1991 onwards, the pendency in all the High Courts in December 1991, was 21,95,936. Next year, on 31st December, 1992, it became 24,17,197. In 1993, it was 26,50,516. In 1994, it was 28,75,850. The pendency in December, 1996 is 31,19,833. That is the pendency in the High Courts.

When we say that we are monitoring it, it does not mean that we direct the High Courts to do anything. We cannot direct them. But the Chief Justices have been meeting regularly. They hold conferences. They decide what exactly is to be done. We also ask for figures. We get the figures from various High Courts. We compile them. This shows that either there is something wrong procedurally or there is something else which does not come to our notice.

One good thing that has happened is that if you look at the Supreme Court, the pendency has drastically been reduced in the Supreme Court. The number of regular matters pending in the Supreme Court is just 16,586. The number of admission matter is 6,660. Now, these figures have come down from two lakh to 16,586.

What was the methodology adopted by the Supreme Court? They saw to it that the court was computerised. They saw to it that the various cases were categorised. They saw to it that the Benches functioning were strengthened and stabilised over a long period. As a result of this very conscious effort by the Supreme Court, the pendency has reduced. What was expected was that what the Supreme Court did would be followed by the High Courts.

Now, I can also mention a few figures in terms of percentage to show as to what is happening in different places. Among the 18 High Courts in the country, the disposal rate of the Gujarat High Court is 144 per cent; for Madras High Court it is 144.1 per cent; for Patna High Court is 102.2 per cent.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: What about Calcutta High Court?

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: For Calcutta High Court, of course, the disposal rate is very low. It is 79.1 per cent. For Allahabad High Court it is 71.1 per cent. These figures are really distressing figures. Three High Courts could give such good output but some other Courts have not been able to come out with such good output. There may be reasons for this as well, like there might have been heavy piling up of cases and the number of judges might not have been commensurate to the number of cases and so on. But now what has happened is that just as it is for us to provide every facility to the courts, it is also for the courts to emulate the performance of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has shown the way as to how to go ahead. All the High Courts in the country have been computerised. The question is whether the computer facilities which have been provided is being properly utilised by the courts or not. These are the facts.

Sir, I am sure, as time goes on, these figures would not get worse and we would have better disposals from the High Courts.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, it is known to everybody that there is deterioration in morality in our society and that section of the society cannot remain immune to corruption as well.

Sir, it is well-known that Justice Ramaswamy could not be impeached because of reasons known to everybody today. But allegations of corruption and indiscipline continue among the judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court. I would like to know whether the Government has evolved any mechanism for eradication of corruption, including in appointment, if any, in the judicial system.

Secondly, the question of establishment of a Judicial Commission is pending for long. The aspect of appointment is also under cloud. There are various reasons for it. These questions have been raised many a time in various fora. I would like to know whether the Government would pass that law so that the Judicial Commission could be constituted and fairness in appointment could be ensured so that justice could also be above board.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: Sir, basically the question of Shri Hannan Mollah was about the pendency of cases in the Courts...*(Interruptions)* Now, his question has two parts.

The first part of his question deals with corruption. We do not have any mechanism in the Government to take care or look into the cases of corruption. If at all anything crops up, in case of the High Courts and the Supreme

Court, the matter goes to the Chief Justices of the concerned courts. The only procedure that we have is the procedure of impeachment. We do not have any other procedure in our Constitution.

Sir, on the question of appointment of a Judicial Commission I would like to submit that this issue was discussed in the Rajya Sabha. There was an half-an-hour discussion on this issue and a detailed discussion took place there. We had prepared a Constitution Amendment Bill and that Bill provided for appointment of judges according to the position that was existing prior to 6th October, 1993 when a Nine-Member Bench gave a judgement laying down certain procedure. According to the procedure, the proposal to appoint a judge is initiated by the Courts, then it goes to the Executive and then finally the appointment takes place. The recommendation of the Judiciary is taken into consideration.

Recommendation of the judiciary gets primacy. There are suggestions from various quarters that we should amend the Act and go for a judicial condition. Alternatively, the other suggestion is that we should go to pre-1993 situation.

In fact, I am trying to seek a consensus on this issue and very shortly I will be talking to the Leaders of various political Parties. If it is found that there is a consensus on the methodology to be adopted in the matter of appointment of judges...

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Why do you not create benches? There has been a demand from every State. Once they are created the list of pending cases would get reduced...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Nothing will go on record.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you please reply to the question which has already been moved. You just cannot invite question from the Member.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: No, Sir, I am not inviting questions. I will reply it.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Chairman, Sir, Shri Sontosh Mohan has assumed your charge and has given a ruling that 'nothing will go on record'...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: I intend to discuss this issue with the Leaders of various political Parties and then take a decision...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sayeed, I hope you know the difficulty, as you also sit in the Chair.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: From the list submitted by the hon. Minister, it is alarming and shocking to note that nearly 30,82,582 cases are still pending throughout the country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what active steps the Government is going to take to increase the number of judges. Has the Minister got any figure regarding the disposal of cases every year in the courts?

How long will it take to clear all these cases and whether we would get justice during the days of our grand children or great grand children?

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: I have already replied this question saying that we are laying down the methodology to be adopted in the matter of appointment of judges.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, the hon. Minister has replied that almost 31 lakh cases are now pending in various courts. One of the reasons for the large pendency of cases has been the repeated adjournments being sought by the advocates. As distinguished lawyer, he knows that certain things are being manipulated here and there. Another thing is, because of the large size of the country—almost three-fourth part—people have been demanding the creation of benches of the Supreme Court. In South India almost every Bar Association has passed a Resolution and has submitted memorandum to the Government to create a bench. I would categorically like to know why the Government is not taking a decision on this. I want a categorical answer from the progressive Minister of Law.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: How did the demand originate?

SHRI ANIL BASU: The hon. Minister should reply keeping in view the demand for creation of benches of the Supreme Court covering all the regions of the country.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: How did the demand for benches of the Supreme Court originate? This has to be seen. This demand originated because the pendency of cases in the Supreme Court was very large. People found that cases are pending for a very long time.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Not only that, if you have to come from Lakshadweep to Delhi, do you know what is the cost? Many people do not come here...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please allow him to answer.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: If Additional Solicitor General's post can be created, why can you not have the Supreme Court bench? Why was the post of Additional Solicitor General created?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the hon. Minister is capable of answering. Please allow him to answer the question.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: The Supreme Court is the apex judicial organ of this country. It has own respect, its own dignity, its own prestige that has to be maintained by all of us. We cannot dilute that. If we accept the demand for Calcutta, we will have a separate demand for Goa also...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: They said that that should be set up for all regions.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: Shri Sayeed is asking for Lakshadweep also...(*Interruptions*)... The pendency is reduced to 16000.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: What about the cost of travelling from such a far off place as Lakshadweep?

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: There is no end to this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may please answer the question that has been put.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: Let me be very categorical on this issue. The Government has no proposal to have a bench of Supreme Court in any part of the country. Secondly, I want to congratulate the Supreme Court that the pendency has come down to 16,586. Therefore, in a year's time the cases which will be filed now will be disposed of, they will get a judgement. This is the case and I do not think we need any other bench anywhere else...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Everybody recommended that. I do not know why the Minister is not supporting it. All Members of Parliament have recommended that...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a very important question. We should be brief in asking questions and the replies should also be brief.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the concept of judicial audit and whether he would consider amendment of the Constitution to appoint an Auditor General (Judicial) who will conduct inspections of judicial work done in various High Courts, as the Comptroller and Auditor General (Finance) does, and then report annually to the Chief Justice with a copy to Parliament? If there is a judicial audit of this character, it will be clear as to what are the reasons for the pendency, what are the deficiencies, whether it is inefficiency, whether it is adjournment, whether it is corruption, etc. Why do we not evolve a concept of judicial audit. The auditor could pick up any file he likes, check up and, to maintain judicial independence at the same, reports only to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court with a copy to Parliament. If this is done, it will be clear as to what is happening in the High Courts on adjournments, etc., through inspections. This is my suggestion. Would the Minister kindly consider this concept of appointing a judicial auditor general?

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: This is a new suggestion, coming perhaps for the first time, of a judicial audit. It has its own pitfall. The pitfall is that the auditor is expected to pick up any file from the Supreme Court or the High Court. It may be taken by the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice and the High Courts as an interference in their day to day work. We have accepted the concept of independent judiciary. Even if the Government appoints, besides recommending a particular person to be a judge, as soon as he is appointed, he is independent and cannot be touched.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: I would request the hon. Minister to consider this proposal of amending the Constitution so that there will be Constitutional status for this.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: There could be a debate on this issue.

SHRI BALAI CNANDRA RAY: The reasons for arrears have not been given. It has been said that some High Courts are functioning properly and some High Courts are laggard. This is an under statement of the whole issue. Hon. Law Minister should have known that Calcutta High Court which is now disposing of cases at the rate of 79 per cent according to the Law Minister, has not for one single day during the last 12 years worked with full strength.

The average vacancy is eleven. Today, the number of vacancies is sixteen. You are expecting the High Courts to work in an efficient manner. In Allahabad High Court, the vacancy is identical. Even in Bombay High Court, the vacancies are not filled up. Only in a few High Courts, the vacancies had been filled up. I would request the hon. Minister for Law to give a detailed figure on a year to year basis regarding the number of vacancies accrued, and the number of vacancies not filled up. It is not the clerks who dispose of the cases, but it is the judges who dispose of the cases. In Calcutta High Court, so far as the rate of disposal of applications is concerned, it is 50. So far as final hearings of cases are concerned, the percentage is 5.3. This is the all-India average also. Therefore picking up some courts and blaming them is useless. Therefore, for helping this Parliament, I would request the Law Minister to answer one question. How is the Ministry of Law trying to fill up the vacancies whenever they occur? I want to know whether it will abide by Ex-Chief Justice R.S. Pathak's recommendations that the names should be forwarded six months before the vacancy occurs. Because the date on which a judge would vacate his office is known on the very day the Judge is born. Therefore, it is not difficult to recommend the names six months before the vacancies occur. Will the Ministry of Law adopt that? Will the Ministry of Law also adopt a new mode for appointments are of judges. When the Government want to appoint efficient judges with the Government still adhere to the present policy of processing in secrecy? Why do not they adopt the method of open debate like USA? I want a specific answer whether the Government is going to give up the process of secrecy in appointment and adopt an open debate system and whether the Government is taking steps to complete the process of appointment six months before the appointments are actually made.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: This requires proper explanation of the procedure that is being followed for the purpose of appointments. As soon as I took over as the Minister for Law and Justice, I wrote to all the Chief Justices in the country requesting them to suggest the names of candidates for appointment as judges, preferably, six months in advance of the occurrence of the vacancy. Now, the procedure is that Government does not initiate any proposal. The Government do not suggest any names. The names come from Supreme Court and the High Courts. In case of the States, the names go to the Chief Ministers or the Governors. Their opinion is obtained..(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Do not refer anything to the Chief Ministers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not allowed you. The hon. Minister may please reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: Kumari Mamata Banerjee is right. Do not refer anything to the Chief Minister.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: Sir, she wants me to take all the powers...(Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA: Sir, we do not want all the powers to be taken by the Minister. It would be highly unfortunate if he takes all the powers. That will be against the independence of judiciary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, the hon. Minister has agreed to accept a debate on this subject.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: Let us have Half-an-Hour discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will go to next question. Q.No. 483.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, before going to the next question, I have a very important question about Family Courts. Please allow me. Sir, why are they not going ahead with setting up of Family Courts? There is a proposal to give up this proposal. Sir, you yourself wanted a discussion on this subject...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not a dialogue. Now, I leave it to the House. There are also other important questions.

There is a Question on NTC Mills. But if you want to continue this Question, I have no objection. The hon. Minister has agreed to have the matter taken up in other form. He has also agreed for the discussion. I shall also ask them to take it up maybe under the Half-an-hour discussion on this very important subject.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Therefore, I feel the NTC Question is also very important. Therefore, I go to Question No. 483.

Dr. Bali Ram - not present.

Shri Sanat Mehta - not present.

All right, we go to Question No. 484.

Closure of Textile Mills

*484 PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to close down some sick textile mills in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the estimated number of workers likely to become unemployed as a consequence thereof;
- (d) whether the Government have formulated any plan to rehabilitate these workers; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):
(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) The Government is not contemplating to close down sick textile mills. Government has set up Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to enquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, schemes for their revival. As on 31.1.97, BIFR has recommended winding up in respect of 96 cases involving 1,07,159 workers, approximately.

Although there is no scheme to provide employment to the workers of closed textile mills, Government has established Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) to provide interim relief to the workers of permanently/partially closed mills.

In so far as Public Sector Textile Undertakings are concerned, in respect of National Textile Corporation Ltd. (NTC) the Government is considering a report prepared by the Holding Company based on an analysis of the economic viability of each of the mills. In respect of British India Corporation Ltd. (BIC) and its subsidiaries, their cases for rehabilitation are presently under consideration of the Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR).

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, if you go through the reply of the Question, you will find that two contrary statements have been given in it. It has been stated in the first line of the first para:

[English]

"The Government is not contemplating to close down sick textile mills".

[Translation]

and see the concluding lines of the same para

[English]

"As on 31.1.97, BIFR has recommended winding up in respect of 96 cases involving 1,07,159 workers, approximately."

[Translation]

Why is the contradiction in Government reply? On the one side, it claims that it has no intention of closing down the mills and on the other hand the committee constituted by it recommends at closure of these mills. What does this contradiction mean? Does the Govt. want to adopt the policy of rendering one lakh workers on the road at the time when the unemployment is on rise?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, our time is very limited. I will try to accommodate as many Members as possible.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: The first part of his Question is like this:

"(a) whether the Government propose to close down some sick textile mills in the country;"

In the answer, I have said, "No".

Ninety six mills are before the BIFR. They are a judicial body. They have issued winding up order. That does not mean that the Government is trying to close down the sick mills.

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: I am glad that the Govt. is not going to close down the mills but it should take such measures as may not lead to the closure of mills. Sir, a formula was prepared in a tripartite agreement wherein it was stated that the funds should be mobilised by selling out the surplus land of the mills and the sick mills should be revived. But this proposal was rejected by BIFR. In this situation, the Govt. requested the Union Govt. for waiving off the interest outstanding against them but the Govt. has taken no action so far in this regard. I have also come to know that the states in which these mills are situated, are putting hurdles in selling of the surplus land. Does it not mean that these State Govts. are interested in shunting out the workers of other states from their states on this pretext? What is Government's reaction in this regard?

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, the hon. Member is referring to the Tripartite Agreement. The Tripartite Agreement was for the revival of textile mills. I had made a statement on the floor of this House explaining the difficulties as to why we could not implement this Tripartite Agreement.

It is something to have a plan and it is a difficult proposition to have it executed. There was a plan, of Rs. 2,500 crore, prepared for the modernisation scheme but the question is from where do we get this money? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Why is the Govt. not providing?...*(Interruptions)* Why is the interest not being waived of?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: What happened to the Cabinet approval of 1995?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: I cannot reply to so many Members at a time...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members we are left with only four minutes in the Question Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to ask my question directly from the hon. minister because my Parliamentary Constituency is the most affected area of India in which around 50 mills are lying closed. Ahmedabad was regarded as Manchester of India but today several mills are lying closed there. Shri G. Venkatswamy who was a Minister in the previous Govt. had stated in this House that a scheme of Rs. 2000 crore had been formulated for the rehabilitation of workers of NTC mills. I would like to ask the hon. Minister...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: Sir, no mill should be allowed to close...*(Interruptions)* We are not going to hear this...*(Interruptions)* The hon. Minister has said that he had no money...*(Interruptions)* Sir, his answer was dangerous...*(Interruptions)* He says that he has no money and that he cannot implement the package...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, one at a time please.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, this is not the way to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. Minister answer Mr. Pathak's question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: Sir, if the package is not implemented the Minister must quit...*(Interruptions)*

12.00 hrs

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: We do not want to compromise on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Let me have the question too.

Will the hon. Minister give some assurance that the earlier decision taken by the Tripartite body be implemented?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: No, Sir. It is not possible...

(Interruptions) The earlier decision cannot be implemented...*(Interruptions)* This is not possible...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: Why can it not be implemented? It is a betrayal to the workers...*(Interruptions)*

12.00 hrs.

(At this stage, Kumari Mamata Banerjee and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

(Interruptions)

12.01 hrs.

(At this stage, Kumari Mamata Banerjee and some other hon. Members went back to their seats)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

NTC Revival Plan

*483. DR. BALIRAM:

SHRI SANAT MEHTA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has prepared yet another modernisation plan for the ailing National Textile Corporation (NTC) Mills;

(b) if so, the broad features of this fresh NTC revival package;

(c) the approximate capital outlay involved and how it is proposed to raise; and

(d) the stage at which the matter stands at present?

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

(a) to (d): 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 (Holding Company) 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 be laid on the Table of the House as and when finalised.

[English]

Hongkong Investment

*485. SHRI P.V. RAJESHWAR RAO:

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether capital inflow from Hongkong has gone up during the last one year in comparison to 1994 and 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of investment proposals including from NRIs received from Hongkong during 1996-97 alongwith the details of proposals cleared and pending with the Government for clearance; and

(d) the details of the proposals likely to be cleared before Hongkong totally merges into China in 1997 alongwith the details of expected capital inflow in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Approvals for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inclusive of NRI investment, from Hongkong has risen substantially during the year 1996 as compared to

the years 1994 and 1995, as would be evident from the figures given below:

Year	Amount of FDI Approved (Rs. in Million)
1994	1647.8
1995	4071.7
1996	5078.8

(c) A total number of 24 proposals of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) including NRIs envisaging Foreign Direct Investment of Rs. 4447.33 million have been approved by the Government during the period from April, 1996 to March, 1997 (Prov). As on date, 5 proposals of Foreign Direct Investment from Hongkong are pending consideration of the Government. Sector-wise details of the proposals cleared and pending are given in statement I and II respectively.

(d) There are 5 proposals pending for Foreign Direct Investment from Hongkong. These would be approved as per the existing policy and procedure. Further flow of FDI/ NRI investments from Hongkong will depend on the perceptions and initiatives of Hongkong based investors.

Statement-I

Sector wise break-up of Foreign Direct Investment and Technical collaboration approved for Hongkong during the period from 1-4-96 to 31-3-97

Sr No.	Name of Industry	Total			Amount of FDI Approved (Rs. Lakhs)	% to Total Amount Approved
		Total	Tech	Fin		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	ELECTRICALS EQUIPMENT					
	Electrical Equipment	2	0	2	37.12	0.08
	Computer Software Industry	1	0	1	87.50	0.20
	Electronics	4	2	2	69.20	0.16
	Total*	7	2	5	193.82	0.44
2.	TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
	Telecommunications	1	0	1	8890.00	19.99
	Cellular Mobile/Basic Telephone Service	1	1	0	0.00	0.00
	Total	2	1	1	8890.00	19.99
3.	TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY					
	Others (Transport)	1	0	1	630.00	1.42
	Total	1	0	1	630.00	1.42

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	MISCELLANEOUS MECHANICAL & ENGINEERING	1	0	1	84.00	0.19
5.	CHEMICALS (OTHER THAN FERTILIZERS)	2	0	2	2234.20	5.02
6.	TEXTILES (INCLUD. DYED PRINTED)	2	0	2	5250.00	11.80
7.	PAPER AND PULP INCLUDING PAPER PRODUCT	1	0	1	2311.21	5.20
8.	RUBBER GOODS	1	0	1	21000.00	47.22
9.	GLASS	1	0	1	20.00	0.04
10.	CONSULTANCY SERVICES					
	Management Services	2	0	2	135.00	0.30
	Total	2	0	2	135.00	0.30
11.	SERVICE SECTOR					
	Financial	1	0	1	107.10	0.24
	Non-Financial Services	2	0	2	3500.00	7.87
	Total	3	0	3	3607.10	8.11
12.	HOTEL & TOURISM					
	Hotel & Restaurants	3	2	1	10.00	0.02
	Total	3	2	1	10.00	0.02
13.	TRADING CO.	2	0	2	60.00	0.13
14.	MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIES					
	Others (Misc. Industries)	1	0	1	48.00	0.11
	Total	1	0	1	48.00	0.11
Total		29	5	24	44473.33	

NIC/ISD

Statement-II

*Sector wise break up of pending FDI cases for
Hong Kong as on 5.5.97*

Sl.No.	Sector	No. of cases
1.	Electronics	1
2.	Trading	1
3.	Power	1
4.	Transportation	1
5.	Service Sector (Financial)	1
Total		5

[Translation]

Production of Vehicles

*486. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production capacity of different kind of vehicles has been increased in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with production capacity of various types of vehicles in the country during the initial and ending years of the Eighth Five Year Plan, separately;

(c) whether production capacity was utilised fully during the said period; and

(d) if not, the percentage of the capacity utilised each year during the said plan and the reason for not utilising the full production capacity?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI

MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of installed production capacity of various types of vehicles is as follows:

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Prov.)
Four wheelers	5,01,810	5,11,810	6,45,125	9,18,000	9,18,000
Two and three wheelers	27,73,000	28,90,000	31,46,000	35,52,000	35,52,000

(c) and (d) The percentage of capacity utilisation has been as follows:

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Four wheelers	65.88	77.95	78.86	73.54	85.40
Two & Three wheelers	56.54	64.22	74.01	79.66	89.97

Capacity utilisation depends on the market forces of demand and supply.

[English]

Silk Yarn

487. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the silk yarn produced in Karnataka and other States during the last three years;

(b) whether there is a vast scope for producing and exporting more silk yarn in these States; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to promote the production and export of silk yarn?

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

(a) The production of raw silk, spun silk yarn and noil silk yarn in Karnataka and other States during the years 1993-94 to 1995-96 is as follows:

(In Tonnes)

Year/variety	Karnataka	Other States	Total
1	2	3	4
Raw silk			
1993-94	8250	5441	13691
1994-95	8865	5714	14579
1995-96	8264	5515	13779

Spun Silk Yarn

1993-94	259	104	363
1994-95	224	261	485
1995-96	173	222	395

Noil Silk Yarn

1993-94	173	118	291
1994-95	128	93	221
1995-96	89	94	183

(b) and (c) Realising the vast scope for increasing the production of raw silk/silk yarn in the country, the sericulture departments of the States are formulating and implementing various programmes/projects/schemes for the development of sericulture. In order to supplement the efforts of the States, the Central Silk Board (CSB) has set-up a country-wide network of units to extend necessary R & D extension, training and infrastructural support. CSB also takes up sericulture development projects in collaboration with the State(s). The improved silkworm races and technology developed by the Research Institutes of CSB, the infrastructure created under the various projects implemented by the CSB like the National Sericulture Project and continued efforts towards quality improvement by CSB such as upgrading the laboratory at Bangalore and setting up of laboratories at Varanasi, Jammu and Bhagalpur to meet the requirements of eco testing and quality testing will contribute in increasing the production of raw silk.

Under the current Export Import policy, there are no restriction on the export of silk/silk yarn. However, in order to maximise the foreign exchange earnings, the Govt. encourages export of value added silk products by providing incentives to the industry such as providing assistance to the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council for undertaking various export promotion activities including participation in international and national fairs, publicity in foreign trade magazines, sponsoring of sales-cum-study tours and buyer-seller meets, 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 production, etc.

Foreign Direct Investment

*468. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

SHRI SURESH PRABHU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) the number of foreign investment proposals received by the Government during each of the last three years upto 31st March, 1997;

(b) the number of proposals approved during the said period sector-wise

(c) the amount of foreign investment involved therein;

(d) whether consumer goods industries are also being given approvals to either have tie ups or 100% subsidiary set up in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Total foreign investment proposals received and approved during the last three years, i.e. from April, 1994 to February, 1997 is as under:

Year	No. of Proposals	Amount (Rs. in crores)
April, 1994—March, 1995	1104	15438.54
April, 1995—March, 1996	1477	38072.70
April, 1996—March, 1997	1619	47807.96
(Prov.)		

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Under the policy governing foreign investment announced in 1991, 22 specified consumer sectors invite the condition of dividend balancing. During 1996, 27 such 100% subsidiary companies were accorded approval with the condition of dividend balancing. A sector-wise break-up of details of the 27 proposals cleared is given in the statement.

Statement

Sector wise break-up of Foreign Direct Investment and Technical collaboration approved during the period (01/01/96 to 31/12/96)

Sl. no	Name of Industry	Total			Amount of FDI Approved (Rs. crore)	% to Total Amount Approved
		Total	Tech	Fin		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	ELECTRICALS EQUIPMENT					
	Computer software industry	1	0	1	1.75	0.03
	Electronics	1	0	1	682.68	12.74
	Total	2	0	2	684.43	12.77
2	TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
	Telecommunications	1	0	1	17.50	0.33
	Total	1	0	1	17.50	0.33
3.	TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY					
	Passenger Cars	1	0	1	1193.50	22.28
	Total	1	0	1	1193.50	22.28

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	MISCELLANEOUS MECHANICAL & ENGINEERING	1	0	1	17.05	0.32
5.	CHEMICALS (OTHER THAN FERTILIZERS)	2	0	2	170.70	3.19
6.	FERMENTATION INDUSTRIES	1	0	1	70.00	1.31
7.	FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES					
	Food Products	8	0	8	2689.60	50.20
	Total	8	0	8	2689.60	50.20
8.	RUBBER GOODS	1	0	1	0.10	0.00
9.	LEATHER, LEATHER GOODS AND PICKERS	1	0	1	6.82	0.13
10.	CONSULTANCY SERVICES					
	Marketing	1	0	1	17.05	0.32
	Total	1	0	1	17.05	0.32
11.	SERVICE SECTOR					
	Non-Financial Services	1	0	1	140.00	2.61
	Total	1	0	1	140.00	2.61
12.	HOTEL & TOURISM					
	Tourism	1	0	1	203.00	3.79
	Total	1	0	1	203.00	3.79
13.	TRADING CO.	4	0	4	16.65	0.31
14.	MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIES					
	Agriculture	1	0	1	8.75	0.16
	Others (Misc. Industries)	1	0	1	122.50	2.29
	Total	2	0	2	131.25	2.45
Total		27	0	27	5357.65	

NIC/IISD

[Translation]

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Handloom Organisations

*489. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the assistance provided by the Union Government to the Handloom organisations under Market Development Assistance Scheme during the last three years, State wise; and

(b) the number of units benefitted under the said Scheme during the above period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):
(a) and (b) State-wise assistance provided by the Union Government to various Handloom Organisations and number of units benefitted under the Market Development Assistance Scheme during the last three years is as under:

Sl. No.	State	Amount of Assistance provided during the last 3 years	No. of Units Benefitted during the last 3 years
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2016.40	1013
2.	Assam	171.53	15
3.	Bihar	155.13	3
4.	Gujarat	249.90	310
5.	Haryana	81.59	6
6.	Himachal Pradesh	55.53	20

1	2	3	4
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	210.71	77
8.	Karnataka	713.72	82
9.	Kerala	1221.43	720
10.	Madhya Pradesh	287.53	470
11.	Maharashtra	338.62	1099
12.	Manipur	2.08	2
13.	Meghalaya	0.26	1
14.	Orissa	1097.02	1497
15.	Punjab	22.31	15
16.	Rajasthan	90.00	33
17.	Tamil Nadu	5613.40	3701
18.	Tripura	52.20	6
19.	Uttar Pradesh	1178.30	9
20.	West Bengal	1550.76	2204
Total		15108.42	11283

Export of Agricultural Products

*490 DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSHMARIA:

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agricultural products exported during each of the last three years, till-date;

(b) the details of the items which fetched highest earnings through export and which brought the lowest earnings during the above period, country-wise;

(c) the items for which the export has decreased alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of agricultural products during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The exports of agricultural and allied products excluding tea, coffee, raw cotton and marine products during 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (April-Feb, '97) were Rs. 7533 Crores, Rs. 7049 Crores, Rs. 13337 Crores and Rs. 13720 Crores respectively.

The major items exported include Rice (basmati and non-basmati) Wheat, Tobacco (manufactured and unmanufactured), Spices, Cashew, Guar gum meal, Groundnut, Oil meals, Horticultural and floricultural products, and meat and meat preparations.

(b) Under the Harmonised System of Indian Trade Classification (6 digit level) the items which fetched the highest and lowest export earnings during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Export Earnings	
	Highest	Lowest
1. 1993-94	Oil Meals	Wheat
2. 1994-95	Oil Meals	Coarse Grains
3. 1995-96	Non Basmati Rice	Coarse Grains
4. 1996-97	Oil Meals	Coarse Grains

(April - Feb.)

(Source: DGCI & S, Calcutta)

The details of country-wise exports are available in the Annual Number of the Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by the Directorate General Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI & S) Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) The exports of some of the items falling under the agricultural and allied products groups have shown a mixed trend. The exports of various agricultural commodities depend upon varieties traded, prices, consumer preferences and international demand and supply position.

(d) Steps taken to enhance export of agricultural and allied products include simplification of inspection procedures, removal of minimum export price and quantity restrictions on selected items, provision of concessional credit, product development to meet international needs, extension of benefits available under the scheme of EOUs/EPZs to agriculture sector and permitting 50% sale in the domestic tariff area, assistance to exporters for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control, air freight subsidy on export of selected horticultural, floricultural products and fresh vegetables to identified destinations, promoting export of identified products through brand promotion campaigns, arranging buyer-seller meets and participation in inter-national fairs/exhibitions.

[English]

Funds for NCES

*491. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL:

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA:

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

(a) the amount allocated in the Central Budget and foreign investment made for the development of 'Non-Conventional Energy Sources Sector' during each of the last three years and the areas thereof, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of energy generated during the above period, year-wise, State-wise;

(c) the number of bio-gas plants in the country and the target fixed for opening new bio-gas plants during the Ninth Five Year Plan, year-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to develop the Non-Conventional Energy Sources especially in the areas of Gobar gas and Wind energy in the country particularly in Bihar during the said period;

(e) if so, the steps being taken in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The amounts allocated in the Central Budget for the development of Non-Conventional Energy Sources sector in the areas such as Biogas, Improved Chulha, Biomass Production and Utilisation, Integrated Rural Energy Programme, Solar Photovoltaic and Solar Thermal Energy, Wind Energy, Small Hydro Power, Biomass Combustion and co-generation, Solar photovoltaic and Solar Thermal Power, Energy Recovery from Urban and Industrial Wastes, Electric Vehicles, Fuel Cells and other emerging technologies during the last three years namely, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97, are Rs. 226.38 crores, Rs. 248.38 crores and Rs. 335.90 crores respectively. State-wise allocation are not made in the Central Budget.

In order to attract foreign investment in the non-conventional energy sector, Government has cleared 11 proposals involving foreign investment of Rs. 53.71 crores in the last 3 years for the development of non-conventional energy sector. State-wise, year-wise break-up of the proposals is given in statement-I. In addition, a loan of Rs. 138.49 crores has been received from Bilateral and Multilateral Funding agencies in the last two years. Year-wise break-up is given in statement-II

(b) The State-wise, year-wise estimate of the quantum of energy generated/saved during the last three years, is given in statement-III.

(c) The number of Biogas Plants set up in the country till 31st March, 1997 is 25,33,204. The number of Biogas Plants proposed to be set up during the 9th Five Year Plan period, Year-wise, is given in statement-IV.

(d) to (f) The proposed 9th Five Year Plan envisages the development of all areas of non-conventional energy sources, including biogas and wind energy, in the country, including in the State of Bihar. However, no potential sites have been identified so far for grid-quality power generation from wind energy in Bihar.

Major policy initiatives taken to encourage private/foreign direct investment to tap energy from Non-conventional sources, include provision of fiscal and financial incentives under a wide range of programmes being implemented by the Ministry and simplification of procedures for private investment including foreign direct investment in the non-conventional energy projects. The fiscal incentives provided for this purpose include 100% depreciation in the first year of the installation of the project, exemption from excise duty and sales tax and concessional customs duty on the import of material, components and equipment used in non-conventional energy projects. In addition, the Government provides financial incentives such as interest-subsidy and capital subsidy from the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources and soft loans from the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) a Public Sector Company of the Ministry. For creation of attractive facilities for evacuation and purchase/wheeling/banking of electrical energy generated from non-conventional sources, the Ministry has issued a set of guidelines to all the States. It has been suggested that the States should announce general policies for purchase/wheeling/banking of electrical energy generated from all non-conventional energy sources. A minimum purchase price of Rs. 2.25 per unit with an annual escalation of 5% for the first 10 years, with liberal wheeling/banking facilities at nominal charges has been suggested. Twelve States have so far announced such policies in respect of various non-conventional energy sources.

Statement-I

State-wise and year-wise break-up of proposals approved by the Government for Foreign Investment in Non-Conventional Energy Sector

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No	State	Year			Total amount of the proposals approved on foreign investment in renewable energy sector
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	1.00	0.10	1.10
2.	Daman & Diu	-	1.26	-	1.26
3.	Karnataka	-	12.60	-	12.60

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	0.22	0.22
5.	Maharashtra	-	0.65	2.91	3.56
6.	Rajasthan	-	0.56	-	0.56
7.	Tamil Nadu	-	4.41	10.00	14.41
8.	West Bengal	20.00	-	20.00	20.00
Total		20.00	20.48	33.23	53.71

Statement-II*Loans from multilateral and bilateral funding agencies*

Year	Amount (Rs. In crores)
1994-95	0.00
1995-96	51.49
1996-97	87.00
Total:	138.49

Statement-III*Estimates of Energy generated/saved through various Non-conventional Energy Systems and devices, state-wise, year-wise during last three years*

S.No.	Name of State	Wind Energy (million Kwh)			Small Hydro Power (million Kwh)			Biomass Power (lakh Kwh)			Solar Thermal (million Kwh thermal)		
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.61	7.68	39.98	24.00	28.04	28.04	-	-	-	4.58	4.60	4.78
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	76.60	76.60	80.60	-	-	-	0.25	0.28	0.28
3.	Assam	-	-	-	8.00	8.80	8.80	-	-	-	0.34	0.34	0.34
4.	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	0.16	-	-	-	1.76	1.76	1.76
5.	Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.38	0.38	0.71
6.	Gujarat	37.8	58.23	117.93	8.00	8.00	8.00	-	-	-	43.14	43.23	43.23
7.	Haryana	-	-	-	0.80	0.80	0.80	3.42	25.07	0.87	4.47	4.57	4.68
8.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	36.70	37.88	37.96	-	-	-	3.08	3.10	3.10
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	9.20	17.40	17.48	-	-	-	1.24	1.24	1.24
10.	Karnataka	-	0.31	4.32	13.40	18.80	40.40	-	-	-	15.26	15.26	33.93
11.	Kerala	0.06	2.04	2.56	0.08	2.08	14.08	-	-	-	1.56	1.56	1.79
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.25	0.81	5.98	4.80	9.00	13.00	-	-	-	24.90	25.15	25.59
13.	Maharashtra	1.14	1.17	2.58	14.32	14.32	17.28	20.00	104.00	37.22	17.31	21.86	26.39
14.	Manipur	-	-	-	10.80	16.40	16.40	-	-	-	0.20	0.22	0.22
15.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	6.04	6.04	6.04	-	-	-	0.78	0.86	0.86
16.	Mizoram	-	-	-	13.34	21.34	21.34	-	-	-	0.06	0.06	0.06

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
17.	Negaland	-	-	-	12.68	12.68	12.68	-	-	-	0.07	0.07	0.07
18.	Orissa	-	-	-	2.00	5.04	5.04	-	-	-	1.25	1.82	1.35
19.	Punjab	-	-	-	15.60	15.60	15.60	2.77	-	-	5.78	6.01	6.01
20.	Rajasthan	-	-	-	8.80	17.20	17.20	-	-	-	2.98	3.10	3.11
21.	Sikkim	-	-	-	27.60	38.64	37.00	-	-	-	0.18	0.18	0.19
22.	Tamil Nadu	151.37	426.20	702.17	19.00	19.00	19.00	83.30	198.40	719.30	12.48	13.22	13.80
23.	Tripura	-	-	-	4.04	4.04	4.04	-	-	-	0.11	0.11	0.14
24.	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	105.52	107.12	124.16	-	-	-	16.32	16.82	18.43
25.	West Bengal	-	-	-	29.84	29.84	29.84	-	-	-	2.03	4.12	6.66
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.05	0.07	0.07
27.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.14	1.14	1.14
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.06	0.06	0.06
29.	Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13.63	13.63	18.69
31.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32.	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.75	0.75	0.84
33.	Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Sl. No.	Name to State	Solar Cookers (million Kg of fuelwood saved)			SPV Systems (million Kwh) other than pumps			Biomass Gasifier (KW)			Biogas (in tonnes per year: of fuelwood saved)			SPV Pumps (1000 kwh)		
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	Andhra Pradesh	3.62	5.42	5.79	0.33	0.36	0.46	2400	1700	1320	75912	73532	46255	62.10	249.75	375.30
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	0.24	0.10	0.12	0.12	-	-	-	182	189	83	-	-	-
3	Assam	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.03	0.06	0.07	23	-	-	5384	8032	18113	-	21.60	37.80
4	Bihar	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.08	0.09	0.17	-	-	-	13035	21548	4284	-	35.10	70.20
5	Goa	0.50	0.59	0.76	0.01	0.01	0.01	-	-	-	275	170	505	-	2.70	16.20
6	Gujarat	19.31	21.06	23.32	0.23	0.24	0.26	1104	162	40	88449	63897	60022	1.35	2.70	5.40
7	Haryana	7.72	8.92	9.22	0.12	0.15	0.20	590	-	-	6454	5803	7092	-	5.40	17.55
8	Himachal Pradesh	12.44	12.30	12.89	0.05	0.11	0.18	-	-	-	6882	4650	4030	-	-	1.35
9	Jammu & Kashmir	0.05	0.05	0.21	0.07	0.15	0.19	-	-	-	248	465	607	-	5.40	14.85
10	Karnataka	-	-	0.15	0.03	0.04	0.06	-	-	-	91034	68286	80984	4.05	28.35	75.60
11	Kerala	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.07	0.17	0.28	400	-	-	9923	9424	10605	9.45	79.65	214.65
12	Madhya Pradesh	76.04	82.52	93.13	0.62	0.63	0.63	1740	1500	700	62917	62124	64473	1.35	4.05	14.85
13	Maharashtra	24.33	26.97	28.66	0.35	0.41	0.41	158	-	500	76380	54386	46735	12.15	43.20	117.45
14	Manipur	0.12	0.12	0.16	0.05	0.05	0.06	-	-	-	294	440	623	-	-	1.35
15	Meghalaya	0.44	0.50	0.64	0.10	0.13	0.14	-	-	-	-	155	62	-	-	-
16	Mizoram	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.09	0.12	0.13	-	-	-	310	310	372	-	-	2.70
17.	Nagaland	-	-	-	0.04	0.04	0.04	-	-	-	310	564	564	-	-	-
18.	Orissa	0.60	1.10	1.45	0.31	0.34	0.36	-	-	-	40628	40200	36871	-	1.35	1.35
19.	Punjab	5.81	5.81	7.12	0.01	0.01	0.02	140	-	-	12989	12561	13850	-	16.20	81.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
20	Rajasthan	18.22	19.54	20.00	0.74	0.77	0.77	-	-	-	16039	13134	5793	4.05	51.30	133.85
21	Sikkim	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	-	-	-	517	694	823	-	-	-
22	Tamil Nadu	0.80	0.81	0.81	0.24	0.27	0.28	-	40	-	29127	24372	12071	43.20	206.55	486.00
23	Tripura	-	-	-	0.18	0.18	0.20	-	-	-	108	257	269	-	-	-
24	Uttar Pradesh	15.55	16.76	19.16	1.23	1.95	2.49	150	-	-	49195	49048	50037	-	6.75	54.00
25	West Bengal	1.46	1.82	3.27	0.16	0.20	0.24	-	-	500	37131	43737	39032	-	18.90	22.95
26	Andaman & Nicobar	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.21	0.23	0.25	-	-	-	15	15	21	-	6.75	6.75
27	Chandigarh	0.70	0.81	0.81	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	15	-	-	-	9.45
28	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.05	0.05	0.05	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	6	-	1.35	1.35
29	Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30	Delhi	18.59	18.59	16.65	0.04	0.08	0.11	-	-	-	18	21	9	-	10.80	32.40
31	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	0.06	0.09	0.09	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	Pondicherry	-	-	0.04	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	5.40	18.90	18.90
33	Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Kwh- Kilo watt hour, SPV = Solar Photovoltaic, Kw = kilo watt.

Statement-IV

Year-wise break-up of proposed physical targets under National Project on Biogas Development and Community/ Institutional Biogas Plants Programme during the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002)

S.No.	Programme	Physical target of 9th Five Year Plan				
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	National Project on Biogas Development (in-lakhs)	2.20	2.65	2.90	3.25	3.50
2.	Community and Institutional Biogas Plants Programme (No. of Plants)	250	350	400	500	500

Demand and Import of Nickel

*492. SHRI ANCHAL DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of domestic requirement of nickel in the country and the total quantity of nickel imported during each of the last three years upto March 31, 1997, year-wise and country-wise;

(b) whether the Government have laid down any pre-condition for transfer of technology of extracting nickel from ore in the modern method while importing nickel;

if so, the details thereof; and

if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The entire domestic demand of nickel is met by imports. The imports of nickel (ore, concentrate, alloys and scrap) during 1993-94 to 1995-96 are given below:

(Qty: tonnes)

Year	Nickel (Ore/Conc.)	Nickel (Alloys & Scrap)
1993-94	1827	7650
1994-95	2075	10907
1995-96	1983	12550

Statistics of imports for the year 1996-97 are being collected. The country-wise import statistics of nickel (ores

& concentrates, alloys & scrap) for the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 are given in statement I, II and III attached.

(b) to (d) Nickel is produced by Canada, Australia, Cuba, USA and CIS countries. The production mainly comes from Nickel Sulphide Ores. Since the Indian ores is of low grade ranging at 0.7% to 1.1% Nickel and has different chemical composition, treatment of Indian ore or technology transfer was not attractive.

The Ministry of Mines and Regional Research Laboratory, Bhubaneswar with Hindustan Copper Ltd. have developed the process for treatment of Indian ore and extraction of nickel from that. Now a technology proving plant is being set up at a cost of Rs. 8.00 crores to verify the critical parameters of the process. The tests conducted in Cuba show that installation and operation of technology proving plant is more likely to prove the techno-economic viability of the process developed.

Statement-I

Imports of nickel Ores and Concs. (By Countries)

Country	1994-95		1995-96	
	Quantity (t)	Value (Rs. '000)	Quantity (t)	Value (Rs. '000)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
ALL COUNTRIES	2,075	35,17.68	1,983	48,32.09
Cuba	519	9,79.79	554	14,90.74
Canada	921	12,38.44	545	10,86.33
Netherlands	294	6,04.52	396	10,33.29
Germany, Fed. Rep.	0	0	175	4,75.24
Russia	9	15.77	102	2,52.62
Belgium	0	0	110	2,39.02
Australia	143	2,96.54	54	1,40.85
United States of America	1	2.94	21	50.45
United Kingdom	21	61.65	20	49.79
Other Countries	167	2,88.03	6	13.73

Statement-II

Imports of Nickel and Alloys (By Countries)

Country	1994-95		1995-96	
	Quantity (t)	Value (Rs. '000)	Quantity (t)	Value (Rs. '000)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
ALL COUNTRIES	10,768	230,26.16	12,290	341,27.63
Russia	2,927	64,87.13	5,847	155,65.21
Canada	2,812	51,85.08	1,601	44,87.03
Netherlands	356	7,09.25	1,050	27,04.28
United States of America	168	5,30.54	558	16,77.53
South Africa	1,116	22,48.56	595	15,53.03
Australia	885	18,57.16	349	15,16.85
Germany, Fed. Rep. of	277	8,59.78	415	14,78.99
Norway	899	16,90.42	489	14,01.49
United Kingdom	565	13,52.52	315	12,41.68
Switzerland	176	4,01.65	194	5,88.24
Other Countries	787	17,04.07	677	19,13.30

Statement-III
Imports of Nickel (Scrap) (By Countries)

Country	1994-95		1995-96	
	Quantity (t)	Value (Rs.'000)	Quantity (t)	Value (Rs.'000)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
ALL COUNTRIES	139	79.17	260	1,26.58
Sweden	0	0	63	28.64
Russia	0	0	61	28.23
Chinese Taipei	21	5.65	32	26.72
United Kingdom	0	0	20	11.30
Germany Federal Rep. of	63	51.08	17	9.72
United States of America	18	6.11	35	9.43
Korea Rep. of	0	0	18	7.51
Korea Dem. Peoples Rep. of	0	0	14	5.03
Other countries	37	16.33	0	0

*Translation]***Trade Fairs in Various Countries**

*493. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH:

SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to organise Trade Fairs in various countries for promoting the small scale industries;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the participation of Uttar Pradesh would be ensured in these exhibitions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) ITPO proposes to participate in 41 fairs/exhibitions abroad during 1997-98 in which the small scale industries would have opportunity for participation.

(b) A list of trade fairs/exhibitions being organised by ITPO in 1997-98 is given in the statement attached.

(c) to (e) Companies situated in various States are invited for participation including from the State of Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh Trade Promotion Authority with their following 4 constituents participated in the Indian Trade Exhibition, Kathmandu (Nepal)— March 14-21, 1997:

(i) LML Ltd.—Two Wheeler scooter.

(ii) Hi-Tech Medical Products Ltd.—Hi-tech disposable syringes,

(iii) Vishwakarma Foundry Works—Powerloom.

(iv) Friends Refrigeration Mfrs.—Ammonia Compressor.

The total business generated by the above four companies during the fair as reported by them was Rs. 57.76 lakh for items like scooters, disposable syringes, rice plant, powerloom C.I. casting, warp machine 110", ammonia compressor and efin-ceiling coils.

Uttar Pradesh Trade Promotion Authority have also been approached for participation in forthcoming fairs in Damascus, Nairobi etc. being organised by ITPO.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the Fair/Exhibition	Products group/sector for display
1	2	3
1.	Hannover Fair Hannover (Germany) April 4-19, 1997	Electric automation technology, power transmission and control, castings and forgings, finished machines-cut and non-cut metal parts, plastic and rubber parts, subcontracting components, production and assembly services.
2.	Asia Pacific Leather Fair Hongkong Part I April 21-24, 1997 Part II April 28-30, 1997	Part (I): All aspect of leather industry including machinery, ancillary service industry, raw materials, chemicals and dyes used in leather industry. Part (II): Finished products and fashion accessories.
3.	Abu Dhabi International Fair Abu Dhabi (UAE) April 27-May 4, 1997	Food items, readymade garments, leather & leather items, handicrafts, consumer durables etc.
4.	TIBCO-Bucharest International Fair for Consumer Goods, Bucharest (Romania) May 22-28, 1997	Textiles, ready-made cloths, Knitwear, fur goods, equipment and technologies thereof, footwear, leather goods, equipment and technologies thereof, foodstuff, beverages, household goods, chemicals, cosmetics, electronics, photo goods, biotics and stationery, toys, souvenirs, goods for hobby sports, leisure, interior design and decoration, cars and accessories, services and information.
5.	INTERBUILD AUSTRALIA'97 Sydney (Australia), June 8-11, 1997	Commercial, industrial and domestic building products and technology available for building and construction.
6.	ACHEMA-International Meeting on Chemical Engineering, Environmental Protection and Biotechnology Exhibition, Congress, Frankfurt (Germany) June 9-14, 1997.	Bio-technology, instrumentation, control and automation techniques, materials technology, material testing, engg., mechanical, processes, pumps, compressors, valves and fittings, industrial and labour safety, environmental protection.
7.	Poznan International Fair, Poznan (Poland) June 15-20, 1997.	Raw materials and semi-finished products, consumable materials for machines and vehicles, research and laboratory equipment, electrical engineering, electronics industrial automatics and measurements, machines and devices for earth, construction and road-building works, refrigeration, hearing ventilation, air conditioning and devices for eco-systems, transport, power engineering and electrical power engineering machines and devices machine industry, machines and devices for metallurgy and foundry engineering, machines and devices for coal, ore, oil and gas mining, specialistic machines and devices for other branches of industry, devices for utilization of gasses.
8.	Leipzig Fashion Fair, Leipzig (Germany) August 9-11, 1997.	Ladies' men's and children's wear, sports and jeans wear, knitwear, leather wear and furs, underwear, lingerie, accessories, fabrics and haberdashery, footwear etc.
9.	National Hardware Show, Chicago (USA) August 10-13, 1997.	Hardware and allied lines, lawn and garden and outdoor living, paint and home decorating products, plumbing, heating, cooling, accessories, pet-supplies, automobiles.

1	2	3
10.	WSA-Western Shoe Associates International Buying Market, Las Vegas (USA) August 20-23, 1997.	Shoes, handbags, accessories, store fixtures.
11.	Indian Exhibition, Moscow Aug./Sept., 1997.	Machine tools, transport equipments, machinery & instruments, computer software, air compressors, pumps, oil cooling heat exchangers, radiators, casting & forgings, hand tools, bicycle parts, builders hardware, construction material, hospital equipments, alpha tubes, electronic goods, consumer durables, drugs, pharmaceuticals & fine chemicals, dyes and intermediaries, agro-chemicals, paints, enamels, chemicals and allied products, manufactures of metals, plastic and linoleum products etc.
12.	Damascus International Trade Fair Damascus (Syria) Aug. 28-Sept. 10, 1997.	Agricultural equipments, tractors, chemicals and allied products, surgical items, hospital equipments, food products, tea, synthetic and rayon textiles etc.
13.	INDEXPO Muscat (Oman) Sept. 1-7, 1997 (Supported event)	Agricultural & gardening equipments, air conditions, automobile accessories, baby requisites, beauty products, building materials, crockery and cutlery, dairy products, electricals & electronics, fishing equipments, foodstuff, furniture & furnishings, gems & jewellery, general consumer products, gifts & novelty items, handloom & handicrafts, household appliances, kitchen equipments and requisites, leather & leather products, leisure & sports goods, machinery & machine tools, optical goods, pharmaceutical products, plastic & rubber products, project exports & services, sanitaryware.
14.	Pret-A-Porter, Paris, September 5-8, 1997.	Ladies' ready-to-wear garments and fashion accessories.
15.	Thessaloniki International Fair, Thessaloniki (Greece) September 6-15, 1997.	Gem & jewellery, readymade garments, marine products, leather items, plastic & linoleum, consumer goods, handicrafts, handloom products, food items etc.
16.	INTERVIC Fair-international Leather Week, Paris (France), September 7-9, 1997.	Leather and leather goods.
17.	Nairobi International Show, Nairobi (Kenya) September, 1997.	Basic chemicals, drugs and pharmaceuticals, handtools, agro machinery, rubber products, hardware, agricultural products, motor vehicles, consumer products.
18.	EICMA-BICCI-International Cycle Exhibition Milan (Italy), September 16-21, 1997.	Motorcycles, bicycle and accessories.
19.	EPM-Engineering Production Machinery Hanoi (Vietnam) September 22-26, 1997.	Agricultural equipment, packaging industry, food processing, chemical industries, textile industries, wood working industries, communications infrastructure etc.

1	2	3
20.	Multi Products Show in French Renunion September/October, 1997.	Motor vehicles, food products, tea, marine products, leather products, textiles, electricals and electronics, sports goods, handicrafts, household items, granite etc.
21.	Tehran Intl. Trade Fair Tehran (Iran) October, 1997.	Auto parts, diesel engines, textile machinery, bicycles and parts, scientific and measuring instruments, wire ropes, nuts and bolts, frozen meat, tea, coffee, cardamom, spices, pesticides, leather manufactures, jute and hessian products.
22.	Anuga Food Fair Cologne (Germany), October 11-16, 1997	Processed food and food products.
23.	SAITEX'97 Johannesburg (South Africa) October 21-25, 1997.	General industrial, manufacturing & engineering, electrical engineering & electronics, mining and materials handling, chemical and petro chemical, plastics, rubber, industrial glass and alternative materials, packaging and printing, agriculture and food, textiles and clothing, building and construction, transport and automotive, information technology and business services.
24.	FISA-International Trade Fair of Santiago (Chile) Oct. 31- Nov. 9, 1997.	Capital goods and consumer goods, transport (trucks and buses), metal and plastic industry, environment, sports etc.
25.	Baghdad International Fair, Baghdad (Iraq), November 1-15, 1997.	Medicines and medical equipments, automobiles spare parts, machinery spare parts, tyres, pharmaceuticals, electronics consumer items, consumer goods toiletries, processed foods, textiles & yarns, rice, handicrafts etc.
26.	Indian Exhibition Yangon (Myanmar) November, 1997.	Capital goods, machinery and technology for textiles jute, pesticides, edible oils, food processing, animal feed, cement, ceramic, rubber, leather, pulp, paper, transport equipments, scooters, motorcycles, bicycles, agricultural machinery, small scale plant and machinery, electric motors, diesel engines, mining machinery and equipments, machine tools, hand tools, building and construction material, hotel and restaurant equipment and supplies, drugs and Pharmaceuticals, chemicals consumer goods, jute, hospital equipment, telecommunications, banking services, consultancy services etc.
27.	Bahrain Autumn Fair, Bahrain Nov. 27-Dec. 5, 1997.	General products and consumer goods.
28.	Indian Exhibition, (Made in India Show), Cairo (Egypt), First half of Dec. 1997	Multi products.
29.	DOMOTEX Hannover (Germany), January 11-14, 1998.	Woven carpets, textile floor coverings, flexible floor coverings, carpet (hand made), parquet floors, fibres, yarns, application technique, display, publications, associations, design.

1	2	3
30.	Heimtextil Frankfurt (Germany), Jan. 14-17, 1998	Home textiles, decoration textiles, furniture textiles, curtains, awnings, sun protection equipment, wall coverings, home accessories, carpets and floor coverings, household textiles, bath textile equipment, bedding, mattresses, water beds, kitchen textiles, textile design, CAD, CAM, fibres and yarns.
31.	Indian Exhibition Mexico City (Mexico) Feb. 1998.	Computer software, agricultural equipments, earth moving and mining equipment, auto parts, bicycles and parts, medical instruments, pharmaceuticals products, textile and sugar machinery, photographic paper, drugs, dyes & intermediaries, electronic goods, cotton fabrics, mixed and silk fabrics, ladies garments, carpets and rugs, handicraft items, artificial jewellery, spices, processed food, marine products, leather & leather manufactures etc.
32.	Saudi Arabia International Food, beverages and catering Exhibition incorporating food products and processing equipment, packaging machinery and material exhibition, Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) Feb. 15-18, 1998.	Food products, beverages, catering and allied products.
33.	Ghana International Trade Fair Accra (Ghana), Feb. 28-March 10, 1998.	Capital goods, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, agro industrial machinery, building and construction products, electrical and scientific instruments, food and beverages, handicrafts etc.
34.	Expocomer International Commercial Exposition, Panama City (Panama) March 4-9, 1998.	Food & beverages liquors, tobacco, electronic articles, higher technology services, apparels, footwear and fabrics.
35.	International Fashion Fabric Exhibition New York (USA) March 1998.	Apparel fabrics, trimmings and notions, design systems, publications.
36.	Kuwait International Trade Fair, Kuwait March, 1998.	Household-electric equipments & accessories, carpets, furniture, foodstuff, building, material, perfumes & cosmetics, garments, children's toys, handicrafts, watches, garden accessories, leather products, household tools and instruments, light tools.
37.	International Hardware Show, Cologne (Germany) March 8-11, 1998	Tools, fittings, locks and keys, security appliances and systems, protection against burglary, decorative metalware, DIY' TEC: Building chemistry, ceramics and tiles, paints, wall papers, decorators and paper hangers tools, building components, finishing, interior decoration, wooden products, DIY and take away furniture, sanitation equipment, electrical installation, lamps, hardware, DIY tools and fittings, ladders and scaffoldings, shops and warehouse fittings.
38.	Annual Spring Fair Basel (Switzerland) March 13-22, 1998.	Consumer goods, tourism products, handicrafts of high quality, value added products, garments etc.

1	2	3
39.	IMPORTSHOP Berlin (Germany) March, 1998.	Apparels home textiles, leather goods, accessories, travel goods, pieces of furniture, carpets, basketry, ceramics, glass, chinaware, jewelley.
40.	TCF-International Textile Clothing Footwear and Fashion Accessories, Melbourne (Australia) March 31-April 2, 1998.	Textiles, clothing, footwear, leather goods and fashions accessories.
41.	2nd SAARC Trade Fair Lahore, Pakistan	Multi products

(As on 1.05.1997)

*[English]***Production of Mini Cigarettes by MNCs**

*494. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that production of mini cigarettes manufactured by multinational companies have increased manifold resulting in danger to the livelihood of unorganised bidi workers and the profit earned therefrom have been repatriated to other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to keep a check on mini cigarette producing multinational companies keeping in view the interest of bidi industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The production of mini cigarettes (i.e. nonfilter cigarettes with length not exceeding 60mm) has gone up during the last three years. However, as the incidence of excise duty on such cigarettes is substantially higher than that of bidis, it is unlikely that the production of mini cigarettes would have an adverse effect on the bidi industry.

Data regarding profits earned by cigarette manufacturers on mini cigarettes and repatriation of profits is not centrally maintained.

(c) to (e) As stated above, appropriate fiscal disincentives already exist in as much as there is a substantial differential between the rates of excise duty on mini cigarettes and bidis. In the Union Budget for 1997-98, the excise duty on mini cigarettes has been raised from Rs. 75 per thousand to Rs. 90 per thousand.

Illegal mining of coal

*495. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal mining of coal from the coal mines of Bihar and other States has been going on resulting in loss of crores of rupees;

(b) whether there is any connivance of police and the higher officials of coalfields in illegal mining and the coal mafia is flourishing particularly in Bihar; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to check illegal mining of coal and to wipe out the coal mafia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Sporadic incidents of illegal coal mining have been taking place in some mines of the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) in Bihar. Since illegal mining of sporadic in nature it is very difficult to measure its value and quantity.

(b) No, Sir. No incident of any connivance between the police and the higher officials of coalfields in illegal mining has been reported to the Government.

(c) Illegal mining violates the provisions of Section 3(1) (a) of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 and section 4(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. Moreover, illegal mining is punishable under Section 30(1) of the Nationalisation Act and Section 21(1) of the MMRD Act.

The following steps are taken by the nationalised coal companies to stop illegal mining.

(i) covering the exposed coal faces in unused opencast mines with debris;

(ii) round the clock patrolling by the security force of the company and the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

(iii) surprise check or raids by company security force and CISF;

(iv) blacklisting the trucks seized during the surprise checks or raids;

Whenever any incident of illegal mining comes to the notice of the colliery authorities within the leasehold areas, patrolling by the CISF is intensified. At times, such raids are conducted jointly by CISF and the local Police. After the illegally mined coal and implements of illegal mining and transportation of coal are seized during the course of raids, the same are handed over to the local police station by the coal companies and First Information Reports are lodged.

Jute Bags

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

(a) whether mandatory requirement of packing cement in jute bags has been scaled down from existing 50 per cent of the total output to 40 percent for 1997-98 and 30 percent in 1998-99;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to save the interests of thousands of jute growers in the country?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to save the interests of the jute growers inter-alia include issue of Jute Packaging Orders from time to time under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987, fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for raw jute and entry into market of the Jute Corporation of India, whenever needed.

United Nations Industrial Development Organisation

*497. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether under new package of Cooperation with UNIDO the Government have proposed to set up an International Centre for advancement of manufacturing technology with a view to bridging the gap between R & D and commercialisation through international partnership;

(b) if so the details thereof alongwith important features;

(c) the tentative locations under consideration for setting up the centre and present status of the proposal; and

(d) the total cost of the project and financing pattern proposed?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) There is a proposal to establish International Centre for Advancement of Manufacturing Technology (ICAMT) in cooperation with UNIDO. The ICAMT is proposed to be located in Bangalore.

The Mission of ICAMT will be to act as gatekeeper for developing countries in the field of Advanced Manufacturing Technology. By tracking the latest world wide developments in leading edge technologies (Hardware) and the latest management/organisational practices (Software); the gap will be bridged between research and development organisations, and market demand within developing countries.

The activities of ICAMT will include courses, workshops, conferences, serving as focal point on a global network of affiliated centres, the completion of the pilot projects, advisory services, information collection and dissemination and preparation and maintenance of an international rosters of experts.

Currently, UNIDO is undertaking a feasibility study for this project. This feasibility study will assess developing countries' support for the Centre, its potential impact, financial requirements, long-term sustainability and possible funding pattern. The feasibility study report being prepared by UNIDO will bring out the total cost of the project and financing pattern.

Eliminating Import Tariff on Non-Technology Products under WTO

498. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has joined the non-technology agreement/Information Technology agreement of World Trade Organisation aimed at eliminating Import tariff on wide range of non-technology products/information products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time fixed for eliminating tariff on all products;

(d) the main products covered under the above agreement;

(e) the details of countries who have joined WTO and to what extent the above agreements are likely to help India in the development of latest technology in the field of information technology; and

(f) the likely impact of the said agreements on the domestic industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, India has joined The Information Technology Agreement (ITA) visualised in the "Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology Products" adopted at Singapore in December 1996 on the occasion of the first Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation.

ITA aims to expand the world trade in information technology products. After extensive discussions with its trading partners, India filed its final Schedule of Concessions with regard to information technology products on 25-3-97 in Geneva and India's schedule has been approved by consensus by the Participants of the ITA. In all 217 tariff lines have been included in India's Schedule of Concessions. In respect of 95 tariff lines the duty will be brought to zero by 2000. In respect of 4 tariff lines the duty will be brought to zero by the year 2003, in respect of 2 tariff lines the duty will be brought to zero by the year 2004. The remaining 116 tariff lines will reach zero duty level by the year 2005.

(d) and (e) The ITA covers the following main categories of products: computers (including printers, scanners, monitors, hard-disc drives, power supplies etc.), telecom products (including fax machines, modems, pagers, etc) semiconductors (including chips and wafers), semiconductors manufacturing equipment, software products (e.g. diskettes and CD-ROMs) and scientific instruments. The Participants of ITA, representing countries which account for more than 90% of world trade in the information technology products, include Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Estonia, EU (15 countries), Hong Kong, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Korea, Macau, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Romania, Singapore, Slovak and Czech Republic, Switzerland, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Turkey and United States.

(f) India decided to join the Information Technology Agreement after extensive discussions with various industry associations. There was general acceptance of the need to join ITA by most of the Associations. International trade in information technology is presently of the order of US \$ 500 billion. In the next century, this sector is expected to be the largest industry in the World and may provide the foundation upon which most of the other industries will be built. Not only will stability and predictability of Govt. policy in this sector attract foreign investment, India will also benefit by the fact that information technology will be available to other industrial sectors at relatively low cost, thus ensuring general increase in productivity all round.

Dismantling of Barriers in Agricultural exports

*499. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progressive dismantling of barriers in agricultural exports, which started as part of the structural adjustment programme five years ago, is yet to bring about a perceptible change in the sectoral pattern of exports;

(b) if so, whether future trading have been extended to cotton, raw jute and jute goods;

(c) if so, the total agricultural exports that have been estimated during 1997-98;

(d) to what extent it will be more in comparison to 1996-97; and

(e) further steps taken by the Government to boost the export of agricultural exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) There has been a perceptible shift in the sectoral composition of agricultural exports. The items whose share increased during the period 1991-92 to 1996-97 (April-February'97) are Rice (basmati & non-basmati), HPS Groundnut, Sugar and molasses, Horticultural and floricultural products and Miscellaneous processed items. The items whose share in the agricultural exports declined during the same period were Tobacco, Spices, Cashew, Guar gum meal and Oil meals. The total agricultural exports (excluding tea, coffee, raw cotton and marine products) increased from Rs. 4343.12 Crores in 1991-92 to Rs. 13720.60 Crores in 1996-97 (April-February 1997).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The export projections for the year 1996-97 of the Eighth Five Year Plan by the Planning Commission for agricultural and allied products (excluding tea, coffee, raw cotton and marine products) was Rs. 10,398 Crores (at 1991-92 prices). The actual achievement during 1996-97 (April-February 97) was Rs. 13720.60 Crores. The export projection for the Ninth Five Year Plan including the year 1997-98 are yet to be formulated.

(e) Steps taken to enhance export of agricultural and allied products include simplification of inspection procedures, removal of minimum export price and quantity restrictions on selected items, provision of concessional credit, product development to meet international needs, extension of benefits available under the scheme of EOUs/EPZs to agriculture sector and permitting 50% sale in the domestic tariff area, assistance to exporters for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control, air freight subsidy on export of selected horticultural, floricultural products and fresh vegetables to identified destinations, promoting export of identified products through brand promotion campaigns, arranging buyer-seller meets and participation in international fairs/exhibitions.

Weaving and Processing Units

*500. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Textile Minister called upon the textile industry to redraft strategies so that there can be more investment in modern weaving and processing units;

(b) whether the Textile Ministry has agreed to invest more in the weaving and processing units in the country;

(c) if so, whether any plan have been formulated in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (d) The Union Textile Minister has in different fora

impressed upon the textile industry the need to modernise in order to become more competitive in the changing global scenario.

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 in this regard.

Investment by Multinational Companies

5388. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "MNC investment figures as security threat" appearing in 'The Observer of Business and Politics', New Delhi, dated February 7, 1997

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to avoid serious security threat?

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

Excavation Engineers

5389. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether 80% coal in the country is being produced by open cast mines with the help of heavy earth moving equipments and involving sophisticated technology;

(b) whether coal India Limited pays little interest towards the career growth of Engineers particularly those of excavation discipline who are the hub in the production of coal;

(c) whether Excavation engineers are subjugated to work under Executives of mining discipline who are not doing the actual work of repair/maintenance of heavy earth moving equipments resulting into loss of production; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Nearly 78% of total coal production in the mines of Coal India Ltd. comes from opencast mines.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) As per the relevant provision of the Mines Act, 1952 and Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 a mine is to be under the supervision, direction, management and

control of a Manager who has the requisite qualification as per the statute. Other executives who are experts in various fields such as Finance, Personnel and Excavation Engineers who run and maintain heavy earth moving machinery are posted in the mines as per requirement and constitute a team which is engaged in various production related work under the Mine Manager.

Joint Venture to Build Hospitals

5390. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Singapore health care company and an Indian industrial group have tentatively agreed to set up several hospitals offering a wide range of facilities in India and Nepal; and

(b) if so, details thereof alongwith the locations of the hospitals to be constructed, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Singapore health care company M/s. Gleneagles Development Pvt. Ltd., Singapore and an Indian industrial group have formed a joint venture company M/s. Duncan Goenka Hospitals Ltd. with foreign equity participation of 50% amounting to Rs. 1570.00 lakhs for setting up a 270 Bed Hospital at Calcutta in the State of West Bengal. The application was considered by FIPB and approval was issued in the month of July, 1996.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission

5391. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects from the individual entrepreneurs have been received by the different State offices of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission after the adoption of the project approach by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC);

(b) the number of projects cleared by the different industry directorates in the Central office of the KVIC;

(c) the number of projects cleared by the different industry directorates and the Banking Division of the KVIC and sanctioned by standing Finance Committee; and

(d) the number of entrepreneurs have received actual payment from the KVIC against the projects submitted by them?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) After adoption of project approach, as per the information received from KVIC offices of the States and Union Territories, a total of 719 projects from individual entrepreneurs have been received so far.

(b) 523 projects pertaining to individual entrepreneurs have been received by various industry directorates

of KVIC at Mumbai out of which 105 projects had been technically cleared by various industry directorates and referred to Banking Division.

(c) Out of 105 projects received from different directorates, Banking Division has cleared 35 projects of individual entrepreneurs and 16 projects have been sanctioned by the Standing Finance Committee of the KVIC so far.

(d) Only two entrepreneurs who have submitted complete sets of loan documents have received funds.

Courts at Car Nicobar and Campbell

5392. SHRI VIJAY PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Division Bench of Calcutta High Court has issued directives on December, 1993 for setting up two courts of magistrates at Car Nicobar and Campbell; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government had already issued sanction on 30.10.95 to the Union Territory Administration of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, for the creation of two courts, alongwith 13 supporting staff, at Car Nicobar and Campbell.

[*Translation*]

Fairs Organised by ITPO

5393. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various Exhibitions and International trade fairs organised by India Trade Promotion Organisation so far at the Pragati Maidan, New Delhi during each of the last three years;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon by ITPO in organising trade fairs at National and International level, separately, year-wise;

(c) the details of the income earned thereon by ITPO separately, year-wise;

(d) whether the ITPO have organised such exhibitions/International trade fairs in various parts of the country/abroad or propose to organise such exhibitions or trade fairs during the current year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH):

(a) 1994-95 - 10 fairs Year wise details of fairs is at statement-I

1995-96 - 14 fairs

1996-97 - 10 fairs

(b) and (c) As per Statement - II attached.

(d) and (e) A list of ITPO's programme of participation in fairs/exhibitions abroad and in India during 1997-98 is at statement - III and IV respectively.

Statement - I

Details of Fairs Organised by ITPO at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi During 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97

1994-95

S.No.	Name of the Events	Product Profile
1	2	3
1.	CONSUMEXH'94 (National) May 13-22, 1994	Consumer Products household and household products decorative electronics and electrical goods etc.
2.	SAJAVAT-94 (National) July 29-August 7, 1994	Decoratives, Handicrafts home textiles, furnishing, consumer goods etc.
3.	ELECTRONICS INDIA'94 (National) Sept. 7-11, 1994	Electrical and Electronics Product.
4.	SHOE FAIR'94 (National) October 17-19, 1994	Shoes (Ladies, Men, Children & Casual Wears) both leather and PVC etc.
5.	SHOE COMP'94 (International) October 19-21, 1994	Components, accessories soles etc.

1	2	3
6.	IITF'94 (International) November 14-27, 1994	Engineering Products, Agriculture & Food Products, Electrical & Electronics, Watches Toys, Textiles Hoisery and other consumer durables.
7.	TEXINDIA'94-95 (National) December 24, 94-January 1, 1995	Textiles fabrics, Readymade Garments, Made Ups etc.
8.	National Children Fair (National) December 24, 94-January 1, 1995	Toys, Children Educational Equipments, Ready Garments and other durables.
9.	AGRIEXPO (International) March 8-14, 1995	Agriculture & Agricultural Processed Machinery & Equipment.
10.	AHARA'95 (International) March 8-14, 1995	Food, Food Processing Machinery and Equipments, Food Products.
1995-96		
1.	CONSUMEXH (National) May 12-21, 1995	Consumer Products household and household products, decoratives, electronics & electrical goods etc.
2.	SAJAVAT (National) August 11-20, 1995	Decoratives Handicrafts, Home textiles, furnishing consumer goods etc.
3.	DELHI BOOK FAIR (International) August 12-20, 1995	All type of books.
4.	SHOE FAIR'95 (National) October 17-19, 1995	Shoes (Men, Ladies, Children and Casual wears) both leather & PVC etc.
5.	SHOE COMP'95 (International) October 19-21, 1995	Shoes components and accessories etc.
6.	PRAKASH'95 (International) October 29-November 4, 1995	All type of Electrical and Electronics products, lights.
7.	IITF'95 (International) November 14-27, 1995	Engineering Products, Agriculture & Food Products, Electrical & Electronics Watches, Toys, Textiles, Hoisery and other Consumer durables.
8.	GRAMAWAS (International) November 15, 95-January, 31, 1996	
9.	INTL. SECURITY EXHIBITION (Int'l) Dec. 11-14, 1995	Security equipments, devices industrial security equipment and machinery etc.
10.	NATIONAL CHILDREN FAIR (Nat.) Dec. 22-31, 1995	Children items.
11.	TEX-INDIA (National) Dec. 22-31, 1995	Textiles, Hoisery, Woolen items.
12.	SAARC TRADE FAIR (Int'l) January 9-14, 1996	

1	2	3
13.	PRINTPACK INDIA'96 (Int'l) January 12-17, 11996	Printing technology, equipment and machinery etc.
14.	AHARA (International) March 8-11, 1996	Food, Food Products and Food Processing machinery etc.

1996-97

1.	CONSUMEXH (National) May 5-14, 1996	Household appliances, electrical appliances, giftware, furnishings, kitchen equipment, cosmetics, jewellery & textiles etc.
2.	DELHI BOOK FAIR (International) August 10-18, 1996	Publishers, book sellers and distributors, mfrs., dealers of teaching aids, audio visual material, Computer Software and hardware, Govt. and autonomous organisations concerned with publishing.
3.	MYSTIQUE INDIA'96 (National) Sept. 13-17, 1996	Aayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Homeopathy and Naturopathy systems of medicine, Acupuncture and Alternative therapeutics, Anti-sids, cancer, Polio remedies and heart care Programmes, Yoga, Meditation Astrology, Palmistry Numerology and Vastu, Health Food Products and nature cure equipment etc.
4.	INTERNATIONAL SHOE FAIR (Int'l) October 17-19, 1996	Footwear for men, women and children, dress shoes for men & Women, horachi shoes and sandals, Kolhapuri, chappals, ballerinas, sandals etc.
5.	SHOE COMP (International) October 19-21, 1996	Components, accessories and manufacturing aids like soles, insoles, toepuffs, counters, clicking knives, tacks, heels straps, adhesives, chemicals etc.
6.	IITF (International) November 14-27, 1996	All aspects of Industry, agriculture, trade and Scientific and technological innovations, special display, Techmart, Technologies for small Industries, Good Living, HUDCO-Build-Tech, Toy Show etc.
7.	NATIONAL CHILDREN FAIR (Nat.) Dec. 20. 96-Jan. 3, 1997	Children's garments, toys, teaching aids, magazines, cards, posters, Stationery items, Musical instruments audiovisual products, School items, decoratives for nursery & children's room and other items of children's interest.
8.	WINTER SHOW (National) Dec. 20, 96-Jan. 3, 1997	All type of consumer products categories, giftware, textiles, goods living, home appliances etc.
9.	TEX-STYLES INDIA (Internat.) January 28-31, 1997	Yarns, fibres, threads, fabrics, knits, home furnishings and made-ups, CAD/CAM systems, light machinery for textile industry etc.
10.	AHARA (International) March 5-9, 1997	Food Processing/Packing machinery, Packing material, Agricultural Products, fresh fruit and vegetables, hotel and restaurant industry, refrigeration machinery, kitchen equipment etc.

Statement - II*Income and Expenditure of Fairs organised by ITPO at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi during 1994-95*

(Rs in Lakhs)

S.No	Name of the fair	Income	Expenditure
1.	Consumexh. May 13-22, 1994	38.49	19.32
2.	Sajavat, July 29-Aug. 7, 1994	30.91	23.14
3.	Electronics India, Sep. 7-11, 1994	102.16	23.06
4.	Shoe Fair, Oct. 17-19, 1994	72.12	23.06
5.	Shoe Comp. October 19-21, 1994	43.05	27.29
6.	IITF, Nov. 14-27, 1994	748.83	232.75
7.	Tex India. 24 Dec 94-1 Jan, 1995	49.63	24.81
8.	National Children Fair, Dec 24, 94-Jan 1, 1995	24.54	28.15
9.	Agri Expo. March 8-14, 1995	134.41	26.92
10.	Ahara. March 8-14, 1995	123.02	40.09
		1367.16	468.59

Income and Expenditure of Fairs organised by ITPO at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi during 1995-96

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No	Name of the fair	Income	Expenditure
1.	Consumexh. May 12-21, 1995	48.97	27.93
2.	Sajavat, August 11-20, 1995	55.28	34.35
3.	Delhi Book Fair, August 12-20, 1995	31.05	33.32
4.	Shoe Fair, Oct 17-19, 1995	91.03	23.48
5.	Shoe Comp, October 19-21, 1995	54.46	21.59
6.	Prakash, Oct 29-Nov 1, 1995	104.73	49.80
7.	IITF, Nov 14-27, 1995	922.70	273.92
8.	Grammavas, Nov 15, 1995-Jan 31, 1996		15.58
9.	INTL Security Exh., Dec 11-14, 1995	43.21	36.99
10.	National Children Fair, Dec 22-31, 1995	22.63	30.34
11.	TEX India, Dec 22-31, 1995	47.07	36.11
12.	SAARC Intl. Fair, Jan 9-14, 1996	67.12	61.84
13.	Print Pack, Jan 12-17, 1996	237.52	51.72
14.	Ahara, March 8-11, 1996	83.51	37.88
		1809.28	734.65

*After considering Rs. 40.00 lacs as grant from Government.

Income and Expenditure of Fairs organised by ITPO at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi during 1996-97.

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the event	Income (Budgeted)	Expenditure (Budgeted)
1.	Consumexh, May'96	67.37	31.06
2.	Delhi Book Fair, Aug.'96	40.43	29.72
3.	Mystique India, Sept.'96	27.60	39.68
4.	Intl. Shoe Fair, Oct.'96	67.75	28.27
5.	Shoe Comp. Oct.'96	60.98	28.02
6.	I.I.T.F.'96	1125.94	342.80
7.	National Children Fair (Dec.'96-Jan.'97)	24.19	46.42
8.	Winter Show Dec.'96	102.53	54.82
9.	Tex Styles India, Jan.'97	180.45	125.40
10.	Ahara, March'97	80.55	42.45
		1777.79	768.64

Statement-III

India Trade Promotion Organisation

Programme for participation in Fairs/Exhibitions Abroad during 1997-98

S.No.	Name of the Fair/Exhibition	Products group/sector for display
1	2	3
1.	Hannover Fair Hannover (Germany) April 14-19, 1997	Electric automation technology, power transmission & control, castings and forgings, finished machines-cut and non-cut metal parts, plastic and rubber parts, subcontracting components, production and assembly services.
2.	Asia Pacific Leather Fair Hongkong Part I April 21-24, 1997 Part II April 28-30, 1997	Part (I): All aspects of leather industry including machinery, ancillary service industry, raw materials, chemicals and dyes used in leather industry. Part (II): Finished products and fashion accessories
3.	Abu Dhabi International Fair Abu Dhabi (UAE) April 27-May 4, 1997	Food items, readymade garments, leather & leather items, handicrafts, consumer durables etc.
4.	TIBCO-Bucharest International Fair for Consumer Goods, Bucharest (Romania) May 22-28, 1997	Textiles, ready-made cloths, Knitwear, fur goods, equipment and technologies thereof, footwear, leather goods, equipment and technologies thereof, foodstuff, beverages, household goods, chemicals, cosmetics, electronics, photo goods, birotics and stationery, toys, souvenirs, goods for hobby sports, leisure, interior design and decoration, cars and accessories, services and information.

1	2	3
5.	INTERBUILD AUSTRALIA'97 Sydney (Australia) June 8-11, 1997	Commercial, industrial and domestic building products and technology available for building and construction.
6.	ACHEMA-International Meeting on Chemical Engineering, Environmental Protection and Bio- technology Exhibition, Congress, Frankfurt (Germany) June 9-14, 1997.	Bio-technology, instrumentation, control and automation techniques, materials technology, material testing, engg., mechanical, processes, pumps, compressors, valves and fittings, industrial and labour safety, environmental protection.
7.	Poznan International Fair, Poznan (Poland) June 15-20, 1997.	Raw materials and semi-finished products, consumable materials for machines and vehicles, research and laboratory equipment, electrical engineering, electronics industrial automatics and measurements, machines and devices for earth, construction and road-building works, refrigeration, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and devices for eco-systems, transport, power engineering and electrical power engineering machines and devices, machine industry, machines and devices for metallurgy and foundry engineering, machines and devices for coal, ore, oil and gas mining, specialistic machines and devices for other branches of industry, devices for utilization of gasses.
8.	Leipzig Fashion Fair, Leipzig (Germany) August 9-11, 1997.	Ladies' men's and children's wear, sports and jeans wear, knitwear, leather wear and furs, underwear, lingerie, accessories, fabrics and haberdashery, footwear etc.
9.	National Hardware Show, Chicago (USA) August 10-13, 1997.	Hardware and allied lines, lawn and garden and outdoor living, paint and home decorating products, plumbing, heating, cooling, accessories, pet-supplies, automobiles.
10.	WSA-Western Shoe Associates International Buying Market, Las Vegas (USA) August 20-23, 1997.	Shoes, handbags, accessories, store fixtures.
11.	Indian Exhibition, Moscow Aug/Sept, 1997.	Machine tools, transport equipments, machinery & instruments, computer software, air compressors, pumps, oil cooling heat exchangers, radiators, casting & forgings, hand tools, bicycle parts, builders hardware, construction material, hospital equipments, alpha tubes, electronic goods, consumer durables, drugs, pharmaceuticals & fine chemicals, dyes and intermediaries, agro-chemicals, paints, enamels, chemicals and allied products, manufactures of metals, plastic and linoleum products etc.
12.	Damascus International Trade Fair Damascus (Syria) Aug. 28-Sept. 10, 1997.	Agricultural equipments, tractors, chemicals and allied products, surgical items, hospital equipments, food products, tea, synthetic and rayong textiles etc.

1	2	3
13.	INDEXPO Muscat (Oman) Sept. 1-7, 1997 (Supported event)	Agricultural & gardening equipments, air conditioners, automobile accessories, baby requisites, beauty products, building materials, crockery and cutlery, dairy products, electricals & electronics, fishing equipments, foodstuff, furniture & furnishings, gems & jewellery, general consumer products, gift & novelty items, handloom & handicrafts, household appliances, kitchen equipments and requisites, leather & leather products, leisure & sports goods, machinery & machine tools, optical goods, pharmaceutical products, plastic & rubber products, project exports & services, sanitaryware.
14.	Pret-A-Porter, Paris, September 5-8, 1997.	Ladies' ready-to-wear garments and fashion accessories.
15.	Thessaloniki International Fair, Thessaloniki (Greece) September 6-15, 1997.	Gem & jewellery, readymade garments, marine products, leather items, plastic & linoleum consumer goods, handicrafts, handloom products, food items etc.
16.	INTERSIC Fair - International Leather Week, Paris (France), September, 7-9 1997.	Leather and leather goods.
17.	Nairobi International Show, Nairobi (Kenya), September, 1997.	Basic chemicals, drugs and pharmaceuticals, handtools, agro machinery, rubber products, hardware, agricultural products, motor vehicles, consumer products.
18.	EICMA-BICCI-International Cycle Exhibition Milan (Italy), September 16-21, 1997.	Motorcycles, bicycle and accessories.
19.	EPM-Engineering Production Machinery Hanoi (Vietnam) September 22-26, 1997.	Agricultural equipment, packaging industry, food processing, chemical industries, textile industries wood working Industries, communications infrastructure etc.
20.	Multi Products Show in French Reunion September/October, 1997.	Motor vehicles, food products, tea, marine products, leather products, textiles, electricals and electronics, sports goods, handicrafts, household items, granite etc.
21.	Tehran Intl. Trade Fair Tehran (Iran) October, 1997.	Auto parts, diesel engines, textile machinery, bicycles and parts, scientific and measuring instruments, wire ropes, nuts and bolts, frozen meat, tea, coffee, cardamom, spices, pesticides, leather manufactures, jute and hessian products.
22.	Anuga Food Fair Cologne (Germany), October 11-16, 1997.	Processed food and food products.

1	2	3
23	SAITEX'97 Johannesburg (South Africa) October 21-25, 1997.	General industrial, manufacturing & engineering, electrical engineering & electronics, mining and materials handling, chemical and petro chemical, plastics, rubber, industrial glass and alternative materials, packaging and printing, agriculture and food, textiles and clothing, building and construction, transport and automotive, information technology and business services.
24	FISA-International Trade Fair of Santiago (Chile), Oct. 31 - Nov. 9, 1997.	Capital goods and consumer goods, transport (trucks and buses), metal and plastic industry, environment, sports etc.
25	Baghdad International Fair, Baghdad (Iraq), November 1-15, 1997.	Medicines and medical equipments, automobiles spare parts, machinery spare parts, tyres, pharmaceuticals, electronics consumer items, consumer goods, toiletries, processed foods, textiles & yarns, rice, handicrafts etc.
26	Indian Exhibition Yangon (Myanmar) November, 1997.	Capital goods, machinery and technology for textiles jute, pesticides, edible oils, food processing, animal feed, cement, ceramic, rubber, leather, pulp, paper, transport equipments, scooters, motorcycles, bicycles, agricultural machinery, small scale plant and machinery, electric motors, diesel engines, mining machinery and equipments, machines tools, hand tools, building and construction material, hotel and restaurant equipment and supplies, drugs and Pharmaceuticals, chemicals, consumer goods, jute, hospital equipment, telecommunications, banking services, consultancy services etc.
27	Bahrain Autumn Fair, Bahrain Nov. 27- Dec. 5, 1997.	General products and consumergoods.
28	Indian Exhibition, (Made in India Show), Cairo (Egypt), First half of Dec. 1997.	Multi products.
29	DOMOTEX Hannover (Germany) January 11-14, 1998.	Woven carpets, textile floor coverings, flexible floor coverings, carpet (hand made), parquet floors, fibres, yarns, application technique, display, publications, associations, design.
30	Heimtextil Frankfurt (Germany), Jan. 14-17, 1998.	Home textiles, decoration textiles, furniture textiles, curtains, awnings, sun protection equipment, wall coverings, home accessories, carpets and floor coverings, household textiles, bath textile equipment, bedding mattresses, water beds, kitchen textiles, textile design, CAD, CAM, fibres and yarns.
31	Indian Exhibition Mexico City (Mexico) Feb. 1998.	Computer software, agricultural equipments, earth moving and mining equipment, auto parts, bicycles and parts, medical instruments, pharmaceuticals products, textile and sugar machinery, photographic paper, drugs, dyes & intermediaries, electronic goods, cotton fabrics, mixed and silk fabrics, ladies garments, carpets and rugs, handicraft items, artificial jewellery, spices, processed food, marine products, leather & leather manufactures etc.

1	2	3
32.	Saudi Arabia international Food, beverages and catering Exhibition incorporating food products and processing equipment, packaging machinery and material exhibition, Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) Feb. 15-18, 1998	Food products, beverages, catering and allied products.
33.	Ghana International Trade Fair Accra (Ghana), Feb. 28- March 10, 1998.	Capital goods, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, agro industrial machinery, building and construction products, electrical and scientific instruments, food and beverages, handicrafts etc.
34.	Expocomer International Commercial Exposition, Panama City (Panama) March 4-9, 1998.	Food & beverages, liquors, tobacco, electronic articles, higher technology services, apparels, footwear and fabrics.
35.	International Fashion Fabric Exhibition New York (USA) March 1998.	Apparel fabrics, trimmings and notions, design systems, publications.
36.	Kuwait International Trade Fair, Kuwait March, 1998.	Household-electric equipments & accessories, carpets, furniture, foodstuff, building, material, perfumes & cosmetics, garments, children's toys, handicrafts, watches, garden accessories leather products, household tools and instruments, light tools.
37.	International Hardware Show, Cologne (Germany) March 8-11, 1998.	Tools, fittings, locks and keys, security appliances and systems, protection against burglary, decorative metalware, DIY'TEC: Building chemistry, ceramics and tiles, paints, wall papers, decorators and paper hangers tools, building components, finishing, interior decoration, wooden products, DIY and take away furniture, sanitation equipment, electrical installation, lamps, hardware, DIY tools and fittings, ladders and scaffoldings, shops and warehouse fittings.
38.	Annual Spring Fair Basel (Switzerland) March 13-22, 1998.	Consumer goods, tourism products, handicrafts of high quality, value added products, garments etc.
39.	IMPORTSHOP Berlin (Germany) March, 1998.	Apparels, home textiles, leather goods, accessories, travel goods, pieces of furniture, carpets, basketry, ceramics, glass, chinaware, jewellery.
40.	TCF- International Textile Clothing Footwear and Fashion Accessories, Melbourne (Australia) March 31-April 2, 1998.	Textiles, clothing, footwear, leather goods and fashions accessories.
41.	2nd SAARC Trade Fair Lahore Pakistan	Multi products

Statement-IV*List of Fairs/Exhibitions to be organised by ITPO during 1997-98*

S.No.	Name & dates of the Fair	Venue	Display Profile
1	2	3	4
1.	Social Development Fair. April, 12-20, 1997	Pragati Maidan New Delhi	Social and Community Development.
2.	Consumexh May, 10-18, 1997	-do-	Household appliances, electrical appliances, giftware, furnishings, kitchen equipment, cosmetics jewellery & textiles etc.
3.	Delhi International Shoe Fair July, 28-31, 1997	-do-	Footwear for men, women and children, dress shoes for men & women, horachi shoes and sandals, Kolhapuri chappals, ballerinas, sandals etc.
4.	Shoe-Comp July 28-30, 1997	-do-	Components, accessories and manufacturing aids like soles, insoles, toe-puffs, counters, clicking knives, tacks, heels, straps, adhesive chemicals etc.
5.	Sajavat August 9-17, 1997	-do-	Giftware, artificial plants & flowers, crockery & cutler leather goods, toys, home appliances, food processing equipment, electrical goods etc.
6.	Delhi Book Fair August 9-17, 1997	-do-	Publishers, Book Sellers and Distributors, mfrs, Dealers of teaching aids, audio visual material, computer software and hardware, govt. and autonomous organisations concerned with publishing.
7.	Film and Television Industry Fair. August 23-31, 1997	-do-	Film Industry.
8.	Mystique India'97 Oct. 20-26, 1997	-do-	Aayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Homeopathy and Neturopathy, Naturopathy systems of medicine, Acupuncture and alternative therapies, Anti-sids, cancer, Polio remedies and heart care programmes, Yoga, Meditation Astrology, Palmistry Numerology and Vastu, Health Food Products and nature cure equipments etc.
9.	IITF'97 Nov. 14-27, 1997	-do-	All aspects of Industry, agriculture Trade and Scientific and Technologic innovations, special display, Techmart Technologies for small Industries, good living, HUDCO, Build-Tech, Toys Show etc.
10.	National Children's fair Dec. 28-31, 1997	-do-	Children's garments, toys, teaching aids, magazines, cards, posters, stationery items, musical, instruments, audio-Visual products, school items, decoratives for nursery & children's room and other items of children's interest.

1	2	3	4
11.	Winter Show'97 Dec. 20-31, 1997.	-do-	All type of Consumer products categories, giftware, textiles, good living home appliances etc.
12.	International Security Exhibition. Dec. 97 (Tentative)	-do-	Security systems, gadgets, instrument and accessories, etc.
13.	Tex-Styles India'98 Jan. 20-31, 1998.	-do-	Yarns, fibres, threads, fabrics, knits, home furnishings and made-ups CAD/CAM systems, light machinery for textile industry etc.
14.	Ahara'98 March 16-20, 1998.	-do-	Food processing/packing machinery, packing material, agricultural product fresh fruit and vegetables, hotel and restaurant industry, refrigeration machinery, kitchen equipment etc.
15.	Agri-Expo'98 March, 1998. (Tentative)	-do-	All aspects of agriculture, horticulture, floriculture, sericulture, highyielding seeds, fertilisers, chemical insecticides, pesticides, irrigation, tractors and farming machinery etc.
16.	India Int'l Leather Fair February 5-9, 1998.	Chennai	Footwear manufacturing machinery leather manufacturing machinery leather manufactures travel goods purses and fashion accessories etc.
17.	Int'l Leather Goods Fair, March 21-23, 1998.	Calcutta	Leather goods and products.

National Sericulture Project

5394. SHRI N.J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the states including Gujarat which have been selected for the National Sericulture Project and the details of works done under this project;

(b) the amount of financial assistance received from World Bank and Swiss Development Corporation for the said project till date; and

(c) the date by which this project is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):
(a) A World Bank/Swiss Development Cooperation assisted National Sericulture Project was implemented in 5 traditional sericulture States namely Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir and on a pilot basis in 12 non-traditional States namely Assam, Bihar, Kerala, Rajasthan, Orissa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

Under the project, the components financed are development oriented, with several innovative and synergic constituents. Besides creation of substantial infrastructural facilities by the States and CSB for the discharge of

functions like the supply of quality basic and rearer seed, markets for decentralised private rearers and reelers, research and development and training facilities for on-farm and off-farm activities the project has also attempted the incorporation of efforts by Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) by assisting 125 NGOs. The progress in quantitative as well as qualitative terms has not been insignificant and on the technology generation and absorption side, progress has ranged from the evolution of techniques for genetic marketing of live sericulture material to the introduction of low cost energy conserving ovens in reelers' establishments in the country.

(b) The World Bank/Swiss Development Cooperation have disbursed US \$ 120.9 million up to February, 1997 under the project.

(c) The project which commenced in 1989 has closed on 31st December, 1996.

[English]

Plywood Mills

5395. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been issuing licences for setting up of or upgradation of Veneer Mills to Plywood Mills;

(b) if so, the number of licences issued during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have considered the environmental aspects under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, while granting such licences;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(b) The number of Industrial Licences and Letters of Intent issued during the last three years for the manufacture of Plywood are as under:—

	Industrial Licences	Letters of Intent
1994	One	Three
1995	Two	One
1996	Two	Three

(c) to (e) Applications for grant of Letters of Intent for setting up new units for the manufacture of Plywood based on indigenous Timber are considered in consultation with the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

Traded with Romania

5396. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish an escrow account mechanism to promote bilateral trade with Romania;

(b) if so, whether under the proposed arrangement exports from India would be restricted to iron ore and manganese ore only and reciprocal imports to steel products;

(c) if so, the nodal agencies in India and Romania to operate the escrow account;

(d) whether the Government also propose similar escrow mechanism to promote bilateral trade with other countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) During the XIth Session of Indo-Romanian Joint Commission for Economic, Technical & Scientific Cooperation held recently, both sides agreed to opening of US dollar escrow account in Romania subject to certain laid down stipulation; provided the utilisation of funds takes place in 3 months. It would be subject to the modalities to be worked out by the Romanian and Indian commercial banks. However, it

is expected that in the proposed arrangement export from India and reciprocal import from Romania would not be restricted to one or two items.

(c) The nodal agency from India to operate this account will be Reserve Bank of India and from Romanian side it would be a bank to be nominated by the Romanian side.

(d) and (e) The Government is encouraging counter-trade arrangements with various other countries in order to boost bilateral trade.

Singareni Collieries

5397. SHRI K.P. NAIDU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Singareni Collieries fail to achieve production target during the last three years;

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

(c) the steps taken to solve the problems being faced by the company and increase the production to meet the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The details of targets and actual production of coal from the mines of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) during the last three years are as under:

(million tonnes)

Year	Target	Actual
1994-95	25.60	25.65
1995-96	28.00	26.77
1996-97	30.20	28.73

The main reasons of shortfall in production during 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as under:—

- (i) Power shortage/tripping.
- (ii) Absenteeism.
- (iii) Industrial disputes due to strikes and other extraneous reasons.
- (iv) Heavy rains.
- (v) Shifting of equipments and break-down of equipments.
- (vi) Other reasons which include lay-offs, Adverse geo-mining conditions.

(c) The steps taken by SCCL to solve the problems and increase the production are as under:—

- (i) Expediting construction of sanctioned on-going projects.

(ii) Taking up new projects to compensate for the depletion of output from the existing mines as well as to effect further growth.

(iii) Regular follow-up with the equipment suppliers to ensure timely supply.

(iv) Identification of suitable technologies for future and their adoption with appropriate foreign collaboration.

(v) Regular follow-up with State and Central Forest Departments to ensure forestry clearance for formulated and sanctioned projects.

(vi) Regular rapport with State Government authorities for maintenance of law and order problems.

Afforestation Project by Coal India Limited

5398. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of

COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited have been taken up afforestation projects in the areas of its different collieries;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on this account during each of the last three years, colliery-wise.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The details of collierywise expenditure on afforestation for last 3 years are very voluminous and as such subsidiarywise details of plantation and expenditure incurred thereon are furnished below:-

(All figures in lakhs)

Company	1994-1995		1995-1996		1996-1997	
	No. of plants	Amount spent	No. of plants	Amount spent	No. of plants	Amount spent
ECL	13.87	59.34	6.73	85.00	7.00	35.00
BCCL	3.00	24.00	0.86	N.A.	3.92	29.48
CCL	15.72	129.43	17.10	196.54	19.06	195.52
NCL	12.61	299.06	11.93	294.54	12.50	313.69
WCL	9.96	201.94	10.00	203.55	10.00	237.23
SECL	12.61	206.45	18.93	257.85	21.38	207.91
MCL	3.84	30.68	3.46	34.54	3.14	55.69
Total	71.61	950.90	69.01	1,072.02	77.00	1,074.53

Inland Container Depots

5399. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Inland Container Depots in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of depots proposed to be established during the current year and the Ninth Plan period;

(c) the status of Inland Container Depots proposed to be established at Guwahati;

(d) the details of Inland Container Depots established by private parties, State-wise; and

(e) the details of Inland Container Depots proposed to be established in the North-East region during Ninth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The details are given in statement-I.

(b) and (e) An inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) is functioning in the Ministry of Commerce since 1992 to provide single window clearance to the proposals for setting up of Inland Container Depots (ICDs)/Container Freight Stations (CFSs) in the country. Setting up of ICDs/CFSs is an ongoing process. No specific targets are formulated—year-wise, region-wise, etc. The proposals are considered by the IMC as and when received, on merits.

(c) The Container Corporation of India is already running an ICD at Amingaon (Guwahati). No fresh proposal has been received.

(d) The details are given in statement-II.

Statement-I*Details of Inland Container Depots (ICDs)/Container Freight Stations (CFSs) in the Country*

1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	Visakhapatnam, Sanathnagar (Hyderabad), Guntur, Chirala, Anaparti, Kakinada.
2.	Assam	—	Amingaon (Guwahati)
3.	Bihar	—	Raxaul
4.	Delhi	—	Tughlakabad, Patparganj.
5.	Goa	—	Verna.
6.	Gujarat	—	Kandla, Surat (2), Dasrath (Baroda), Nasik, Porbundar, Ahmedabad (2), Rajkot.
7.	Haryana	—	Faridabad, Rewari, Panipat, Barwala (near Chandigarh).
8.	Karnataka	—	Whitefield (Bangalore), New Mangalore, Panambur.
9.	Kerala	—	Cochin (5).
10.	Madhya Pradesh	—	Indore, Malanpur (Gwalior), Raipur.
11.	Maharashtra	—	Nhava Sheva, Dronagiri (3), Nagpur (2), Aurangabad, Jalgaon, Navi Mumbai, Waluj, Jashkar (Nhava Sheva), Wadibander, Pune, Bhandup, J.N. Port, Mulund.
12.	Orissa	—	Ballasore, Paradip Port.
13.	Punjab	—	Amritsar, Bhatinda, Ludhiana (2), Jalandhar.
14.	Rajasthan	—	Jodhpur, Jaipur, Udaipur, Kota, Bhiwara, Bhiwadi.
15.	Tamil Nadu	—	Chennai (in/around—II), Salem, Coimbatore, Singnallur, Tirupur, Tuticorin (3)
16.	Uttar Pradesh	—	Kanpur, Varanasi, Agra, Meerut, Unnao, Saharanpur, Allahabad, Moradabad.
17.	West Bengal	—	Calcutta (2), Silliguri, Haldia.

Statement - II*Details of Inland Container Depots (ICDs)/Container Freight Stations (CFSs) by Private Parties*

1.	Haryana	—	Barwala (near Chandigarh), Faridabad
2.	Gujarat	—	Porbundar, Surat
3.	Kerala	—	Cochin (5)
4.	Karnataka	—	New Mangalore
5.	Maharashtra	—	Nhava Sheva, Dronagiri, Jashkar (N. Sheva)
6.	Tamil Nadu	—	Tuticorin (2), Salem Tirupur Chennai (5)

Note: 1. Most of the ICDs/CFSs are functional while others are under different stages of implementation.

2. Figures in brackets indicate total number.

New Industries in Kerala

5400. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government are making large investments in some States like Haryana for setting up of industries;
- (b) if so, whether the Government propose to start new industries in Kerala also; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) There is no proposal at present in Ministry of Industry for setting up any new large and medium scale industries in the public sector in the States of Kerala and Haryana.

Corruption Charges Against Judges

5401. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court against whom enquiry is being conducted on corruption charges; and
- (b) the time by which this enquiry is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Constitution (81st Amendment) Bill

5402. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to introduce the Constitution (81st Amendment) Bill, as amended in line with the recommendations of the Joint Committee report on the proposed Bill during the current Budget Session of the Parliament;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) With a view to ensuring that the Constitution (Eighty-first Amendment) Bill, 1996 has a smooth passage in both Houses of Parliament, Government is ascertaining afresh, views of the various political parties. The first round of discussion with political parties has already been held and another is expected shortly.

Giddhi Washery

5403. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of Coal washed every month in Giddhi Washery;
- (b) whether better quality of coal is being sold in the name of piddling coal;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to stop this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Monthwise quantity of coal washed at Giddi Washery of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) during 1996-97 is as under:

Month	(Million Tonnes)
April, 1996	0.06
May, 1996	0.06
June, 1996	0.09
July, 1996	0.17
August, 1996	0.16
September, 1996	0.18
October, 1996	0.18
November, 1996	0.12
December, 1996	0.14
January, 1997	0.15
February, 1997	0.15
March, 1997	0.19
Total	1.65

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) and (d) Does not arise in view of answer to part (b) of the question.

Amendment in the RP Act, 1951

5404. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to amend the Section 195 of Representation of People Act, 1951 to enable deployment of employees of banks, public sector undertakings and educational institutions like Kendriya Vidyalayas for election purposes;
- (b) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Election Commission in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW

AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) There is no section 195 in the Representation of the People Act, 1951. However, a proposal was received from the Election Commission for amending section 159 of the said Act to provide that, in addition to employees of local authorities, employees of Public Sector Undertakings, autonomous bodies, statutory and non-statutory bodies aided by the Government could be deployed for election duties. This is one of the additional proposals on Electoral Reforms which are under discussion with leaders of various political parties.

[Translation]

Hotel Expenses of Officers of CIL

5405. PROF. RITA VERMA:

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on payment of Hotel bills of the officers of B.C.C.L. during their visits to Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai or other cities during the last three years;

(b) whether the guest houses of Coal India Ltd. are located in these cities;

(c) if so, the area-wise number thereof and the details of annual expenditure incurred on them during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check wasteful expenditure by asking all officers of B.C.C.L. to stay in Government Guest Houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The expenditure incurred during the last three years on payment of hotel bills of the officers of BCCL are as under:

1994—95	1995—96	1996—97 (upto Dec. 96)
Rs. 21,29,870	Rs. 24,18,398	Rs. 17,20,292

(b) Coal India maintains guest houses at Calcutta and New Delhi.

(c) Details of expenditure on CIL guest houses are as under:-

Location	Number of Guest Houses	Annual Expenditure (Rs. in lakh) during last three years		
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (provn.)
Calcutta	6	22.57	22.31	22.45
Delhi	5	35.69	33.27	35.06

(d) Necessary instructions have already been given by BCCL to all officers in BCCL to stay in guest houses where these are available. In case no accommodation is available in guest houses, non-availability certificates are issued by concerned authorities for making their arrangement for stay in hotel.

[English]

Election Commission

5406. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Electoral Officers of various States and Union Territories have proposed that powers to make rules to conduct polls be rested with the Election Commission;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government does not favour the proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

Appointment of Judges

5407. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any decision to amend the existing policy of appointment of judges;

(b) if so, the outlines of the decision taken by a bench of nine judges of Supreme Court recently;

(c) whether the Government have consulted the various political parties for the proposed amendments; and

(d) if so, the details of their views in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The conclusions arrived at by the majority judgement are given in the statement attached.

(c) and (d) The Government decided to introduce a Constitution Amendment Bill in Parliament to make changes in the existing system of appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court, Chief Justices of the High Courts, Judges of the High Courts and transfer of Judges of the High Courts. The draft Constitution (Eighty Second Amendment) Bill, 1997 has accordingly been circulated to members of Lok Sabha. A process of consultation has been initiated to evolve a consensus in this matter.

Statement

*Conclusions arrived at by the majority judgement
dt. 6. 10. 1993 of the Supreme Court of India.*

(1) The process of appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court and the High Courts is an integrated 'participatory consultative process' for selecting the best and most suitable persons available for appointment; and all the constitutional functionaries must perform this duty collectively with a view primarily to reach an agreed decision, subserving the constitutional purpose, so that the occasion of primacy does not arise.

(2) Initiation of the proposal for appointment in the case of the Supreme Court must be by the Chief Justice of India, and in the case of a High Court by the Chief Justice of that High Court; and for transfer of a Judge/Chief Justice of a High Court, the proposal has to be initiated by the Chief Justice of India. This is the manner in which proposals for appointments to the Supreme Court and the High Courts as well as for the transfers of Judges/Chief Justices of the High Courts must invariably be made.

(3) In the event of conflicting opinions by the constitutional functionaries, the opinion of the judiciary 'symbolised' by the view of the Chief Justice of India, and formed in the manner indicated, has primacy.

(4) No appointment of a Judge to the Supreme court or a High Court can be made, unless it is in conformity with the opinion of the Chief Justice of India.

(5) In exceptional cases alone, for stated strong cogent reasons, disclosed to the Chief Justice of India, indicating that the recommendee is not suitable for appointment, that appointment recommended by the Chief Justice of India may not be made. However, if the stated reasons are not accepted by the Chief Justice of India and the other Judges of the Supreme Court who have been consulted in the matter, on reiteration of the recommendation by the Chief Justice of India, the appointment should be made as a healthy convention.

(6) Appointment to the office of the Chief Justice of India should be of the seniormost Judge of the Supreme Court considered fit to hold the office.

(7) The opinion of the Chief Justice of India has not mere primacy, but is determinative in the matter of transfers of High Court Judges/Chief Justices.

(8) Consent of the transferred Judge/Chief Justice is not required for either the first or any subsequent transfer from one High Court to another.

(9) Any transfer made on the recommendation of the Chief Justice of India is not to be deemed to be punitive, and such transfer is not justiciable on any ground.

(10) In making all appointments and transfers, the norms indicated must be followed. However, the same do not confer any justiciable right on any one.

(11) Only limited judicial review on the grounds specified earlier is available in matters of appointments and transfers.

(12) The initial appointment of a Judge can be made to a High Court other than that for which the proposal was initiated.

(13) Fixation of Judge-strength in the High Courts is justiciable, but only to the extent and in the manner indicated.

Capital Coal Investment

5408. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether capital reserve in coal companies is increasing due to the excess capital investment being made therein;

(b) the total capital investment made during each of the last three years;

(c) the total loss incurred as a result thereof;

(d) whether the Government have reviewed the working of those companies which are incurring loss due to excess capital investment; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) There is no capital reserve in Coal India Limited (CIL).

(b) Total capital investment made in CIL during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 were Rs. 1687.92 crores, Rs. 1604.56 crores and Rs. 1503. 63 crores respectively.

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

Modernisation of Textiles Mills

5409. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to Modernise and Expand some Textile Mills during the Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the textile mills identified further modernisation and expansion during that plan period;

(c) the total amount of investment proposed to be made for the expansion and the modernisation of textile mills; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (d) 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 in this regard.

Export of Mangoes

5410 SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether mangoes and its pulp are being exported from Andhra Pradesh in large quantity during this year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the last year's export of mangoes from Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) whether Andhra Pradesh accounts for a big chunk of mangoes production in the country;
- (e) if so, whether, the Union Government have established an office of the Agriculture Processed Food and Export Development Authority to facilitate marketing of the product in the State of Andhra Pradesh in order to help growers;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of mangoes and pulps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Since state-wise export figures for mangoes and its pulp are not maintained, their export figures from Andhra Pradesh during the current year and last year are not available

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Government has recently sanctioned the opening of an office of APEDA in Hyderabad.

(f) APEDA is in the process of opening this office at Hyderabad. It will play a coordinating and complementary role between the Central and State Governments involved in Agricultural and Horticultural activities to promote exports of agricultural, horticultural produce including mangoes and its pulp. APEDA will be able to disseminate the latest developments/information at the National and international levels regarding agricultural and horticultural production and their trade related activities to the farmers, their associations and the exporters.

(g) The Government has taken various measures to boost export of horticultural products including mangoes and its pulp. These include:

(i) Supply of quality planting material and training of farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on integrated development of tropical, temperate and arid zone fruits;

(ii) Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment;

(iii) Provision of financial assistance to exporters/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised

transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/cold storage facilities;

(iv) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control;

(v) Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improving the acceptability of the product especially mangoes in overseas markets.

(vi) Arranging promotional campaigns in the potential markets overseas including buyer-seller meets with focus on mangoes, and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.

(vii) Provision of facilities, on an experimental basis, for the export of mangoes (Banganpalli and Totapuri) from Andhra Pradesh by sea during the current crop season in refrigerated container, to markets in South East Asia, Middle East and Europe.

Wind Energy

5411. SHRI L. RAMANA:

SHRI SURESH PRABHU:

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

(a) the total wind energy potential of western coast with state-wise breakup;

(b) the details of investment made during the last ten years to harness the wind energy potential, state-wise;

(c) the details of wind energy generated as on March 31, 1997.

(d) the details of strategy worked out, investment proposed and potential targetted to tap wind energy potential on western coast during 1997-98 and Ninth Five Year Plan, state-wise and Maharashtra in particular, both public and private sector;

(e) whether the programme has received a set-back because of insufficient and unreliable data-base provided by the Department; and

(f) if so, the steps being proposed to make up for the short-comings in planning and execution of the wind power generation programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR.S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) According to present estimates, a wind energy potential of 3000 MW has been estimated for Gujarat, 200 MW for Karnataka, 175MW for Kerala and 75 MW for Maharashtra, among the States on the western coast.

(b) Wind power installations have come about mainly through private sector investments. The total private sector investment over the last decade is estimated to have been Rs. 3000 crores. This has resulted in the setting up of around 850 MW of commercial wind power capacity. The state-wise breakup is indicated in statement-I attached.

Government support has been by way of wind resource assessment and a few demonstration projects undertaken by State agencies and Electricity Boards. The total expenditure by Government on such activities during the last 10 years has been about Rs. 75 crores.

(c) About 1.9 billion units of electricity have been fed to the state grids from wind power projects, as on 31st March, 1997.

(d) State-wise targets have not been fixed. The installation of wind power projects in each State will depend upon the identification of favourable sites, announcement of attractive policies by State Government concerned and private investments actually made. A target of 2000 additional MW of wind power capacity has been proposed for the Ninth Plan. During 1997-98, a capacity of 175 MW is likely to be installed all over the country.

(e) Wind data collected under the Wind Resource Assessment Programme of the Ministry is based on actual long-term measurements and is quite reliable and adequate for panning of wind power projects. As a result of initiatives taken and policies introduced on several fronts, a wind power capacity of 900 MW has been established in the country by the end of the Eighth Plan, mostly by the private sector. There has not been any setback to the programme because of insufficient and unreliable data base. This is borne out of the fact that, even during 1996-97, a capacity of about 170 MW has been added, despite the cash crunch in the economy.

(f) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has already issued guidelines to all concerned for proper planning, implementation, and operation & maintenance of wind power projects with a view to optimise generation and transfer to the grid of electrical power from wind electric generators. During the 9th Plan, special emphasis is proposed to be given to enlargement of the wind resource data base and to technology development and upgradation.

Statement

Wind Power Programme

Installed Capacity (In MW) at a Glance (as on 31.03.1997)

State	Demonstration Projects	Commercial Projects	Total
1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu	19.355	655.520	674.875
Gujarat	17.345	129.465	146.810
Andhra Pradesh	3.050	51.240	54.290
Madhya Pradesh	0.590	9.000	9.590
Maharashtra	4.600	0.770	5.370

1	2	3	4
Karnataka	2.575	3.270	5.845
Kerala	2.025	—	2.025
Orissa	1.100	—	1.100
Others	0.465	—	0.465
Total	51.105	849.265	900.370

[Translation]

Khadi and Village Industries Commission

5412. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down by Khadi and Village Industries Commission for sanction of loan for brick kilns;

(b) the total amount of loan sanctioned by KVIC for brick kilns and cottage industries (paper manufacturers) during 1995-96, State-wise; and

(c) the State-wise details of number of kilns to whom the loan was sanctioned but denied by banks?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Consequent upon the recommendations of the High Power Committee, the loans are sanctioned based on the project submitted by the institutions/individuals. After scrutiny of the viability and feasibility of the project the loans are being sanctioned.

(d) During 1995-96 for above two industries, loans were sanctioned for the continuing programmes, based on pattern approach. The Statement showing statewide disbursement of funds during 1995-96 towards continuing programmes of brick kilns and handmade paper industry based on the pattern approach is enclosed.

(c) Since no funds were released under brick kiln industry based on the project approach during 1995-96, the question does not arise. However, 10 projects for the manufacture of building bricks have been cleared by Banking Division of KVIC under Consortium Bank Credit and the same are being put up to Standing Finance Committee for sanction.

Statement

Funds released for Brick Kiln and Handmade Paper during the year 1995-96 under KVIC

S.No.	Name of the State	Brick Kiln	Handmade Paper
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.50	18.83
2.	Assam	-	-
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-
4.	Bihar	-	-
5.	Goa	-	-
6.	Gujarat	-	-
7.	Haryana	-	12.99
8.	Himachal Pradesh	-	13.99
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	11.92
10.	Karnataka	-	0.45
11.	Kerala	-	6.71
12.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-
13.	Maharashtra	7.125	149.92
14.	Manipur	-	0.80
15.	Meghalaya	-	-
16.	Mizoram	-	1.64
17.	Nagaland	1.25	-
18.	Orissa	-	1.75
19.	Punjab	-	4.20
20.	Rajasthan	-	1.88
21.	Sikkim	-	14.28
22.	Tamilnadu	-	-
23.	Tripura	-	-
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1.50	127.73
25.	West Bengal	-	6.89

Union Territories

1.	Andman and Nicobar Islands	-	-
2.	Chandigarh	-	-
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-
4.	Delhi	-	7.59
5.	Daman and Diu	-	-
6.	Pondicherry	-	-
7.	Lakshdweep	-	-

[English]**Freedom for Investment Decision by PSUs**

5413. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item under the captioned "Nine PSUs demand freedom to make investment decisions" appearing in the Financial Express dated April 25, 1997;

(b) if so, the details regarding facts of the matter;

(c) the reaction of the Government to the various observations made therein; and

(d) the details of decision taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) As announced in the Union budget, the consultations with the "Navratna" PSUs have taken place to formulate the strategies so as to make them global giants by imparting financial and managerial autonomy to these PSUs. This is a continuous process. No decision has been taken in this regard.

[Translation]**Production of coal**

5414. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of coal produced in Bihar during each of the last three years and the total revenue earned therefrom;

(b) whether any scheme is being contemplated for the development of Bihar by proper exploitation of coal and using the revenue earned therefrom;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Value of coal produced in Bihar during the last three years and revenue earned therefrom is as under:-

Year	Value of coal produced (in Rs. crores)	Revenue earned by the State (in Rs. crores)
1994-95	2719	708
1995-96	3049	779
1996-97	3567	817
(Provisional)		

(b) to (d) In addition to optimisation of production from the existing and on-going projects new schemes/projects have been taken up by Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL), Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) and Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL) for proper exploitation of coal reserves in the State of Bihar.

The Coal Companies spend sizable amount from their revenue for the welfare of the employees in the areas of education, water supply, hospital facilities and build infrastructure, such as roads in the colliery areas. Since most of the employees are usually from the local areas, it leads to better living standard of the local people and boosts up the economic activities and development of the area through backward and forward linkages.

[English]

Computer Aided Development Centres

5415. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) How many Computer Aided Development Centres (CAD) under his Ministry and its subordinate office are functioning;

(b) how many out of them are functioning in Karnataka;

(c) whether there is any proposal to open more CAD centres in the State during 1997-98, and

(d) if so, the places where these centres are proposed to be opened.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Textiles have sanctioned Computer Aided Design Centres at the following places:-

S. No.	Place	Year of Sanction	Implementing Agency
1	2	3	4
1.	Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)	1993-94	SITRA
2.	Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	1993-94	SITRA
	(Transferred to Karur Tamil Nadu)		
3.	Surat (Gujarat)	1993-94	BTRA
4.	Solapur (Maharashtra)	1993-94	BTRA
5.	Bhiwandi (Maharashtra)	1994-95	SASMIRA
6.	Bhilwara (Rajasthan)	1994-95	NITRA
7.	Bangalore (Karnataka)	1994-95	SITRA

1	2	3	4
8.	Burhanpur (Madhya Pradesh)	1995-96	Madhya Pradesh Rajya Powerloom Bunkar Sahakari Sangh, Maryadit.
9.	Amritsar (Punjab)	1996-97	Textile Commissioner.
10.	Erode (Tamil Nadu)	1996-97	Textile Commissioner.

(c) and (d) During the year 1997-98, there is a proposal to open 4 new centres in various parts of the country. The location of these Computer Aided Design Centres will be decided on receipt of suggestions/proposals from State Governments/Textile Research Associations, Textile Commissioner, and on the basis of areas of powerloom concentration.

Free Import from Neighbouring Countries

5416. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently declared more items for free import from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal; and

(b) if so, the details of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir vide Public Notice No 401, dated 28th February, 1997, issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, India has relaxed import restrictions on 180 items if exported from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal, subject to the condition that the goods have been manufactured in these countries. This relaxation of import restrictions has been made under SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA), to increase the trade with the Least Developed Country (LDC) members of SAARC.

[Translation]

Setting up of a Spices Board Centre in Maharashtra

5417. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Spices Board proposes to set up a centre in Maharashtra to give boost to spices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for imparting training to the farmers to check heavy use of pesticides for increasing the export of chilly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) A regional office of Spices Board is already functioning in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Further, the activities of the Board on Post Harvest Improvement of Spices in Maharashtra are being looked after by its regional office of Ahmedabad.

(c) Pesticide residue problem on chilli in Maharashtra has not been reported. However, during the current financial year Spices Board has plans to organise training programmes of half day duration at ten centres of production in Maharashtra to educate the chilli growers on post harvest improvement including pesticide residue problem with the participation of State agriculture/Horticulture Departments.

[English]

Silk Products

5418. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI N. DENNIS:

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA:

DR KRUPASINDHU BHOI

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether target of production of silk and export has not been achieved by the Government during the Eighth plan period;

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

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to meet its target?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) There has been a shortfall in the production of raw silk and export of silk products as compared to the targets fixed for the VIIIth plan period. During the VIIIth plan period, the Planning Commission has envisaged a target of 21,400 tonnes for the production of raw silk and the target fixed for the exports to be achieved in the terminal year of the VIIIth plan (1996-97) is Rs. 1,000 crores. Against these targets, the achievements anticipated at the end of 1996-97 are 15,140 tonnes raw silk production and the exports of silk goods during 1996-97 would be Rs. 880.62 crores (prov.). The reasons for the shortfall in raw silk production are the stresses faced by the sericulture sector such as adverse seasonal condition leading to a dip in the mulberry area in certain States, erratic prices as well as fall in international mulberry raw silk prices. In order to increase and improve productivity/production of raw silk during the IXth Plan period, efforts are being made through programmes/schemes of CSB focussed on providing catalytic development assistance to industry as well as states and in this effort, the infrastructure created and the research efforts of the VIIIth Plan period are likely to help.

In so far as exports are concerned the reasons for

shortfall have been changed in customer preferences and general recession in major markets like USA and Europe. In order to boost the exports of silk products, the Government continues to provide various incentives to the industry such as providing assistance to the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council for undertaking various export promotion activities. Besides, the measures 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 production, etc. are being continued under the new EXIM policy.

Office of the Garment Export Promotion Council

5419. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to open offices of Government Export Promotion Council in Maharashtra and Gujarat is lying pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir. The decisions relating to opening of the regional offices of the Export Promotion Councils are taken by the Councils themselves.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Export of Coffee

5420. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR': Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

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

(b) whether any target has been fixed for the export of coffee during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of coffee during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The total quantity of coffee exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years is given below:

Year (April-March)	Quantity (in tonne)	Value (US\$ million)	Value (Rs. crore)
1994-95	1,37,395	342.12	1096.68
1995-96	1,70,990	456.00	1527.16
1996-97 (provisional)	1,64,403	410.75	1326.40

Country-wise details of export of coffee is available in the Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by DGCI&S, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A target of 1,50,000 tonnes has been fixed for export of coffee during 1997-98.

(d) For boosting export of coffee, Coffee Board is focussing on targeted import 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.

Import of articles Reserved for SSI

5421. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV:

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether the recent announcement of the Government giving facilities for the import of 542 articles in the country has adversely affected Indian industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of articles included in the above list which are in daily use of common consumer and which are reserved for small scale sector; and

(d) whether the Government have provided incentives to the industrial units which are producing above articles so that they can successfully compete with the imported articles?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Export-Import Policy for 1997-98 has put 542 additional items under the Open General Licence (OGL) and Special Import Licence (SIL) for import. This is part of the Government's policy of economic liberalisation for making our industries more competitive.

(c) Of the 542 items put in OGL, SIL only 5 items (category) are reserved for small scale sector of which 3 are of daily/common use.

(d) Several incentives and concessions are provided to the small scale industries including those manufacturing the above items so as to improve the competitiveness of the small scale sector within the overall economy of the country. These include excise concession, priority sector lending, technology and extension support services and reservation of SSI products and price preference for SSI products in the Government procurement.

Textiles Mills, Kanpur

5422. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to close down BIC textile mills, Kanpur;

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

(c) the steps taken to revive these mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILE (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) BIC and its cotton subsidiaries viz. Elgin Mills Co. Ltd. and Cawnpore Textiles Ltd. have been ordered to be wound up by the BIFR. The appeals of these companies against the winding up orders are pending before the AAIFR. Pending a final decision by the AAIFR, Government are providing funds for payment of wages, salaries and bonus to the workers/employees of BIC and its subsidiaries.

[English]

All India Powerloom Board

5423. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an All India Powerloom Board/Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof particularly its composition and terms of reference; and

(c) by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) The Government have already set up an All India Powerloom Board vide Resolution No. 1/12/96-W&P dated 21st April, 1997 for a period of two years. The Board will advise the Government generally on matters concerning the healthy development of powerlooms within the power operated weaving sector, including measures to be taken to achieve better productivity, increased efficiency, improve welfare of workers and locational dispersal of powerlooms. A Statement showing the composition of the Board is attached.

Statement

The All India Powerloom Board consist of the following members:

CHAIRMAN

1. Minister of Textiles, Government of India, New Delhi.

VICE CHAIRMAN

2. Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

3. Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser, Ministry of Textiles, New Delhi.

4. Joint Secretary (Incharge of Powerlooms), Ministry of Textiles, New Delhi.
5. A representative of Planning Commission, Government of India, Yojana Bhavan, New Delhi.
6. A representative of Department of Small Scale Industries, Ministry of Industry, Government of India, New Delhi.
7. A representative of National Bank of Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), Mumbai.
8. A representative of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Lucknow.
9. A representative of State Bank of India.
10. A representative of Canara Bank.
11. Secretary/Director (Incharge of Powerlooms), Government of Tamil Nadu, Madras.
12. Secretary/Director (Incharge of Powerlooms), Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai.
13. Secretary/Director (Incharge of Powerlooms), Government of Gujarat, Gandhi Nagar.
14. Secretary/Director (Incharge of Powerlooms), Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
15. Secretary/Director (Incharge of Powerlooms), Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
16. Secretary/Director (Incharge of Powerlooms), Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar.
17. Secretary/Director (Incharge of Powerlooms), Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur.
18. Managing Director, Assam State Powerloom Development Corporation Ltd., Dispur, Assam.
19. Chairman/Director, Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association (ATIRA), Ahmedabad.
20. Chairman/Director, Bombay Textile Research Association (BTRA), Mumbai.

NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS

21. Shri M.Y. Momin, President, Bhiwandi Powerlooms Weavers Association, Bhiwandi, Thane Distt., Maharashtra.
22. Shri Dhanpal Tare, President All India Federation of Powerloom Weavers Association, Ichalkaranji, Maharashtra.
23. Shri Arun N. Jariwal, President, Surat Artsilk cloth Manufacturers Association, Surat, Gujarat.
24. Shri T.V. Maruthi, Chairman, KPCC (I) Weavers Committee, Bangalore, Karnataka.
25. Shri A.K. Bhasin, President, Uttar Pradesh Powerloom Owners Association, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

26. Shri M.S. Mathivanan, Secretary, Tamil Nadu Powerloom Federation, Komarapalayam, Salem Distt., Tamil Nadu.
27. Shri B.S. Umashankar, Doddaballapur, Bangalore Distt., Karnataka.
28. Shri H.S. Makhni, Hon. General Secretary, The Textile Manufacturers Association, Amritsar.
29. President, Burhanpur Powerloom Association, Burhanpur, Madhya Pradesh.

MEMBER SECRETARY

30. Textile Commissioner, Ministry of Textiles, New CGO Building, New Marine Lines, Mumbai.

*[Translation]***UNDP Assistance for Jute**

5424. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA:

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to seek assistance from World Bank and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the development of jute growing region;

(b) if so, the details thereof and details of the schemes prepared for this purpose;

(c) the amount earmarked for this scheme; and

(d) to what extent the jute industry is likely to become financially viable as a result thereof?

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

(a) No, Sir. However, a UNDP assisted National Jute Development Programme is already under implementation since 1992.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Transfer of Judges

5425. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA:

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the details of transfers of judges of High Courts made during each of the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): The requisite information is given in the statement attached.

Statement

I. Particulars of Chief Justices who have been Appointed/Transferred from one High Court to another during the period from 1.5.95 to 30.4.97

S.No.	Name of the Judge	Transferred	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
	S/Shri Justice		
1.	P.S. Misra	Madras	Andhra Pradesh
2.	G.B. Pattanaik	Orissa	Patna
3.	M.L. Pendse	Bombay	Karnataka
4.	M.B. Shah	Gujarat	Bombay
5.	D.P. Wadhawa	Delhi	Patna
6.	V.N. Khare	Allahabad	Calcutta
7.	D.P. Mohapatra	Orissa	Allahabad
8.	K.M. Agarwal	Andhra Pradesh	Sikkim
9.	G.D. Kamat	Bombay	Gujarat
10.	R.P. Sethi	Punjab & Haryana	Karnataka
11.	U.P. Singh	Allahabad	Kerala
12.	S.N. Phukan	Himachal Pradesh	Orissa
13.	K. Sreedharan	Kerala	Punjab & Haryana
14.	M. Srinivaasan	Madras	Himachal Pradesh
15.	M.G. Mukherji	Calcutta	Rajasthan
<i>II. Particulars of Judges who have been Transferred from one High Court to another</i>			
16.	R.K. Mahajan	Himachal Pradesh	Allahabad
17.	Ripusudan Dayal	Sikkim	Allahabad
18.	Malay Sengupta	Calcutta	Sikkim
19.	S.C. Datta	Punjab & Haryana	Orissa
20.	Anup Deb	Gauhati	Orissa
21.	Dr. Maithli Sharan	Andhra Pradesh	Allahabad
22.	P.K. Palli	Rajasthan	Himachal Pradesh
23.	S.D. Pandit	Delhi	Gujarat
24.	Bhawani Singh	Himachal Pradesh	Jammu & Kashmir
25.	Surinder Sarup	Patna	Himachal Pradesh
26.	N.K. Agarwal	Rajasthan	Punjab & Haryana
27.	S.S. Nijjar	Punjab & Haryana	Bombay

1	2	3	4
28.	V.K. Gupta	Jammu & Kashmir	Calcutta
29.	R.P. Gupta	Calcutta	Madhya Pradesh
30.	J.C. Verma	Punjab & Haryana	Rajasthan
31.	J.S. Sidhu	Allahabad	Rajasthan
32.	A.P. Singh	Allahabad	Gauhati
33.	S.C. Saraf	Gauhati	Allahabad
34.	T.N. Vallinayagam	Madras	Karnataka
35.	S. Marimuthu	Madras	Kerala
36.	Dipak Misra	Orissa	Madhya Pradesh

Import of Newsprint

5426. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI:

SHRI VIJAY GOEL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries from which the newsprint has been imported during each of the last three years alongwith quantity of paper imported and the foreign exchange spent thereon, year-wise; and

(b) the effect of these imports on the indigenous industries?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Newsprint is imported mainly from USA, Canada, Russia, China, Germany, Sweden etc. The import of newsprint during the last three years has been as under:-

Year	Quantity (lakh tonnes)	Value (Rs. Crore)
1994-95	2.92	489.60
1995-96	3.45	1005.22
1996-97	5.25	1028.22
(1.4.96 to 28.2.97)		

(b) Indigenous newsprint manufacturing industry has been facing problems due to declining prices of newsprint internationally and consequent availability of imported newsprint at lower rates. The estimated demand for the newsprint in the country is 6.80 lac tonnes, and installed capacity is 7.68 lac tonnes. Thus imports of 5.25 lac tonnes has adversely affected the viability of existing units.

[English]

Cotton Export Quota

5427. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHAL RAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has urged the Union Government to release further export quota of two lakh bales in favour of Maharashtra;

(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) Yes Sir.

(c) During the 1996-97 cotton season till 9/4/1997, the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation Ltd. have been allotted an export quota of 1 lakh bales. Allocations are considered after taking into account all relevant factors, including estimates of production, availability, consumption, likely surplus, price trends, etc.

[Translation]

Balance of Trade

5428. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import has increased;

(b) if so, the details of import and export made during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 with its value thereof, country-wise;

(c) whether the import of Petroleum and Petroleum products has increased during the above period;

(d) if so, the details of its percentage out of the total import made during the above period with its value thereof; and

(e) the reasons for increase in import and the facilities provided by the Government to promote the import during the above period?

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

(b) As per the DGCI&S data the level of imports during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (Provisional) are US \$ 28654 million US \$ 36678 million and US \$ 38548 million. Exports during the same period were to the tune of US \$ 26330 million, US \$ 31797 million US \$ 33106 million.

The details of country-wise imports and exports trade are voluminous and are available in Monthly Publication "Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India by Countries" Vol.I & Vol.II published by DGCI&S, Calcutta and which are also placed in the Parliament Library.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per data available from Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, the import of petroleum products during 1994-95 and 1995-96 and 1996-97(P) are US \$ 5712.89 million and 7155.92 million and US \$ 9616.48 million respectively. These accounted for 19.9%, 19.5% and 24.9% of total imports in the respective years.

(e) Imports are made as per the needs of the economy. The policy framework as prevalent at present is aimed at promoting exports.

Hindi Advisory Committee

5429. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Official Language Advisory Committee has been constituted in the Ministry of Coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The term of Hindi Salahkar Samiti of the Ministry has expired on 22.9.1996. A New Samiti is being reconstituted. The Ministry of coal has sent a Resolution letter to the Ministry of Home Affairs (Department of Official Language) for giving final approval to the Constitution of this Committee. After receipt of their approval, the Samiti would be reconstituted.

Foreign Trade

5430. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with which the foreign trade of India increased during each of the last three years alongwith the details of items thereof; country-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to boost foreign trade; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The country's foreign trade has shown an increase during the last three years. Imports have increased from US \$ 23.3 billion in 1993-94 to US \$ 28.7 billion in 1994-95, to US \$ 36.7 billion in 1995-96 and US \$ 38.5 billion in 1996-97 (Provisional). Exports during the same period have increased from US \$ 22.2 billion in 1993-94 to US \$ 26.3 billion in 1994-95, to US \$ 31.8 billion in 1995-96 and to US \$ 33.1 billion in 1996-97 (Provisional). India has trade relations with almost all the countries in the world and covering a large number of items. The details of countrywise and commodity wise trade are voluminous and are contained in the monthly publication "Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India by Countries" Vol.I & Vol.II published by DGCI&S, Calcutta and which are also available in the Parliament Library.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Export promotion is a continuous process and steps are initiated by the Government to promote exports through simplification of policies and procedures, improving bilateral trade, debottlenecking of export infrastructure, and enhancing the quality and competitive edge of Indian products.

[English]

Cases admitted by Lok Adalats

5431. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases taken up by the Lok Adalats during each of the last two years, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases settled and the number of persons convicted; and

(c) the nature of offence and punishment awarded, State-wise/year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) The information with regard to number of cases taken up and cases settled by the Lok Adalats during each of the last two years, State-wise is being collected from the State Legal Aid & Advice Boards and would be laid on the Table of the House when received.

Only such of the criminal cases which are compoundable with the permission of the Court are being taken by the Lok Adalats where the question of conviction punishment awarded does not arise.

Trade Deficit

5432. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is sharp increase in the country's trade deficit;

(b) if so, the percentage of rise in the trade deficit since January, 1997;

(c) the main reasons for the phenomenal rise in the trade deficit; and

(d) the manner in which the Government propose to narrow down the trade deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) As per the DGCI&S data, trade deficit in 1996-97 (Provisional) is placed at around US \$ 5442 million which is higher than the deficit of US \$ 4539 million in the previous year.

(b) As per DGCI&S data (Provisional), trade deficit during April-January 1996-97 was US \$ 4289 million which has since gone upto US \$ 5442 million in April-March 1996-97, a rise of 26.9%.

(c) Trade deficit is the excess of imports over exports. While imports are related to the needs of the economy, exports depend inter alia on various factors such as international market conditions, tariff and non-tariff barriers, domestic infrastructure, cost of export credit, policy framework etc.

(d) 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 procedures, improving efficiency and competitiveness, focussing on quality and technology upgradation, efforts to actively involve the State Government in export promotion. Export promotion is continuing activity based on interaction with industry, trade and other export promotional institutions.

Decline in Export

5433. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of share of Calcutta Sea and Air Port in all India Foreign Trade has declined during 1995-96 as compared to that in 1985-86;

(b) if so, the reasons for decline in the share;

(c) the steps taken to increase the share; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

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

(b) The growth rate of exports from the other regions has apparently been more rapid compared to the growth

rate of Calcutta Sea and Air Ports.

(c) and (d) The export promotion measures initiated by the Govt. from time to time are general in nature and are not directed to any particular region, port/air port. The selection of a particular port/air port is made by the facility users.

[Translation]

Prices of coal

5434. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI;

SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of coal produced in the country has constantly been increasing;

(b) if so, impact of such increase on power tariff;

(c) the percentage of increase in the prices of various grades of coal in the country after deregulation of coal prices;

(d) the additional amount earned by coal companies as a result thereof;

(e) whether assessment of increase in coal production has also made during the said period; and

(f) if so, the quantum of increase in coal production, grade-wise?

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

(b) The impact on power of such price increase after deregulation is 7.85 paise/KWH.

(c) The percentages of increase in the prices of various grades of coal by Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) after deregulation of coal prices are given below:

Coal India Limited

Date of effect of coal prices revision	Grades of Coal	Average percentage of price increase
1	2	3
1.4.96	Coking coal and A,B & C grades of non-coking coal	19%
20.10.96	—do—	10%
1.4.97	D,E,F & G grades of non-coking coal	29%

1	2	3
Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.		
14.4.96	C grade of non-coking coal	20.95%
14.11.96	B&C grades of non-coking coal	19.10%
15.3.97	—do—	1.25%
15.3.97	D,E,F & G grades of non-coking coal	41.62%

(d) The additional amount to be realised by CIL and SCCL as a result of above price increase during 1996-97 was Rs. 1338 crores and Rs. 135 Crores respectively.

(e) and (f) The gradewise targets and estimated production during 1996-97 and Planning Commissions assessments for 1997-98 are as under:

Coal India Limited (In Million Tonnes)

Grades	1996-97 (Targets)	1996-97 (Anticip.)	1997-98 (Assessment by Planning Commission)
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1	2	3	4
Coking Coai	39.89	38.74	40.61
Non-Coking Coal			
A	4.65	4.45	4.50
B	24.55	22.75	23.10
C	38.34	46.58	48.33
D	39.65	33.75	34.05
E	21.78	24.09	23.57
F	75.24	80.68	85.39
G	6.50	0.00	0.00
Sub-Total	210.71	212.30	218.94
Others	0.40	0.16	0.15
Ungraded	1.00	0.80	0.80
Total	252.00	260.50	260.50

Singareni Collieries Company Limited

Non-Coking Coal

A	—	—	—
B	—	0.07	0.15
C	8.57	7.46	7.38
D	8.10	9.24	9.57

1	2	3	4
E	7.03	7.37	6.94
F	5.91	5.62	6.31
G	0.60	0.45	0.65
Total	30.20	30.20	31.00

[English]

Janata Cloth Scheme

5435. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the state-wise names of the agencies which have been manufacturing Janata Cloth;

(b) the targets fixed for manufacturing Janata Cloth during the last three years and the extent to which the said targets were attained, State-wise;

(c) the targets fixed for the year 1997-98;

(d) whether Janata Cloth Scheme has failed to achieve its objective to provide employment to handloom weavers and make available cloth at cheaper rates to weaker section of the society; and

(e) if so, the reasons thereof?

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

(a) Details are given in Statement-I attached.

(b) Details are given in Statement-II attached.

(c) Not yet fixed.

(d) and (e) The Janata Cloth Scheme was introduced with the twin objective of providing sustained employment to unemployed and under-employed handloom weavers and to provide cloth at affordable prices to the consumers particularly to the weaker section of the society. The objective of the scheme was achieved to a great extent by providing employment to lakhs of handloom weavers and by providing cheaper cloths to the consumers.

Statement-I

*Name of the Janata Cloth Implementing Agencies
(Statewise)*

Andhra Pradesh

1. Andhra Pradesh State Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society Ltd., Hyderabad.
2. Andhra Pradesh State Textile Corporation Ltd., Hyderabad.

Assam

1. Assam Apex Weavers and Artisans Co-operative Federation Ltd., Guwahati.
2. Assam Government Marketing Corporation Ltd., Guwahati.
3. Brahmaputra Valley Regional Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society Ltd., Guwahati.
4. Barak Valley Weavers and Artisans Co-operative Ltd., Guwahati.
5. Karimgunj Distt. Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society Ltd., Karimgunj.
6. N.C. Hills Tribal Regional Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society Ltd., Haflong.

Bihar

1. Bihar State Handloom Weavers Co-operative Union Ltd., Patna.
2. Bihar State Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd., Patna.
3. Chhotanagpur Regional Handloom Weavers Co-operative Union Ltd., Ranchi.

Gujarat

1. Gujarat State Handloom and Industrial Co-operative Federation Ltd., Ahmedabad.
2. Gujarat State Handloom Development Corporation Ltd., Ahmedabad.

Jammu & Kashmir

1. J & K State Handloom Development Corporation Ltd., Jammu.

Karnataka

1. Karnataka Co-operative Handloom Weavers Federation Ltd., Bangalore.
2. Karnataka Handloom Development Corporation Ltd., Bangalore.

Madhya Pradesh

1. M.P. State Textile Corporation Ltd., Bhopal.

Maharashtra

1. Maharashtra State Handloom Corporation Ltd., Nagpur.
2. Vidarabha Weavers Central Co-operative Society Ltd., Nagpur.
3. Western Maharashtra Central Weavers Co-operative Association, Solapur.

Orissa

1. Orissa State Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society Ltd., Bhubaneswar.
2. Orissa State Handloom Development Corporation Ltd., Bhubaneswar.

Punjab

1. Punjab State Handloom Weavers Apex Co-operative Society Ltd., Chandigarh.

Rajasthan

1. Rajasthan Rajya Bunkar Sahkari Sangh Ltd., Jaipur.
2. Rajasthan Handloom Development Corporation Ltd., Jaipur.

Tamil Nadu

1. Tamil Nadu Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society Ltd., Chennai.

Tripura

1. Tripura Apex Weavers Co-operative Society Ltd., Agartala.
2. Tripura Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd., Agartala.

Uttar Pradesh

1. U.P. Industrial Co-operative Association Ltd., Kanpur.
2. U.P. State Handloom Corporation Ltd., Kanpur.

West Bengal

1. West Bengal State Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society Ltd., Calcutta.
2. West Bengal Handloom and Powerloom Development Corporation Ltd., Calcutta.

Statement-II*Target and achievements for the years 1994-95, 1995-96 & 1996-97*

S No.	State	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Upto
		1994-95		1995-96		1996-97		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	41.00	30.53	32.00	6.92	0.72	0.01	Feb'97
2.	Assam	27.00	25.62	21.00	21.33	14.43	11.26	Feb'97
3.	Bihar	16.00	6.41	12.50	3.58	3.40	3.67	Dec'96
4.	Gujarat	6.50	4.36	5.00	0.42	1.27	0.25	March'97
5.	J & K	0.50	0.52	0.50	0.40	0.34	0.28	Dec'96
6.	Karnataka	26.00	25.52	20.00	23.34	19.48	18.00	March'97
7.	Madhya Pradesh	13.00	8.79	10.00	6.30	3.75	3.84	March'97
8.	Maharashtra	24.00	19.38	19.00	18.44	15.66	9.59	Feb'97
9.	Orissa	23.50	8.13	18.50	17.74	14.85	1.93	Dec'96
10.	Punjab	1.00	0.50	1.00	0.74	0.68	0.63	Dec'96
11.	Rajasthan	7.00	4.56	5.50	2.77	2.33	1.01	March'97
12.	Tamil Nadu	34.00	30.52	27.00	29.40	22.91	27.56	March'97
13.	Tripura	2.50	1.54	2.00	1.61	1.65	1.03	March'97
14.	Uttar Pradesh	70.00	27.49	55.00	46.42	37.76	1.83	Feb'97
15.	West Bengal	26.00	23.74	20.00	19.45	10.77	7.65	Dec'96
Total		318.00	217.61	249.00	198.86	150.00	88.54	
		+ 2.00*		+ 1.00*				
		320.00		250.00				

*Kept in reserve.

[Translation]

Bio-Gas Plants

5436. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) total amount allocated for setting up of Bio-gas plants under the National Project for development of Bio-gas during the last three years to Rajasthan, year-wise;

(b) the total number of plants set up in Churu and Nagaur districts of Rajasthan under this scheme last year and target fixed for the current year; and

(c) the proposed target fixed in the State during the 9th Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) A sum of Rs. 147.52 lakh, Rs. 121.45 lakh and Rs. 33.98 lakhs was released to the State Government of Rajasthan during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97, respectively, under the Central Sector Scheme—National Project on Biogas Development. Besides, Khadi and Village Industries Commission and All India Women's Conference have also promoted biogas plants in the State.

(b) A total of 290 biogas plants have been set up in Churu and Nagaur districts of Rajasthan during 1996-97 and a total target of 250 plants has been proposed by the State Government for these districts for 1997-98.

(c) The State Government has proposed a target of setting up of about 10,000 biogas plants during the 9th Five Year Plan period (1997-2002).

Setting up Industries by Foreign Company

5437. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any foreign company has conducted a survey in Uttar Pradesh to set up industries there;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said foreign company is likely to set up its plant in a certain area; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the areas, the names of companies and the terms and conditions to set up industries there?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Many of the foreign companies who wish to set up industries make a preliminary survey of proposed locations/areas before finalising their proposal and deciding to invest.

Training to Artisan's

5438. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have launched any training programme for the artisans;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the State-wise number of such training centres as on March, 1997;
- (d) whether the Government propose to set up more such training centres in near future; and
- (e) if so, the places where these centres are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Training is provided to artisans for upgradation of their skills and also to new craftspersons with the objective of expanding the production base of crafts especially with high export demand and those which are languishing. The training programmes are operated departmentally as well as through various non-governmental organisations and State level handicraft corporations/cooperative societies. Besides, training is also provided under the traditional "Guru-Shishya Parampara" (Apprenticeship Training Scheme).

(c) The State-wise details of training centres are as per the statement attached.

(d) and (e) Most of the departmental training centres are peripatetic in nature and these are shifted to other areas where training demand exists, after the training need of an area is fulfilled.

Statement

Details of Training Centre, State-wise, functioning as on March, 1997

S.No.	State	Total No. of Departmental Training Centre and Centres run through other organisation/ master craftspersons
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37
2.	A & N Islands	1
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
4.	Assam	6
5.	Bihar	84
6.	Delhi	15
7.	Goa	—
8.	Gujarat	19
9.	Haryana	13
10.	Himachal Pradesh	10
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	193
12.	Karnataka	13
13.	Kerala	20
14.	Madhya Pradesh	58
15.	Maharashtra	7
16.	Manipur	13
17.	Meghalaya	4
18.	Mizoram	—
19.	Nagaland	3
20.	Orissa	50
21.	Punjab	15
22.	Pondicherry	—
23.	Rajasthan	23
24.	Sikkim	4
25.	Tamil Nadu	49
26.	Tripura	14
27.	Uttar Pradesh	326
28.	West Bengal	27
Total		1025

*[English]***Expenditure on PSUs**

5439. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHRJEE:

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Govt. expenditure on PSUs continue to rise" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated March 2, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the expenditure by the Government on Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of his Ministry continue to rise and the achievements of the Public Sector Undertakings is not the desired level; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and steps taken by the Government to minimise its expenditure?

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

(b) and (c) A statement is attached.

Statement

Budgetary support during five years for Department of Heavy Industry

(Rs. in Cr.)

Year	Plan		Non-Plan		Total
	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	
1992-93	146.25	2.84	84.15	2.24	235.48
1993-94	60.10	6.93	92.39	10.93	170.35
1994-95	133.72	3.26	122.20	16.78	275.96
1995-96	156.30	9.35	173.52	12.54	351.71
1996-97	128.58	7.00	194.99	7.77	338.34
Total (actual)	624.95	29.38	667.25	50.26	1371.84

The increase in Budgetary Provision in 1995-96 and 1996-97 is due to provision of funds for implementation of revival schemes sanctioned in the case of units of BBUNL, units of BYNL, SIL, HEC etc. and to partially meet the cash losses of major PSUs like MAMC, HPF, HEC, TAFCO etc.

PSUs of the Department of Heavy Industry registered a production of Rs. 10471 crores (Provisional) during 1996-97 thereby posting a growth of 10% over the production of Rs. 9538 crores during 1995-96.

Similarly, losses were reduced to Rs. 435 crores

(provisional) during 1996-97 against Rs. 577 crores during 1995-96 and Rs. 1018 crores in 1994-95.

Various steps taken for improving the performance of the PSUs include revival through BIFR process, formation of joint ventures to enhance competitiveness and viability by infusion of technology and market strength, rationalisation of manpower, etc.

Open Cast Coal Mining

5440. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether pollution is increasing and the crops of the farmers of the nearby areas being adversely affected due to open coal mines; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to control pollution and to provide relief to the farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The steps being taken to maintain water, air and noise pollution within permissible limits laid down by the statute are :-

1. Water spraying at haul roads, other roads, crushers, transfer and loading points to arrest generation of air borne dust.

2. Green belt is provided around colony and industrial area to arrest air and noise pollution.

3. Water is treated in effluent plants before discharging in water ways.

4. Sufficient distance between edge of opencast and cultivable land is maintained.

Opening of New Coal Mines

5441. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open new collieries in Bihar particularly in Palamau and Chatra districts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Coal India Ltd. has plans to open the following two new projects in the Palamau and Chatra Districts in Bihar during IX Plan period (1997-98 to 2001-2002) :

1. Hurlong UG (0.15 mty) - Palamau District
2. Ashok Expansion OC - Chatra District (5.00 mty) (Incremental)

[Translation]

Loan to Handicapped SCs/STs and Backward Classes by KVIC

5442. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme is being implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission for providing loan to the handicapped, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes/ Backward Classes and low income group persons to make them self employed;

(b) if so, the category-wise number of persons who have benefited from the said scheme in each State;

(c) whether any new scheme is being formulated in this regard by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Estimated state-wise break-up of number of beneficiaries under SC/ST category during 1995-96 is given in the statement attached.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Under KVI programme the largest share of SC/ST beneficiaries is concentrated in various activities of leather industry. Under this industry KVIC has decided to implement projects at locations having cluster of artisans belonging to SC/ST. Under KVIC project approach a margin money scheme has been evolved. Under this scheme, in case of SC/ST/Women/Minority Community beneficiaries/Institutions margin money scheme will be applicable when the beneficiary's own contribution is atleast five per cent, whereas in the case of general category minimum own contribution is 10 per cent of the project cost.

Statement

State-wise estimated number of SC/ST employment (1995-96)

(in lakh persons)

S.No.	States	Total KVI employment	Share of SC/ST
1	2	3	4
01.	Andhra Pradesh	3.53	1.05
02.	Arunachal Pradesh	*	*
03.	Assam	1.04	0.80
04.	Bihar	3.36	1.00
05.	Goa	0.06	0.01

1	2	3	4
06.	Gujarat	1.00	0.30
07.	Haryana	0.96	0.28
08.	Himachal Pradesh	0.88	0.26
09.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.87	0.26
10.	Karnataka	1.98	0.59
11.	Kerala	2.09	0.62
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1.10	0.53
13.	Maharashtra	4.74	1.42
14.	Manipur	0.37	0.35
15.	Meghalaya	0.12	0.10
16.	Mizoram	0.09	0.08
17.	Nagaland	0.11	0.09
18.	Orissa	2.06	0.81
19.	Punjab	1.72	0.26
20.	Rajasthan	3.91	1.17
21.	Sikkim	0.05	0.04
22.	Tamil Nadu	11.05	3.31
23.	Tripura	0.49	0.30
24.	Uttar Pradesh	11.36	0.40
25.	West Bengal	3.49	0.04
Union Territories			
01.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	*	*
02.	Chandigarh	0.02	-
03.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-
04.	Daman & Diu	-	-
05.	Delhi	0.23	0.06
06.	Lakshdweep	-	-
07.	Pondicherry	0.04	0.01

* Less than 500.

[English]

Transport Subsidy

5443. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for Central Subsidy on industries operating in North-Eastern State region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are claims for transport subsidy pending for payment, State-wise, industry-wise as on December 31, 1996;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any time bound programme for disbursement of such claims; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Ministry of Industry has been operating Central Transport Subsidy Scheme since July, 1971 to promote industrialisation in hilly, remote and inaccessible areas, which covers the entire North-Eastern region, besides Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, eight hilly district of Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, Darjeeling district of West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. The Scheme is applicable to all industrial units (barring plantations, Refineries and Power Generating units) both in the public and the private sectors. Under the scheme, subsidy ranging between 50% to 90% is admissible on transport cost incurred on movement of raw material and finished goods from the selected Rail heads/ Ports upto the location of the industrial units and vice-versa. The scheme has been extended from time to time and is valid up to 31.03.2000.

(c) and (d) Details of claims for Transport Subsidy pending for reimbursement to the North-Eastern Region as on 31.12.1996 State-wise are as under:-

States	Rs. in lakhs
Assam	6.42
Manipur	10.10
Tripura	26.01
Arunachal Pradesh	-
Meghalaya	506.51
Nagaland	193.93
Mizoram	-
Total	742.97

The industries covered are plywood, steel fabrications and flour milling, etc. Additionally as on 31.12.96, claims worth Rs. 504.85 lakhs have also been received on account of Court Orders.

(e) and (f) The Scheme works on disbursement/ reimbursement basis, i.e., the claims are first scrutinised and disbursed by the State Government to the eligible units and reimbursement thereof is claimed subsequently from the Central Government. Reimbursement of subsidy is made to the State Governments soon after receipt of complete claims from them and after due scrutiny.

Assistance from Germany

5444. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to the Union Government for inclusion of Krishnapatnam Industrial Port City Project for assistance from the Germany; and

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

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

(b) Since the project does not fit in with the priority of the German Government it is not being considered under official development assistance from Germany.

[Translation]

Bio-Gas Plants

5445. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) in number of bio-gas plants set up in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Meerut Division during the last three years, till date;

(b) the number of the plants working out of these and the number of plants lying closed; location-wise;

(c) whether gas stoves are easily available in the market and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of scheme regarding setting up of bio-gas plants in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Meerut Division during the current financial year and the time by which it is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) A total of about 47,500 family type biogas plants including about 5,200 plants in the Meerut Division, have been set up in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the period 1994-95 to 1996-97 under the Central Sector Scheme—National Project on Biogas Development (NPBD).

(b) An evaluation study carried out by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi in different States in year 1995 indicated that on an average about 73 percent of the plants set up in the State of Uttar Pradesh during 1992-93 to 1994-95 and surveyed were found to be functioning. Information on status of plants, including non-functional plants, is maintained in the State on a sample check basis at the block and district levels.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) NPBD is being implemented in all States and Union Territories including Uttar Pradesh during 1997-98. A target of setting up of about 12,000 plants, including about 1600 plants in the Meerut Division, has already been fixed for the State.

*[English]***Production and Exploration of Coal**

5446. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a single window independent body to clear proposals for coal exploration and production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the work undertaken by the public sector companies and also by the Geological Survey of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government have decided, subject to legislative changes, to set up an independent body to monitor detailed and regional exploration of coal and lignite blocks and also to allot new coal blocks to Indian Companies in the Public & Private Sector for coal mining on the basis of competitive bidding.

*[Translation]***Irregularities in Importing Gold by STC**

5447. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding irregularities and violations of the prescribed directions and procedures for import of Gold by State Trading Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken or being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check such irregularities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Recognition to Private Coal Mines**

5448. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private collieries like Gopal Krishna and Jay Guru of P.S. Satore in West Bengal are running the order of the Calcutta High Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to recognise the private collieries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The private mine Gopal Krishna was reportedly being run by the order of the High Court of Calcutta. However, Government is not aware of running of any Joy Guru Colliery under the order of any Court of law.

(b) The owner of Gopal Krishna Colliery was running the colliery under certain conditions by an order of the High Court of Calcutta passed in September'96 to this effect. However Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL) was not made a party to the case. When it came to the notice of ECL, it filed various applications before the division bench of the High Court praying for its impleadment in the appeal filed by the West Bengal Government against the order of the High Court passed in September'96. It also prayed for a stay on the operation of the colliery by the owner. The division bench, hearing the petition of ECL, passed an interim order to stop mining in Gopal Krishna Colliery. These applications have now been taken up by the Hon'ble Court for regular hearing.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. As per the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 as amended in 1976, all the leases for mining of coal, held by the private parties except for those engaged in iron and steel production, were terminated. Subsequently by an amendment made to the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 in June, 1993, coal mining to private companies have been allowed only for power generation and washing of coal obtained from a mine in addition to the continuing provisions for iron and steel production. Cement production has also been notified as an end use for the purpose. The above statutory position is still continuing.

*[Translation]***Export of Edible Oil**

5449. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to export edible oils during the current financial year;

(b) whether all varieties of edible oil have been included in the proposal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the details of the edible oil which have not been considered in the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The export projections for the Ninth Five Year Plan including the year 1997-98 have not been formulated. The exports of edible oils will depend upon the varieties, traded, prices, consumer preferences and International demand and supply position.

(b) to (d) As per the current Export-Import Policy, export of edible oils is as follows:

Restricted Items:

(Export Permitted Under Licence)

(i) Vegetable oils in consumer packs above 5 kgs., namely:-

Coconut oil; cotton seed oil; corn oil; kardi oil; linseed oil; mustard oil; niger seed oil; palm oil; palm kernel oil; rape seed oil; rice bran oil; salad oil; sunflower oil; sesame seed oil; soyabean oil.

(ii) Groundnut Oil.

[English]

Agreement for Procurement & Processing of Rice by MMTC

5450. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. had entered into an agreement for procurement of Basmati rice and process it;

(b) if so, the details of the agreements thereof;

(c) whether MMTC has suffered a loss of about four crores in this transaction;

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

(e) whether the Government had instituted any enquiry into this deal and fixed up any responsibility on the officers who signed that agreements; and

(f) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLA RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. MMTC entered into an agreement with M/s. K J International for procurement of paddy for Basmati rice and processing it into finished rice for export. A quantity of 3784.45 MT valued at Rs. 3.97 crores was procured. They were required to give 1740.85 MT 'A' grade superior Basmati rice. Out of this they gave 273 Mt of 'A' Grade rice which was sold locally for Rs. 53 lakh. They also informed that they have exported 1000 MT 'A' Grade rice valued at Rs. 1.95 crores to Saudi Arabia.

(c) and (d) The matter has been referred to Arbitration. The quantum of loss, if any, would be known only after the Arbitration proceedings are completed.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. An inquiry has been instituted and investigations into the transaction are under process.

Winding up of MSTC

5451. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has issued notice, to wind up Maharashtra State Textile Corporation (MSTC);

(b) the reasons for winding up these mills;

(c) if so, whether the Government have agreed to the above proposal of the BIFR; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (d) Having considered all the relevant facts and circumstances of the case, the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), is of the prima facie opinion that it is just and equitable that the Maharashtra State Textile Corporation Ltd (MSTC) should be wound up. Accordingly, the BIFR has issued notice to MSTC and all concerned to make their suggestions/objections, if any.

Finance for Voluntary Retirement Schemes

5452. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has allowed some all India lending institutions to finance Voluntary Retirement Schemes in cotton mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the terms and conditions agreed upon with these financial institutions for financing Voluntary Retirement Schemes in cotton mills;

(d) whether these cotton mills also include National Textile Corporation mills;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions in Nov. 96 to term lending institutions namely, IDBI, ICICI, IFCI, IRBI and SCICI to the effect that the Financial Institutions may while determining the quantum of financial assistance for modernisation plan of cotton mills, take into account the outgo on account of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and gratuity. However, Financial Institutions should be satisfied about the viability of the proposed modernisation plan and they should also ensure enduse of the funds. Voluntary Retirement Scheme and gratuity outside the modernisation plan will not come under the purview of these instructions.

(d) to (f) In the case NTC, VRS has been funded out of National Renewal Fund.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of Textile Workers

5453. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for the rehabilitation of the workers of the closed textile mills in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the details of the present Government's "textile

policy" and the measures and mode adopted for its implementation to facilitate the streamline functioning of the textiles industries?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The Government have, inter alia, taken the following measures for the rehabilitation of sick textile mills and workers of closed mills in the country:-

- Setting up of Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) to provide interim relief to the workers rendered jobless due permanent/partial closure of a textile mill;
- Setting up of a Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to enquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, schemes for revival of sick mills.

[English]

Silk Projects

5454. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the authorities responsible for implementing the Silk Projects in States;
- (b) the number of Silk Projects implemented during the last three years;
- (c) the States where these Projects have been completed during the same period; and
- (d) the total number of district level Committees set up for the purpose so far in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The projects/programmes for the development of sericulture are primarily formulated and implemented by the State Sericulture Departments. However, in case of projects undertaken by the Central Silk Board (CSB) with the concerned State(s), the authorities responsible for implementing such projects is the Central Silk Board alone if the project is fully funded by the CSB and if the project is jointly funded by the State with the CSB, implementation is jointly by the CSB and the concerned State.

(b) and (c) Apart from various schemes, the silk projects implemented by the CSB in collaboration with the States during the last 3 years have been the National Sericulture Project in five traditional States and 12 non-traditional States, the Poorvanchal Sericulture Development Project in Uttar Pradesh, the North-Eastern Action Plan and the Muga Seed Development Project in the North-Eastern states. Of these projects, the National Sericulture Project has ended on 31.12.96.

(d) Besides the District Level Committees set up by certain States like West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, there is also a Committee to review the progress of schemes implemented through the DRDA fund for each District Rural Development Agency.

[Translation]

Top Exporters

5455. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of exporters or Export Houses which have exported garments, textiles, cotton and synthetic yarn to the European countries during each of the last three years and the places from where these exports were made with the value thereof;
- (b) the details of twenty top exporters indicating their names, addresses and business turnover;
- (c) whether some inquiries have been initiated against some exporters in the European countries;
- (d) if so, whether the Government propose to discuss this issue with the Governments of European countries and seek their intervention keeping in view of the interests of exporters; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) The data on exports are not compiled according to exporters/export houses.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Coffee Processing Unit in U.P.

5456. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to start a coffee processing unit in Uttar Pradesh by the Coffee Board; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of Banned Items/Biodiversity Plants

5457. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYYA:

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding theft of India's biodiversity/medicinal plants from various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government have issued instructions during 1994 to ban export of 46 plants;

- (d) if so, the details of these plants;
- (e) whether some private sector companies are still exporting the banned plants and violating the rules; and
- (f) if so, the action taken by the Government to check such thefts from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) There have been some reports in the newspapers stating that the wealth of India's forests and fields, its rich biodiversity is/are being plundered by foreign companies and their agents.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The Government had prohibited export of 46 plants, plant portions and their derivatives, vide Public Notice No. 47(PN)/92-97 dated 30 March 1994. This order has been amended from time to time. Under the current Export-Import Policy, the export of the following Plants, plant portions and their derivatives and extracts obtained from the wild are prohibited, namely, (1) *Aconitum* species, (2) *Atropa* species, (3) *Aristolochia* species, (4) *Anglopteris* species, (5) *Arundinaria Jaunsarensia*, (6) *Balanophora* species, (7) *Colchicum luteum* (*Hirantutya*), (8) *Commiphora whightii*, (9) *Coptis* species, (10) *Drosera* species, (11) *Gentiana Kurroo* (*Kuru, Kutki*), (12) *Gloriosa superba*, (13) *Gnetum* species, (14) *Iphignia indica*, (15) *Meconopsis betonicifolia*, (16) *Nardostachys* species (*Jatamansi*), (17) *Osmunda* species, (18) *Rhododendron* species, (19) *Physochlaina praealta* (*Bajarbhang*), (20) *Praltia serpumlia*, (21) *Rheum emodi* (*Dolu*), (22) *Berberis aristata* (*Indian barberry; Rasvat*), (23) *Acorus* species, (24) *Artemisia* species, (25) *Coscinum fenestratum* (*Calumba wood*), (26) *Costus speciosas* (*Keu, Kust*), (27) *Didymocarpus pedicellata*, (28) *Dolomiaea pedicellata*, (29) *Ephedra* species, (30) *Gynocardia odorata* (*Chaulmogri*), (31) *Hydnocarpus* species, (32) *Hyocymus niger* (*Browseword*), (33) *Strychnos potatorum* (*Nirmali*), (34) *Swertia chirata* (*Charayatah*), (35) *Urginea* species, (36) *Beddomes Cycad* (*Cycas beddomel*), (37) *Blue vanda* (*vandaeoerulea*), (38) *Kuth* (*Saussurea lappa*), (39) *Ladies slipper orchid* (*Paphiopedilum* species), (40) *Pitcher plant* (*Nepenthes khasiana*), (41) *Red vanda* (*Renanthera imschootiana*), (42) *Rauwolfia serpentina* (*Sarpagandha*), (43) *Ceropegia* species, (44) *Frerea indica* (*Shindal Mankundi*), (45) *Podophyllum hexandrum* (*emodi*) (*Indian Podophyllum*), (46) *Cyatheaceae* species (*Tree Ferns*), (47) *Cycadaceae* species (*Cycads*), (48) *Dioscorea deltoidea* (*Elephant's foot*), (49) *Euphorbia* species (*Euphorbias*), (50) *Orchidaceae* species (*Orchids*), (51) *Pterocarpus santalinus* (*Red Sanders*), (52) *taxus wallichiana* (*Common Yew or Birml leaves*), and (53) *Aquilaria malaccensis* (*Agarwood*). Plants and plant portions, derivatives and extracts (including value added herbal formulations) of the cultivated varieties of the species mentioned above (excluding *Pterocarpus santalinus* (*Red Sanders*)) will be allowed for export subject to production of a Certificate of Cultivations from Regional Deputy Director (*Wildlife*), or Chief Coservator of Forests or Divisional Forest Officers of the State concerned from where these plants and plant portions have been procured. However, in respect of

cultivated varieties of the species mentioned at serial nos. (36) to (53) above, a CITES Permit for export will also be required.

(e) and (f) Government has no evidence of it. However, a national legislation on biodiversity is under preparation which includes regulating access to and transfer of genetic material of the country.

Research on Silk

5458. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Research and Development division of Central Silk Board has developed a high quality silk;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the silk grower farmers to this; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government to save the interests of growers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) In order to produce good quality silk in the country, the Research & Development Institutes of the Central Silk Board (CSB) have developed quality bivoltine silkworm hybrids and improved cross breeds. The field trials of these new hybrids are under progress and the response of the farmers and reelers to these new hybrids in Karnataka has been encouraging.

(c) In order to protect the interests of the silk grower farmers certain support systems are being provided by the CSB and the States such as setting up of Seed Farms and Silkworm Seed Production Centres to ensure availability of adequate seeds to growers. Besides, traditional sericultural States operate bidding cocoon markets while most non-traditional States have support systems for purchase of cocoons.

[Translation]

Textile Mills in Maharashtra

5459. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of textile mills in Maharashtra alongwith their production capacity;
- (b) the number of employees working in these mills during the last three years and the number of employees who have been rendered jobless as a result of closure of the textile mills during this period; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for the revival of the sick units of the State and provide employment to those employees who have been rendered jobless as a result of the closure of textile mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) As on 31.12.1996, there were 182 cotton/man-made Fibre Textile Mills with a capacity of 5092250 spindles, 36668 rotors and 41265 looms in Maharashtra.

(b) The number of workers on roll in above mills as on 31.12.96 was 196473. As on 28.2.97, the number of workers affected due to closure of 20 cotton/man-made Fibre Textile Mills was 26878.

(c) Government has set up Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction to enquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, schemes for revival of mills. While there is no scheme for providing employment to the workers rendered jobless as a result of closure of mills, Government has established Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) to provide interim relief to workers rendered jobless due to permanent/partial closure of mill.

[English]

Private Coal Companies

5460. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that private sector companies are conducting coal mining activities in Maharashtra;

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

(c) whether violations of Government rules have been made by these private sector companies in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Government is not aware of any coal mining activities undertaken by Private Sector in the State of Maharashtra excepting that M/s. Nippon Denro Ispat Ltd. have been allotted three coal mining blocks viz. (1) Baranj I to IV (ii) Lohara West (iii) Bander and M/s. ACC Ltd. have been allotted Lohara East Mining Block in Wardha Valley Coalfields of Maharashtra for purpose of captive mining. However these companies are yet to obtain mining lease to start mining of coal from these blocks.

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

Powerloom Sector

5461. SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the production of textiles by the powerlooms installed in the decentralised sector during the last three years;

(b) If so, the total quantity of textiles manufactured in this sector during the last three years;

(c) whether the exprots of textiles manufactured in this sector have also raised during the recent years;

(d) If so, the textiles exported during the year 1995-96 and the value thereof; and

(e) the target fixed for the production of textiles by powerlooms for the year 1997-98?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. There has been increase in the production of textiles in the powerloom sector.

(b) The production of textiles in the powerloom sector during the last three years has been as under:-

Year	Production (Mn. Sq. Mtrs.)
1993-94	15,994
1994-95	15,976
1995-96	17,201

(c) and (d) A statement is attached.

(e) No yearly target has been fixed for the production of textiles by the powerloom sector.

Statement

The export of textiles manufactured in the powerloom sector have raised during the recent years as per details given below:-

Export of Cotton Powerloom Fabrics & Made-UP*

	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Powerloom Fabrics	949.28	1404.56	998.69	1657.50	1250.25	2013.99
Powerloom Made-ups	62.32	1363.78	69.63	1610.00	89.00	2022.37

*Qty. Fabric- Million Sq. Mtrs.

Qty. Made-ups- Million Kg. Value-Rs. in crores.

[Translation]

Investment in coal sector

5462. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal production sector in the country has been developing as a profit earning industry for the last some years;

(b) if so, whether the production of coal can be increased by meeting the shortage of capital investment in this industry;

(c) if so, the details of the capital investment made in this sector during each of the three years; and

(d) the need of total capital investment estimated on the basis of Government's assessment during the said years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The coal India Ltd. and the Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. engaged in coal mining in public sector have earned profits/suffered losses during the last three years as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
CIL	400.32	29.73	611.44
SCCL	16.26	24.99	-190.80

[English]

Handicrafts Designing Centre

5463. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Handicrafts Designing Centre in Mysore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir. A Regional Design & Technical Development Centre is already functioning in Bangalore.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Export of Rice

5464. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of basmati and non-basmati rice exported during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the

export of both basmati and non-basmati rice during 1997-98;

(c) if so, the target fixed by the Government in this regard, separately; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of rice during the current year and the time by which the ceiling for export of rice is likely to be fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The total quantity of basmati and non-basmati rice exported during the last three years are as follows:-

Quantity: in Lakh Mts.

Year	Basmati Quantity	Non-Basmati Rice Quantity
1993-94	5.27	2.40
1994-95	4.69	4.23
1995-96	3.92	51.20
1996-97	4.20	18.85

(April-Feb., '97)

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Country-wise details of 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.

(b) and (c) The export projections for the Ninth Five Year Plan including the year 1997-98 have not been formulated. The exports of rice will depend upon the varieties traded, prices, consumer preferences and international demand and supply position.

(d) As per the current Export-Import Policy, export of rice both Basmati and non-Basmati rice are allowed freely without any quantitative and price restrictions. However, exports of Basmati rice are subject to registration with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority. Some of the steps taken to boost export of rice include, inter-alia conducting publicity campaigns, delegations abroad, participating in International Trade Fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products and for conducting market surveys.

Open Cast Coal Mine in Maharashtra

5465. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Western Coalfields Ltd. propose to

open coal mine at Wani area in the district of Yavatmal in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether land of farmers is being acquired for the said open cast coal mine; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to resettle the farmers

whose land is likely to be acquired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Western Coalfields Ltd. proposed to open two projects namely Junad-I OC and Nirguda OC at Wani area in Yeotmal District of Maharashtra.

(b) The details as per project report are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Project Capacity (MTY)	Anticipated investment (Rs.cr.)	Man Power	Requirement of land	Approval status
1.	Junad-I OC	0.32	19.14	253	145 Ha.	Project Report Approved
2.	Nirguda OC	0.75	79.03	568	279 Ha.	Only advance action proposal of Rs. 2.32 crores approved.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In addition to compensation for land, one employment to each land-oustees family losing 3 acres and above of non-irrigated land or 2 acres and above of irrigated land is proposed to be provided to eligible land oustees/direct male dependent nominee between between 18-35 years of age, as per norms of the company.

Small Industries Service Institute

5466. SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been forwarded by Small Industries Service Institute, Thrissur to Development Commissioner (SSI) for converting Central Workshop, Thrissur into a Mini Tool Room;

(b) if so, whether the modernisation of Central Workshop attached to SISI, Thrissur is going to further develop small scale mechanical based industry in the region; and

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

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

(b) and (c) There are altogether 7873 SSI Units presently engaged in mechanical activities. During 1993-94 and 1994-95, each year only 89 units taking up mechanical activities availed of the facilities of the workshop attached to the SISI, Thrissur. The revenue earning of the workshop was Rs. 21,603/- in 1993-94 and Rs. 24,450/- in 1994-95 against an annual target of Rs. 59000/- for each year. Though the proposal of the SISI, Thrissur is under examination, since only 1.13 percent of the existing units are availing the facilities of the workshop which is negligible, it is felt that the conversion of workshop into a Mini Tool Room may not be a feasible proposition. However, replacement of some old machines of the workshop with new ones

shall be done as and when requested by the SISI, Thrissur.

Investment Proposal of Coca Cola

5467. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item, under the caption "30 bottling Ventures Coca-Cola seeks upfront nod" appearing in the Observer dated April 26, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the details regarding Foreign Direct Investment proposals made by the company and present status thereof; and

(d) the details regarding policy of the Government in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Government have approved the proposal of M/s Coca Cola South Asia Holding Inc., USA, for investment of US \$ 700.00 million in two wholly owned subsidiary companies over a period of 10 years for the purpose of production and distribution of non-alcoholic beverages. M/s Coca Cola has also been permitted to set up a wholly owned subsidiary in Gujarat to establish bottling plants in Western India. The downstream ventures set up by these two holding companies may be initially started as 100% subsidiaries which shall off-load 49% of equity to Indian share holders within a period of 3-5 years.

In order to implement the Government approval, M/s Coca-Cola South Asia Holdings Inc., USA has set up two wholly owned Indian holding companies namely, (i) M/s Hindustan Coca-cola Holdings Pvt. Ltd., and (ii) M/s Bharat Coca-Cola Holdings Pvt. Ltd. These holding companies have submitted a proposal for setting up two downstream ventures each, which is pending consideration of Government.

(d) As per the Guidelines published through press Note No. 3 (1997 Series) the Government consider and recommend proposals for 100 per cent foreign owned holding/subsidiary companies mainly based on the following criteria (Copy of the Press Note enclosed as statement:

(a) where only "holding" operation is involved and all subsequent/downstream investments to be carried out would require prior approval of the Government;

(b) where proprietary technology is sought to be protected or sophisticated technology is proposed to be brought in;

(c) where at least 50% of production is to be exported;

(d) proposals for consultancy; and

(e) proposals for power, roads, ports and industrial model towns/industrial parks or estates.

Statement

F No. 10 (32)/97-IP

Government of India

Ministry of Industry

Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion

Udyog Bhawan

New Delhi, the 17th January, 1997

PRESS NOTE NO. 3(1997 SERIES)

The Government have taken a series of steps to further liberalise and streamline the procedures and mechanism for approval of both domestic and foreign direct investment. In fulfilment of its commitment to provide greater transparency in decision making the Government have announced a set of Guidelines for consideration of foreign direct investment proposals by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board.

A set of Guidelines announced in this regard is enclosed for general information and for information of investors.

Sd/-

(Ashok Kumar)

Joint Secretary to the Govt of India

No. 10 (32)/97-IP

Dated the 17th January, 1997

Copy forwarded to the Press Information Officer, Press Information Bureau for giving wide publicity to the above Press Note.

Ministry of Industry

Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion

Guidelines for the consideration of Foreign Direct investment (FDI) proposals by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB)

The following Guidelines are laid-down to enable the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) to consider the proposals for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and formulate its recommendations.

1. All applications should be put up before the FIPB by the SIA (Secretariat of Industrial Assistance) within 15 days and it should be ensured that comments of the administrative ministries are placed before the Board either prior to/or in the meeting of the Board.

2. Proposals should be considered by the Board keeping in view the time frame of 6 weeks for communicating Government decision (i.e. approval of IM/CCFI or rejection as the case may be).

3. In cases in which either the proposal is not cleared or further information is required in order to obviate delays presentation by applicant in the meeting of the FIPB should be resorted to.

4. While considering cases and making recommendations, FIPB should keep in mind the sectoral requirements and the sectoral policies vis-a-vis the proposal(s).

5. FIPB would consider each proposal in totality (i.e. if it includes apart from foreign investment technical collaboration/industrial licence) for composite approval or otherwise. However, the FIPB's recommendation would relate only to the approval for foreign financial and technical collaboration and the foreign investor will need to take other prescribed clearances separately.

6. The Board should examine the following while considering proposals submitted to it for consideration.

(i) whether the items of activity involve industrial licence or not and if so the considerations for grant of industrial licence must be gone into;

(ii) whether the proposal involves technical collaboration and if so:- (a) the source and nature or technology sought to be transferred, (b) the terms of payment (payment or royalty by 100% subsidiaries is not permitted).

(iii) whether the proposal involves any mandatory requirement for exports and if so whether the applicant is prepared to undertake such obligation (this is for small industry units, as also for dividend balancing and for 100% EOUs/EPZ units).

(iv) whether the proposal involves any export projection and if so the items of export and the projected destinations.

(v) whether the proposal has concurrent commitment under other schemes such as EPCG Scheme, etc.

(vi) in the case of Export Oriented Units (EOUs) whether the prescribed minimum value addition norms and the minimum turn over of exports are met or not.

(vii) whether the proposal involves relaxation locational of restrictions stipulated in the industrial policy, and

(viii) whether the proposal has any strategic or defence related considerations.

7. While considering proposals the following may be prioritised:

(a) Items falling within Annexure-III of the New Industrial Policy (i.e. those which do not qualify for automatic approval)

(b) Items falling in Infrastructure sector.

(c) Items which have an export potential.

(d) Items which have large scale employment potential and especially for rural people.

(e) Items which have a direct or backward linkage with agro business/farm sector.

(f) Items which have greater social relevance such as hospitals, human resource development, life saving drugs and equipment.

(g) Proposals which result in induction of technology or infusion of capital.

8. The following should be especially considered during the scrutiny and consideration of proposals:

(a) The extent of foreign equity proposed to be held (keeping in view sectoral caps if any - e.g. 24% for SSI units, 40% for air taxi/airlines operators, 49% in basic/cellular/paging etc. in Telecom sector).

(b) Extent of equity with composition of foreign/NRI (which may include OCB)/resident Indians.

(c) Extent of equity from the point of view whether the proposed project would amount to a holding company/wholly owned subsidiary/a company with dominant foreign investment (i.e. 75% or more)/joint venture.

(d) Whether the proposed foreign equity is for setting up a new project (joint venture or otherwise) or whether it is for enlargement of foreign/NRI equity or whether it is for fresh induction of foreign equity/NRI equity in an existing Indian company.

(e) In the case of fresh induction of foreign/NRI equity and/or in cases of enlargement of foreign/NRI equity in existing Indian companies whether there is a resolution of the Board of Directors supporting the said induction/enlargement of foreign/NRI equity and whether there is a shareholders agreement or not.

(f) In the case of induction of fresh equity in the existing Indian companies and/or enlargement of foreign equity in existing Indian companies, the reason why the

proposal has been made and the modality for induction/enhancement [i.e. whether by increase of paid up capital/ authorised capital, transfer of shares (hostile or otherwise) whether by rights issue or by what modality].

(g) Issue/transfer/pricing of shares will be as per SEBI/RBI guidelines.

(h) Whether the activity is an industrial or a service activity or a combination of both.

(i) Whether the item of activity involves any restriction by way of reservation for the small scale sector.

(j) Whether there are any sectoral restrictions on the activity (e.g. there is ban on foreign investment in real estate while it is not so for NRI/OCB investment).

(k) Whether the item involves only trading activity and if so whether it involves export or both export and import, or also includes domestic trading and if domestic trading whether it also includes retail trading.

(l) Whether the proposal involves import of items which are either hazardous, banned or detrimental to environment (e.g. import of plastic scrap or recycled plastics).

9. In respect of the industries/activities listed in Annex III of the New Industrial Policy automatic approval for majority equity holding (50/51/74 per cent) is accorded by the Reserve Bank of India. FIPB may consider recommending higher levels of foreign equity in respect of these activities keeping in view the special requirements and merit of each case.

10. In respect of other industries/activities the Board may consider recommending 51 per cent foreign equity on examination of each individual proposal. For higher levels of equity up to 74 per cent the Board may consider such proposals keeping in view considerations such as the extent of capital needed for the project, the nature and quality of technology, the requirements of marketing and management skills and the commitment for exports.

11. FIPB may consider and recommend proposals for 100 per cent foreign owned holding/subsidiary companies based on the following criteria:

(a) Where only "holding" operation is involved and all subsequent/downstream investments to be carried out would require prior approval of the Government.

(b) Where proprietary technology is sought to be protected or sophisticated technology is proposed to be brought in.

(c) Where at least 50% of production is to be exported.

(d) Proposals for consultancy; and

(e) Proposals for power, roads, ports and industrial model towns/industrial parks or estates.

12. In special cases, where the foreign investor is

unable initially to identify an Indian joint venture partner, the Board may consider and recommend proposals permitting 100 per cent foreign equity on a temporary basis on the condition that the foreign investor would divest to the Indian parties (either individual, joint venture partners or general public or both) at least 26 per cent of its equity within a period of 3-5 years.

13. Similarly in the case of a joint venture, where the Indian partner is unable to raise resources for expansion/technological upgradation of the existing industrial activity, the Board may consider and recommend increase in the proportion/percentage (up to 100 per cent) of the foreign equity in the enterprise.

14. In respect of trading companies, 100 per cent foreign equity may be permitted in the case of the activities involving the following:

- (i) exports;
- (ii) bulk imports with export/expanded warehouse sales;
- (iii) cash and carry wholesale trading;
- (iv) other import of goods or services provided at least 75% is for procurement and sale of goods and services among the companies of the same group;

15. In respect of the companies in the infrastructure/services sector where there is a prescribed cap for foreign investment, only the direct investment should be considered for the prescribed cap and foreign investment in an investing company should not be set off against this cap provided the foreign direct investment in such investing company does not exceed 49 per cent and the management of the investing company is with the Indian owners.

16. No condition specific to the letter of approval issued to a foreign investor would be changed or additional condition imposed subsequent to the issue of a letter of

approval. This would not prohibit changes in general policies and regulations applicable to the industrial sector.

17. Where in case of a proposal (not being 100% subsidiary) foreign direct investment has been approved up to a designated percentage of foreign equity in the joint venture company, the percentage would not be reduced while permitting induction of additional capital subsequently. Also in the case of approved activities, if the foreign investor (s) concerned wishes to bring in additional capital on later dates keeping the investment to such approved activities. FIPB would recommend such cases for approval on an automatic basis.

18. As regards proposal for private sector banks, the application would be considered only after "in principle" permission is obtained from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

19. The restrictions prescribed for proposals in various sectors as obtained, at present, are given in the Annex and these should be kept in view while considering the proposals.

These Guidelines are meant to assist the FIPB to consider proposals in an objective and transparent manner. These would not in any way restrict the flexibility or bind the FIPB from considering the proposals in their totality or making recommendations based on other criteria or special circumstances or features it considers relevant. Besides these are in the nature of administrative Guidelines and would not in any way be legally binding in respect of any recommendation to be made by the FIPB or decisions to be taken by the Government in cases involving Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

These guidelines are issued without prejudice to the Government's right to issue fresh guidelines or change the legal provisions and policies whenever considered necessary.

Annex

Sector Specific Guidelines for Foreign Direct Investment

S.No.	Sector	Guidelines
1	2	3
1. Banking		NRI 40% Foreign investment of upto 20% is permitted.
2. Non-banking financial services		I) Upto 51% foreign equity, no special conditions are attached except those requiring approval of SEBI/RBI etc. II) For foreign equity beyond 51% but upto 75%, it is necessary that foreign investment should be minimum US \$ 5 million and it should come in one lot. III) For Foreign investment beyond 75% minimum foreign investment should be US \$ 50 million.
3. Domestic Air-Taxi Operations/Airlines		(I) Foreign equity upto 40% can be permitted on a case-by-case basis. (II) 100% by NRIs.

1	2	3
4. Power		Foreign investment in power sector can either be in the form of a joint venture with an Indian partner or as a fully-owned operation with 100% foreign equity.
5. Telecommunications (Basic, Value Added)		In basic, Cellular Mobile and paging services, foreign investment are limited to 49% subject to grant of licence from DoT.
6. Drugs and Pharmaceutical industry		Foreign investment upto 51% in the case of bulk drugs, their intermediates and formulations thereof (except those produced by the use of recombinant DNA technology) are granted automatic approval by the RBI. Other proposals are considered on merit on a case-by-case basis by the Government. Manufacturing activity essential for FDI above 51% as per Drug Policy.
7. Petroleum		Foreign companies can invest upto 100% of the equity in any venture in petroleum sector.
8. Real Estate		No foreign investment in this sector is permitted. NRIs/OCBs are allowed.
9. Roads and Highways		Private sector including foreign equity participation upto 100% in the highways is envisaged on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) concept. Investors in identified highway projects would be permitted to recover their investment by way of collection of tolls for specified periods. At the end of the agreed concession period, the facilities will revert to the Government. Construction of bypasses, bridges and widening of high density corridors, of National Highways have been identified for four laning through the BOT route. The Government has, in the Budget Session of 1995 passed the necessary legislation for collection of toll tax. The rates of toll charges as well as the period of concession will be on the basis of competition/bids and land requirement for the construction and operation of the facilities would be provided by the Government free from encumbrances. Private parties would also be allowed to develop service and the rest areas along the roads entrusted to them.
10. Ports		<p>Indian ports offer significant potential to foreign investors in major operational and infrastructural areas. The following areas have been identified for participation/investment by the private sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Leasing out existing assets of the Port. (ii) Construction/creation of additional assets, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Construction and operation of container terminals. (b) Construction and operation of bulk, break bulk, multipurpose and specialised cargo berths. (c) Warehousing, Container Freight Stations, storage facilities and tank farms. (d) Cranes/Handling Equipment. (e) Setting up of captive power plants. (f) Dry docking and ship repair facilities. (iii) Leasing of equipment for port handling and leasing of floating crafts from the private sector. (iv) Captive facilities for Port based Industries.

1	2	3
		These areas are indicative in nature. Further details regarding participation by the foreign investors are available with individual port authorities and the Ministry of Surface Transport, Government of India.
11. Tourism		This is a sector with immense possibilities for foreign investment 100% foreign equity is permissible in the sector and automatic approvals are also granted by the Reserve Bank of India for foreign equity upto 51% and subject to specified parameters.
12. Mining		<p>I) Foreign equity participation of upto 50% in the mining sector would be automatic, except for gold, silver diamonds and precious stones.</p> <p>II) For gold, silver, diamonds and precious stones, approvals would be given keeping in view inter alia, the following parameters:</p> <p>(a) The size of the project.</p> <p>(b) Commitment of external resources for funding project cost.</p> <p>(c) Track record of the company in the mining sector.</p> <p>(d) The level of technology sought to be employed in the project.</p> <p>(e) Financial strength of the company.</p> <p>(f) Level of the Indian equity in the joint venture at the mining stage for the JV partner/Indian partner.</p> <p>For companies which seek to set up 100 per cent wholly owned subsidiaries, permission may be given subject to the condition that in case the company wishes to enter into a joint venture for investment in mining where a foreign equity holding in excess of 50 per cent is envisaged, prior approval of the FIPB would be taken.</p>
13. Coal		While this has been reserved for the public sector, private and foreign investment is permitted in coal for captive consumption only (generation of power) and for washeries, etc.
14. Venture Capital Fund		<p>An offshore venture capital company may contribute 100 per cent of the capital of a domestic venture capital fund and may also set up a domestic asset management company to manage the fund.</p> <p>VCFs and VCCs are permitted upto 40% of the paid up corpus of the domestic VCF/VCCs.</p>

[Translation]

Solar Energy Centre

5468. SHRI RAMMURTI SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Solar Energy Centre has been set up at Kalyanpur in Aligarh District of Uttar Pradesh, involving crores of rupees;

- (b) if so, the power generation capacity thereof;
- (c) whether this centre is not able to generate power to its installed capacity and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether an Expert Committee has held the company responsible for this which had set up this centre; and
- (e) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) A Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant of 100 KW capacity has been set up in Kalyanpur village in Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh. The project comprises a 75 KW component for stand-alone operation and a 25 KW component for grid-connected operation. The total cost of the project is estimated at Rs. 4 crores.

(c) The project has successfully supplied energy for lighting and pumping loads in the village for over two years. As this was the first experimental project of its kind in the country, there have been some technical problems on account of which the plant has not operated to full capacity over the last few months.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) A detailed plan is being prepared to rectify the faults in the power plant and make the plant operational again at the very earliest.

[English]

Review of Archaic Acts

5469. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister

of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Acts which are in operation at present are century old;

(b) if so, the names thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to review all these Acts in view of the many changes in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which review is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of the unrepealed Central Acts from 1836 to 1900 are given in the statement attached.

(c) and (d) Amendment of laws including repeal thereof is initiated from time to time based upon review thereof by the Government.

Statement

Details of the Unrepealed Central Acts from 1836 to 1900

S.No.	Name of the Act	Year	No.
1	2	3	4
1.	Bengal Indigo Contracts Act.	1836	10
2.	Bengal Districts Act.	1836	21
3.	Madras Public Property Malversation Act.	1837	36
4.	Bengal Bonded warehouse Association Act.	1838	5
5.	Coasting Vessels Act.	1838	19
6.	Madras Rent and Revenue Sales Act.	1839	7
7.	Bengal Land Revenue Sales Act.	1841	12
8.	Revenue Bombay.	1842	13
9.	Revenue Commissioners, Bombay.	1842	17
10.	Sales of Land for Revenue Arrears.	1845	1
11.	Boundary-marks, Bombay.	1846	3
12.	Boundaries.	1847	1
13.	Bengal Alluvion and Diluvion Act.	1847	9
14.	Bengal Landholder's Attendance Act.	1848	20
15.	Madras Revenue Commissioner Act.	1849	10
16.	Public Accountants' Defaults Act.	1850	12
17.	Judicial Officers' Protection Act.	1850	18

1	2	3	4
18.	Caste Disabilities Removal Act.	1850	21
19.	Calcutta Land-revenue Act.	1850	23
20.	Forefelted Deposits Act.	1850	25
21.	Improvement in Towns.	1850	26
22.	Public Servants (Inquiries) Act.	1850	37
23.	Indian Tolls Act.	1851	8
24.	Madras City Land Revenue Act.	1851	12
25.	Sheriffs' Fees Act.	1852	8
26.	Bombay Rent-free Estates Act.	1852	11
27.	Rent Recovery Act.	1853	6
28.	Shore Nuisances (Bombay and Kolaba) Act.	1853	11
29.	Bengal Bonded Warehouse Association.	1854	5
30.	Police, Agra.	1854	16
31.	Legal Representatives' Suits Act.	1855	12
32.	Indian Fatal Accidents Act.	1855	13
33.	Usury Laws Repeal Act.	1855	28
34.	Bengal Embankment Act.	1855	32
35.	Sonthal Patganass Act.	1855	37
36.	Indian Bills of Lading Act.	1856	9
37.	Civil Courts Amins Act.	1856	12
38.	Calcutta Land-revenue Act.	1856	18
39.	Bengal Chaukidari Act	1856	20
40.	Tobacco Duty (Town of Bombay) Act.	1857	4
41.	Oriental Gas Company.	1857	5
42.	Madras Uncovenanted Officer' Act.	1857	7
43.	Sonthal Parganas Act.	1857	10
44.	Howrah Offences Act.	1857	21
45.	Madras Compulsory Labour Act.	1858	1
46.	Bengal Ghatwali Lands Act.	1859	5
47.	Forfeiture Act.	1859	9
48.	Bengal Rent Act.	1859	10
49.	Bengal Land-revenue Sales Act.	1859	11
50.	Calcutta Pilots.	1859	12
51.	Madras District Police Act.	1859	24
52.	Societies Registration Act.	1860	21

1	2	3	4
53.	Indian Penal Code.	1860	45
54.	Police Act.	1861	5
55.	Stage-carriages Act	1861	16
56.	Government Seal Act.	1862	3
57.	Excise (Spirits) Act.	1863	16
58.	Partition of Revenue-paying Estates.	1863	19
59.	Religious Endowments Act.	1863	20
60.	Waste-lands (Claims) Act.	1863	23
61.	Indian Tolls Act.	1864	15
62.	Carriers Act.	1865	3
63.	Converts' Marriage Dissolution Act.	1866	21
64.	Bombay High Court (Letters Patent) Act.	1866	23
65.	Unclaimed Deposits Act.	1866	25
66.	Oudh Sub-settlement Act.	1866	26
67.	Ganges Tolls.	1867	1
68.	Public Gambling Act.	1867.	3
69.	Oriental Gas Company.	1867	11
70.	Acting Judges Act.	1867	16
71.	Sarais Act.	1867	22
72.	Press and Registration of Books Act.	1867	25
73.	Oudh Estates Act.	1869	1
74.	Indian Divorce Act.	1869	4
75.	Procedure of High Court, Uttar Pradesh.	1869	13
76.	Bombay Civil Courts Act.	1868	14
77.	Unclaimd Deposits Act.	1870	5
78.	Court-fees Act.	1870	7
79.	Oudh Taluqdars' Relief Act.	1870	24
80.	Cattle-trespass Act.	1871	1
81.	Coroners Act.	1871	4
82.	Dehra Dun	1871	21
83.	Pensions Act.	1871	23
84.	Indian Evidence Act.	1872	1
85.	Punjab Laws Act.	1872	4
86.	Indian Contract Act.	1872	9
87.	Indian Christian Marriage Act.	1872	15

1	2	3	4
88.	Madras Civil Courts Act.	1873	3
89.	Government Savings Banks Act.	1873	5
90.	Northern India Canal and Drainage Act.	1873	8
91.	North-Eastern Provinces Village and Road Police Act.	1873	16
92.	Married Women's Property Act.	1874	3
93.	Foreign Recruiting Act.	1874	4
94.	Laws Local Extent Act.	1874	15
95.	Indian Majority Act.	1875	9
96.	Indian Law Reports Act.	1875	18
97.	Central Provinces Laws Act.	1875	20
98.	Chota Nagpur Incumbered Estates Act.	1876	6
99.	Bombay Revenue Jurisdiction Act.	1876	10
100.	Bombay Municipal Debentures Act.	1876	15
101.	Oudh Laws Act.	1876	18
102.	Dramatic Performances Act.	1876	19
103.	Presidency Magistrates (Court-fees) Act.	1877	4
104.	Broach and Kaira Incumbered Estates Act.	1877	14
105.	Indian Treasure-trove Act.	1878	6
106.	Northern Indian Ferries Act.	1878	17
107.	Elephants' Preservation Act.	1879	6
108.	Hackney-carriage Act.	1879	14
109.	Dekkhan Agriculturists' Relief Act.	1879	17
110.	Legal Practitioners Act.	1879	18
111.	Raipur and Khatra Laws Act.	1879	19
112.	Religious Societies Act.	1880	1
113.	Kazis Act.	1880	12
114.	Vaccination Act.	1880	13
115.	Municipal Taxation Act.	1881	11
116.	Fort William Act.	1881	13
117.	Obstructions in Fairways Act,	1881	16
118.	Central Provinces Land-revenue Act.	1881	18
119.	Negotiable Instruments Act.	1881	26
120.	Indian Trusts Act.	1882	2
121.	Transfer of Property Act.	1882	4
122.	Indian Easments Act.	1882	5

1	2	3	4
123.	Powers-of-Attorney Act.	1882	7
124.	Presidency Small Cause Courts.	1882	15
125.	Madras Forests (Validation) Act.	1882	21
126.	Bikrama Singh's Estates Act.	1883	10
127.	Land Improvement Loans Act.	1883	19
128.	Punjab District Boards Act.	1883	20
129.	Indian Explosives Act.	1884	4
130.	Agriculturists' Loans Act.	1884	12
131.	Bengal Tenancy Act.	1885	8
132.	Indian Telegraph Act.	1885	13
133.	Land Acquisition (Mines) Act.	1885	18
134.	Mirzapur Stone Mahal Act.	1886	5
135.	Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act.	1886	6
136.	Indian Tramways Act.	1886	11
137.	Oadh Wasikas' Act.	1886	21
138.	Suits Valuation Act.	1887	7
139.	Provincial Small Cause Courts Act.	1887	9
140.	Bengal, Agra and Assam Civil Courts Act.	1887	12
141.	Punjab Tenancy Act.	1887	16
142.	Punjab Land-revenue Act.	1887	17
143.	King of Oudh's Estate Act.	1887	19
144.	Police Act.	1888	3
145.	Indian Reserve Forces Act	1888	4
146.	Indian Tolls Act.	1888	8
147.	City of Bombay Municipal (Supplementary) Act.	1888	12
148.	King of Oudh's Estate Act.	1888	14
149.	Metal Tokens Act.	1889	1
150.	Revenue Recovery Act.	1890	1
151.	Charitable Endowments Act.	1890	6
152.	Guardians and Wards Act.	1890	8
153.	Excise (Malt Liquors) Act.	1890	13
154.	United Provinces Act.	1890	20
155.	Easements (Extending Act 5 of 1882)	1891	8
156.	Murshidabad Act.	1891	15
157.	Colonial Courts of Admiralty (India) Act.	1891	16

1	2	3	4
158.	Bankers Books Evidence Act.	1891	18
159.	Marriages Validation Act.	1892	2
160.	Bengal Military Police Act.	1892	5
161.	Madras City Civil Courts Act.	1892	7
162.	Government Management of Private Estates Act.	1892	10
163.	Porahat Estate Act.	1893	2
164.	Partition Act.	1893	4
165.	Sir Dinshaw Maneckjee Petit.	1893	6
166.	Land Acquisition Act.	1894	1
167.	Prisons Act.	1894	9
168.	Indian Railway Companies Act.	1895	10
169.	Government Grants Act.	1895	15
170.	Public Servants (inquiries) Act. (1850) Amendment Act.	1897	1
171.	Epidemic Diseases Act.	1897	3
172.	Indian Fisheries Act.	1897	4
173.	Amending Act.	1897	5
174.	Reformatory Schools Act.	1897	8
175.	General Clauses Act.	1897	10
176.	Indian Short Titles Act.	1897	14
177.	Lepers Act.	1898	3
178.	Indian Post Office Act.	1898	6
179.	Livestock Importation Act.	1898	9
180.	Central Provinces Tenancy Act.	1898	11
181.	Indian Stamp Act.	1899	2
182.	Government Buildings Act.	1899	4
183.	Glanders and Farcy Act.	1899	13
184.	Central Provinces Tenancy (Amendment) Act.	1899	21
185.	Church of Scotland Kark Sessions Act.	1899	23
186.	Central Provinces Court of Wards Act.	1899	24
187.	Prisoners Act.	1900	3

[Translation]

Small Hydro Power Projects

5470. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH: Will the MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether small hydel power projects have not proved successful in the country;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make these small hydel projects effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR.S.VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) 210 small hydel power projects (upto 3 MW station capacity), aggregating to 144 MW have already been installed in various parts of the country. In addition, 183 projects aggregating to 241 MW are in various stages of implementation.

The progress of implementation has been somewhat slow due to the low priority accorded by the State Electricity Boards for such small hydro projects, inadequate State Plan allocations, as also difficult terrain and inaccessible sites, particularly in the hilly areas and the North Eastern region.

(c) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources provides financial assistance for undertaking feasibility studies and implementation of projects, in both the Government and private sectors. Guidelines have also been issued to States for announcing policies to attract private investments for commercial small hydro projects. Fiscal incentives such as concessional customs duty, excise duty exemption, five year tax holiday, etc. are also being extended. Soft loans are also available from the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency. As a result of

all these measures, there is increasing private sector interest for taking up these projects. A Hilly Hydro Project with partial UNDP/GEF assistance and a Pilot Project on Portable Microhydel Sets are also being implemented as small, community-based off-grid projects.

Export of Tea

5471. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of tea exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(b) the total quantity of tea likely to be exported during the current year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of tea during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) A target of 180 million kg export of tea has been set for 1997-98.

(c) 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.

Statement

Exports of Tea

(Quantity : Million kgs)

(Value Rs. crores)

Country	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97 (April-Jan)	
	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Russian						
Fed.	41.06	271.94	68.05	483.80	25.41	198.51
Kazakhstan	2.68	13.74	3.56	23.23	1.74	11.31
Ukraine	4.28	24.16	2.79	20.00	0.52	3.22
Azerbaijan	-	-	0.03	0.23	-	-
Uzbekistan					1.53	10.26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Other CIS	1.65	9.61	3.51	20.83	5.12	35.53
Total CIS	49.67	319.45	77.94	548.09	34.32	258.83
U.K.	28.20	162.03	22.59	135.48	23.46	164.26
Ireland	2.46	14.12	2.63	18.05	3.19	22.22
Netherland	2.73	20.86	2.27	20.64	2.17	22.27
Germany	6.19	72.29	5.06	77.47	5.45	82.20
Poland	21.02	93.57	13.50	87.14	7.79	48.60
U.S.A.	6.32	53.46	3.57	29.80	4.22	45.60
Canada	0.78	4.54	0.48	3.12	0.71	4.37
UAE	13.57	107.70	16.00	130.90	17.78	136.43
Iran	2.18	14.84	1.51	12.65	4.17	27.15
S. Arabia	0.74	4.61	0.99	9.78	2.65	24.95
A.R.E.	5.32	24.10	6.22	32.07	5.47	28.83
Morocco	-	-	-	-	-	-
Afghanistan	0.37	1.82	0.85	6.10	0.72	5.83
Japan	2.56	29.53	2.10	28.78	2.00	31.80
Pakistan	1.15	5.67	0.30	1.07	0.20	0.59
Australia	0.78	4.23	0.65	4.52	0.92	5.72
Other Ctry.	8.12	53.59	6.99	45.53	17.04	95.65
Total	152.16	986.41	163.65	1191.19	132.26	1005.27

Funds for Textile Industry

5472. SHRI N. J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Gujarat wherein a request has been made to allocate more funds and to provide facilities for the development and promotion on handloom, powerloom, readymade garments and woollen garments industries particularly in the tribal areas of the State and to solve their problems pertaining to these industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (c) No such proposal has been received from the State Government of Gujarat on development and promotion of powerloom, readymade garments and woollen garments.

However, for development and promotion of handloom, Central Grants to State and Union Territories are sanctioned under the various ongoing Handloom schemes on the basis of viable proposals received from them. No State-wise allocation is made under the Budget. On the basis of the proposals received from the State Government of Gujarat, the following Central Grants have been sanctioned during the last three years:-

Years	Total Amount of Central Assistance released (Rs. in Crore)
1994-95	2.9751
1995-96	0.8851
1996-97	2.4710
Total:	6.3312

[English]

Dues of CIL

5473. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount which the power and steel companies owe to the Coal India Ltd., separately under the disputed and undisputed heads at present as on date;

(b) whether the Central Government has decided to clear off the undisputed portion of State-owned power companies due till December, 1996 to the public sector coal major, Coal India Ltd;

(c) if so, the rationale behind this decision; and

(d) the undisputed amount involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The outstanding dues to Coal India Limited from Power and Steel sectors as on 31.3.1997 are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

(Data provisional)

	Disputed	Undisputed	Total
Power	1653.55	1222.13	2875.68
Steel	454.87	44.09	498.96

(b) Government approved the proposal regarding deduction of outstanding dues of public sector undertakings as on 31.12.96 under the Ministry of Power/Railways/Coal/Atomic Energy through Central Appropriation with the stipulation that such appropriation be restricted annually to a maximum of 15% of the Central Plan Assistance for the concerned State irrespective of the number of years that it may take for the outstanding dues to be cleared.

(c) Governments intervention was necessary as the outstanding dues from State Electricity Boards had mounted and they had not made arrangements to clear even the undisputed dues.

(d) The undisputed dues from SEBs/Power Utilities as on 31.12.96 was Rs. 1248.07 crores (provisional).

Assistance to Kalinganagar Steel Plant

5474. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has submitted any project through Neelanchal Ispat Nigam Ltd. a joint-sector company of MMTC for seeking financial assistance from Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MMTC) for the steel plant at Kalinganagar (Dubri);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the project; and

(d) the time by which the above project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal for setting up an integrated Steel Plant in Orissa for production of 1.1 million tonnes steel wire rods, steel billets and pig iron with the participation of MMTC, Govt. of Orissa, MECON, Commonwealth Development Corpn. of UK and Lucky Goldstar of Korea is under consideration.

(c) Land for the Project has been acquired. Blast furnace has been imported and transported to the site and Financial institutions have appraised the Project. All statutory clearances have been obtained.

(d) At present, the Government have permitted MMTC to invest Rs. 100 crores in Neelanchal Ispat Nigam Ltd. and Rs. 49 crores in KMCL.

Export Growth

5475. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the export of various products during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the achievement made in this regard upto March 31, 1997;

(c) the foreign exchange earned as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to boost the export of various products by the Government during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) For the year 1996-97 an export target of around US \$ 38 billion was envisaged based on 18-20% dollar growth. As per available provisional data from DGCI & S, exports during 1996-97 are placed at US \$ 33.1 billion. No targets have yet been fixed for 1997-98.

(c) India's exports during April-March 1996-97 as per provisional DGCI & S data are placed at Rs. 117525 crores. These export earnings valued in dollar terms amount to US \$ 33106 million.

(d) Steps to boost exports of various products are continuously being taken. These include inter alia, changes in policies and procedures for providing an export friendly environment, involvement of States in export promotion, consultation with trade and industry etc.

Amendment to Essential Commodities Act (Cotton)

5476. SHRI SANAT MEHTA:

SHRI JAISINH CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Gujarat Cotton Association has requested the Government to remove certain provisions under the Essential Commodities Act, 1981 which attract criminal processings against the traders held at a Convention in November, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether provision of the Act are being misused by the authorities indiscriminately in Gujarat;

(d) if so, the details of the provisions under the Act which are creating hurdles in the trading of cotton in the State; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remove those hurdles so that the trading community may get relief?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The Government have received a representation from Shree Saurashtra-Kutch Ginning & Pressing Factories and Cotton Merchant Association requesting that cotton be removed from the list of items under the Essential Commodities Act.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Joint venture with NBCC

5477. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank Commercial Corporation (NBCC) has formed joint venture with three Indian partners;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the projects likely to be undertaken under the said joint venture?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Nationsbank Commercial corporation, Atlanta, USA has been granted approval in August, 1996 to set up a joint venture company viz. Foremost Factors Ltd. to provide domestic and export factoring services. M/s Mohan Exports (India) Ltd. and M/s 20th Century Finance Corporation Ltd., Bombay are the Indian promoters for this joint venture.

Foreign investment

5478. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Foreign Investment Promotion Council has written to more than 150 foreign companies whose proposals have been cleared by Foreign Investment Promotion Board to invest in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of companies responded to it;

(c) whether these companies have not shown keen interest to implement their proposals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The Foreign Investment Promotion Council (FIPC) addressed letters to various companies, whose proposals were approved by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board, to assess the status of their projects and to obtain information about the bottlenecks, if any, faced by them in implementing the projects.

(b) to (d) A few companies have responded to the letter indicating the existing position regarding implementation of the project. While showing their interest to implement the projects, they have referred to some problems faced by them in implementing the same.

World Bank Assistance to CIL

5479. DR. BALIRAM:

SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited has sought assistance from World Bank and other foreign financial Institutions;

(b) if so, the details of the amount sought alongwith the names of the projects for which amount has been sought;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the progress of ongoing World Bank aided schemes in Coal sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to complete these projects within the period and also ensure the proper utilisation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Coal India has sought assistance from World Bank and from no other financial institution.

(b) The details are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Amount in
1.	Environmental and Social Mitigation Project	US \$ 63 million
2.	Jharia Mine Fire Control Technical Assistance Project	US \$ 12 million
3.	**Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project	US # 1070 million

** This projects is yet to be approved by World Bank.

(c) and (d) The World Bank assisted projects are reviewed by Ministry of Coal from time to time with World Bank officials. Last review was held in April, 1997.

(e) For implementing these projects, the organisation is being strengthened. Moreover, consultants for implementing project, supervising and monitoring of project have also been appointed. The documents for tendering on different jobs have already been finalised. These steps will ensure proper utilisation of the funds and completion of the project within the stipulated time.

[Translation]

Committee on NTC Mills

5480. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Textile Secretary was set up by the Government during the last year for giving recommendations regarding textile mills functioning under National Textile Corporation;

(b) whether the Government have received the report of the Committee;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(d) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

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

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) The Committee has deliberated on the report of NTC(HC) and submitted their recommendations to the Government. The Committee has taken into consideration the concessions approved by the Government in 1995 and the positive networth factor as per the BIFR norm and categorised the mills according to their viability. The report of the Committee is presently under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Khadi Rebate Arrears

5481. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of rebate arrears due to Khadi industries during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the steps being taken to release these arrears to Khadi industries;

(c) whether this rebate arrears leads to erosion of working capital of these industries; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps being taken to protect the Khadi industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The total rebate arrears amounting to Rs. 187.08 crores are due to Khadi industries. The State-wise rebate arrears position as on 31.3.1997 is given in the statement attached.

(b) to (d) Government is aware of the problems faced by Khadi institutions on account of rebate arrears. In addition to the budgeted grant for the year 1996-97, an additional grant of Rs. 50 crores in supplementary grants was also provided to KVIC in March, 1997 for settling the rebate arrears. Other necessary steps like Government guaranteed credit from the consortium of bank for Khadi institutions have also been taken to step up production of Khadi in accordance with the recommendations of the High Power Committee.

Statement

		Rupees in Crores
Sr. No.	State	Amount
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4.98
2.	Assam	1.03
3.	Bihar	9.54
4.	Delhi	4.62
5.	Gujarat	21.11
6.	Haryana	6.72
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2.22
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.35
9.	Karnataka	8.48
10.	Kerala	4.85
11.	Maharashtra	6.34
12.	M.P.	3.53
13.	Nagaland	0.24
14.	Orissa	0.78
15.	Punjab	9.36
16.	Rajasthan	12.86
17.	Tamil Nadu	22.99
18.	Uttar Pradesh	63.93
19.	West Bengal	2.15
Total		187.08

Production of Coal by ECL

5482. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed and actual coal produced by the Eastern Coal Fields Limited during each of the last three years;

(b) whether there has been shortfall in production against the target;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) could not achieve its production targets during last 3 years. The details of coal production against the target from the mines of ECL during the last 3 years are as under:—

(million tonnes)

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Target	25.45	29.75	31.50
Actual	24.85	27.81	29.65 (prov.)

(c) The main reasons for shortfall in production from the targets are as under:—

(i) Power failure.

(ii) Drowning of districts due to heavy rainfall.

(iii) Geological disturbances.

(iv) Delay in commissioning of dragline at Sonapur Bazari opencast project due to design defect.

(v) Delay in commissioning of longwall equipment at Jhanjra underground project due to non availability of spares in time from C.I.S. countries.

(d) Following steps have been taken by Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL) for enhancing coal production from its mines.

1. Regular interaction with West Bengal State Electricity Board (WBSEB), Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) for improvement in power supply

2. Surface water management alongwith adequate monsoon preparation including augmentation of pumping in order to avoid drowning of districts.

3. Intense monitoring for procurement of spares and equipment in time.

4. Optimisation of production as well as optimisation of capacity utilisation of the existing equipment.

5. Optimisation of production from Side Discharge

Loaders/Load Haul Dumpers and power support longwall faces.

6. Measures for implementation of projects have been intensified so as to avoid slippage in projects.

[*Translation*]

Commission to check Corruption Cases

5483. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH:

KUMARI UMA BHARATI:

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute a high level Commission to check corruption in the country;

(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) There is no proposal under consideration to constitute a high level Commission to check corruption in the country. However, with the object of providing for the establishment of an institution of Lokpal to enquire into the allegations of corruption against public functionaries and for matters connected therewith, the Lokpal Bill, 1996 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 13.9.96 and the Bill is under consideration of Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of part (a) above.

[*English*]

Kerala Scheduled Tribes Amendment Bill, 1996

5484. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala High Court has directed the Union Government to complete all preliminary steps before the submission of the Kerala Scheduled Tribes (Restriction on Transfer of Lands and Restriction of Alienated Lands) Amendment Bill, 1996 for the consideration of the President within two months from the date of issuing the direction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble High Court of Kerala in its order dated 24.3.1997 has directed the Union of India to complete all preliminary steps required to be taken before submission

of the Bill for the consideration of the President and submit the same to the President as early as possible, at any rate within a period of two months from 24.3.1997.

(c) The Union Government has taken expeditious action to complete all preliminary steps in this regard.

Free Trade Zone

5485. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to declare free trade zone in Kodarma, Hazaribagh and Giridih districts of Bihar to boost export from these districts;

(b) whether the Government propose to conduct a survey of these districts for developing trade zones;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) The terms "Free Trade Zones" (FTZs) and "Export Processing Zones" (EPZs) in the Indian context are synonymous. There is no proposal at present for the Central Government to set up any new Zones. However, EPZs can now be established by the State Governments or in the joint/private sectors.

[Translation]

Vacant SC/ST Posts

5486. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes filled during the last one year and those still lying vacant in his Ministry/Departments, post-wise; and

(b) the phased programme prepared by the Government to fill up the posts still lying vacant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) A statement containing the requisite information is attached.

(b) Necessary action to fill up all the reserved vacancies has already been initiated. As regards filling up the reserved vacancies in the grade of Member, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, a Selection Board has already been constituted and interviews are likely to be held shortly for filling up these vacancies. In other cases, proposals have been sent to the Union Public Service Commission/Staff Selection Commission. The vacancies will be filled up immediately on receipt of the recommendations/nominations from them.

Statement

Designation		No. of reserved posts filled during 1996		No. of reserved posts lying vacant	
		SC	ST	SC	ST
1	2	3	4	5	6

Group 'A'

1. Members, ITAT

(Judicial)	—	—	2	1
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(Accountant)	2	—	1	1
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2. Deputy Legal Advisor	—	—	1	—
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3. Dy. Legislative Counsel	1	—	1	—
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4. Asstt. Legal Advisor	—	—	1	—
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5. Asstt. Legislative Counsel	—	—	1	2
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6. Asstt. Editor	1	—	1	—
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1	2	3	4	5	6
Group 'B'					
7. Private Secretary		—	—	2	—
8. Supdt. (Legal)		—	—	1	—
9. Sub-Editor		—	—	1	—
10. Assistant (Non-G)		—	—	2	2
11. Assistant (Legal)		—	1	—	1
12. Sub-Editor		—	—	1	—
Group 'C'					
13. Assistant (Adm)		1	—	1	—
14. Litigation Asstt.		—	1	—	1
15. Steno (Hindi)		—	—	2	1
16. Steno (HCE)		—	—	1	—
17. Steno (Reg. Lang)		—	—	1	2
18. Steno Gr. D		—	—	8	4
19. UDC		—	—	1	—
20. LDC		2	—	2	—
21. Staff Car Driver Gr. II		1	—	—	—
22. Staff Car Driver Gr. I		1	—	—	—
23. Peon		1	—	—	—

[English]

Export of Garments

5487. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for Indian garments has been increasing in several countries;

(b) if so, the achievement made in export of garments during 1996-97 and the target fixed for 1997-98; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of garments?

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

(a) The demand for Indian garments has been increasing in a number of countries.

(b) Garment exports amounted to US \$ 4762.10 million during 1996-97. A target of US \$ 5200 million has been fixed for the exports of garments during 1997-98.

(c) In order to boost the exports of garments, 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.

Khadi Units

5498. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Observer' dated April 25, 1997 captioned "Central Government's policy renders khadi units unviable."

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the details of memorandum received by the Government in this regard from Khadi and Village Industries Commission and other organizations; and

(d) the details of action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

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

(b) to (d) The High Power Committee set up under the Chairmanship of the then Prime Minister for suggesting measures to revitalise the KVI sector. The High Power Committee (HPC) in its report submitted in 1994 had made several recommendations including the replacement of rebate scheme for Khadi with the Market Development Assistance (MDA) scheme with an objective to improve marketability of khadi products by allowing them the flexibility in utilisation of Government grant for purposes such as advertisement, consultancy services for new designs etc. in addition to allowing some rebate on sale of khadi. As a large number of representations were received for continuation of rebate scheme, the matter regarding extension of the rebate scheme vis-a-vis introduction of MDA scheme was examined and it was decided to continue the rebate scheme upto 31.3.97. Accordingly, orders to the effect were issued. For the continuance of rebate for the current year (1997-98), matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Finance.

[Translation]

Production of Coal

5489. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of production of coal per capita per shift has increased in the coal sector in the country during the last year as a result of the efforts of reforms by the Government;

(b) if so, the per capita per shift rate of production of coal in Coal India Ltd. and its other subsidiary units during the year 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 separately;

(c) the step proposed to be taken by the Government for increasing the per capita per shift rate of production of underground mining and open cast mining and the target fixed for the rate of production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been increase in the overall output per manshift (OMS) of Coal India Limited during last year.

(b) The figures of OMS of Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries for opencast (OC) and underground (UG) mines during the year 1994-95, 95-96 and 96-97 are as under:-

Company	(In tonnes)					
	1994-95		1995-96		196-96-97	
	UG	OC	UG	OC	UG	OC
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
ECL	0.43	2.51	0.44	3.31	0.44	3.65
BCCL	0.50	2.25	0.46	2.37	0.47	2.75

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
CCL	0.45	2.60	0.45	2.55	0.41	2.64
NCL	-	7.68	-	8.14	-	8.60
WCL	0.69	3.58	0.69	3.83	0.70	4.08
SECL	0.84	8.12	0.87	8.90	0.90	9.25
MCL	0.68	12.13	0.69	12.76	0.68	12.82
NEC	0.50	6.58	0.38	4.12	0.37	3.65
CIL	0.56	4.35	0.56	4.75	0.57	5.12

(c) steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve productivity in coal mines are as under:-

i) Mechanisation of Bord and pillar workings by introduction of Load Haul Dumpers (LHD) and Side Discharge Loaders (SDL).

ii) Deployment of higher capacity equipments like draglines, shovels, dumpers and drills in opencast mines.

iii) Improving performance of all equipments including powered support longwall equipment by providing necessary inputs as well as system improvement.

iv) Improved manpower planning including redeployment as well as rationalisation of manpower through Voluntary Retirement Scheme, already in vogue.

v) Introduction of 'all men all jobs' concept wherever feasible.

vi) Improvement in availability and utilisation of equipment by providing necessary workshop support, improved management of spare parts etc.

vii) Improvement in working conditions by providing better ventilation, better lighting and improved communication systems in underground mines.

viii) Improvement in power supply particularly in the coal mines of eastern region through construction of direct feeders to obtain power from DVC and setting up of captive power plants in selected locations.

As per Planning Commission the target of OMS for 1997-98 in respect CIL is 5.40 tonnes for opencast and 0.60 tonnes for underground mines.

Sick Small Scale Industries

5490. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA:

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of sick small scale industrial units are increasing;

- (b) if so, the reasons thereof;
- (c) the major problems faced by the small scale industries in the country; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to motivate the nationalised banks to extend help to the small scale industries and to remove the sickness?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the data collected by the Reserve Bank of India from the Scheduled commercial banks, the total number of sick small scale industrial units has decreased from 2,68,815 at the end of March, 1995 to 2,62,376 at the end of March, 1996.

(c) The major problems faced by the Small Scale industries are:

- i) Limited Financial resources;
- ii) Lack of organisation, financial and management skills;
- iii) Lack of developed infrastructure;
- iv) Delayed and inadequate credit;
- v) Delayed payments by large industries;
- vi) Difficulties in marketing;
- viii) Difficulties in the availability of raw materials and other inputs including power.

(d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued detailed guidelines to commercial banks on various aspects of finance to SSI sector. Banks have been advised to provide working capital credit limits to the SSIs computed on the basis of a minimum of 20% of their projected annual turnover for the SSIs having aggregate fund-based working capital credit limit upto Rs.1 crore. RBI has recently, decided to raise the limit to Rs.2 crores. Small Industries Development Bank of India has been operating Single Window Scheme since its inception under which the composite assistance for fixed assets and working capital is extended to units in SSI sector by the same agency. The scheme is operated by State Financial Corporations, Small Industries Development Corporations and scheduled commercial banks. With a view to ensure that the disbursement of credit is not delayed, banks have been instructed to adhere to the time limit for disposal of application. While applications upto a credit limit of 25000/- should be disposed of within a fortnight, those for over Rs. 25000/- should be disposed within 8 to 9 weeks from the date of receipt. Requests for increase in limits should be considered expeditiously and decision should be taken promptly in any case within six weeks.

To tackle the problem of sickness, Nayak Committee had made several recommendations and accordingly, RBI has advised banks on modified definition of sick SSI units, reduced rate of interest 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 export staff, including technical personnel to look into technical aspects.

[English]

Green Channel Facility

5491. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:

DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of norms prescribed by the Government for trading house, star trading house, and super star house for clearance of their import and export consignments during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to grant the green channel facility to companies of holding the status of an export/trading/star trading or super star trading house;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the above facility is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (b) The facility of clearance of import and export consignments under the green channel is available to Trading House, Star trading house and super star trading houses. Under the Scheme, the examination of 100% of the consignment is waived and only some selected consignments are examined. Other facilities include:

(i) *Assessment of B/E*: Separate Group No.7A created to assess B/E(whether imported under DEEC or otherwise) regarding import made by SSTH/STH/TH.

(ii) *Examination*: Green Channel facility for export examination (random checks) extended.

(iii) *Destuffing & Examination at Party's premises*: Facility extended only if SSTH/STH/TH is a manufacturer importer, the goods are FCL and moved under customs' seal from port to party's factory.

There is no proposal at present to extend green channel facility to export houses.

Chief Controller of Import and Export

5492. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA:

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring the Office of Chief Controller of Import and Export under the control of Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which this Office is likely to be transferred?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE: (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Review the performance of EOUs/EPZs/FT Zones

5493. SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any comprehensive review of the performance of Export oriented Units and units set up in the export processing zones/free trade zones;

(b) if so, the details of performance of the schemes during 1996-97, State-wise and scheme-wise and how does it compare with the performance during the corresponding period by standard parameters;

(c) what are the emerging trend in the evaluation of these schemes and outstanding achievements as well as major failure notices; and

(d) the details of proposals for restructuring/revamp of these schemes to make more transparent/effective and result oriented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The performance of Export Oriented Units and Units in the Export Processing Zones/Free Trade Zones is reviewed annually on the basis of data received from the respective Development Commissioners.

(b) Since the data for the year 1996-97 in respect of all Zones/EOUs is required to be submitted by the concerned Development Commissioners by June/July, 97, the details of performance and comparative performance with the corresponding earlier period are not known as on date.

(c) The rate of annual growth of export of EOU/EPZ units is higher than the national average annual growth of export. Whereas Gem & Jewellery, Electronics and Garments are the leading performers in terms of export performance among the EPZ units, textile including yarns, agro based products and chemical, plastic and allied industry are the leading performers under the EOUs scheme.

(d) Based on interaction with the trade and industry, and their suggestions received in respect of the EOU/EPZ Scheme, several major amendments have been effected in the Export and Import Policy, 1997-2002 to introduce more automaticity in the scheme, further simplify procedures, and give better incentives to make the schemes result oriented.

Export of Skimmed Milk

5494. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Trading Corporation has signed any agreement with Netherland to supply 15000 tonnes of skimmed milk;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this agreement was not fulfilled by State Trading Corporation;

(d) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(e) whether this non-fulfilment of agreement is likely to affect the Indian export to Netherland; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to fulfil the agreement and action taken against those found responsible for the non-fulfilment of agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (f) During Nov.- Dec. 1994, Branch Office of STC at Frankfurt signed with ITC, Austria six contracts of 250 tonnes each for export of a total quantity of 1,500 tonnes of skimmed milk powder to Netherland for delivery during Jan.-March, 1995. However, STC could not fulfil the contracts due to non-supply by the suppliers on account of increase in the domestic price of skimmed milk powder besides the restrictions imposed by Govt. of Maharashtra on export of skimmed milk powder.

While non-supply of goods under a single commercial contract is unlikely to affect export to Netherland, based on an internal inquiry conducted into the deal, STC management has decided to initiate disciplinary action against officials in the light of the findings of the inquiry report.

[Translation]

Use of Hindi

5495. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to chalk out any plan for doing all the works in official language in the Golden Jubilee Celebration year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the reasons for not reconstituting 'Hindi Salahakar Samiti' in the year ended 1996; and

(e) the time by which 'Hindi Salahakar Samiti' likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) As per the Government policy on official language efforts are made to resort to maximum use of

Hindi in official work and all out efforts are made to achieve the targets spelt out in the annual programme issued by the Department of Official Language. These efforts will continue during the Golden Jubilee Celebration year also.

(d) and (e) There are two Hindi Salahakar Samitis in the Ministry of Industry, one for the Departments of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Industrial Development and Small Scale Industries and Agro & Rural Industries and another one for the Departments of Heavy Industry & Public Enterprises. The process of reconstitution of the Hindi Salahakar Samiti of the Departments of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Industrial Development & Small Scale Industries and Agro & Rural Industries is in its final stage and is likely to be completed shortly. The Hindi Salahakar Samiti of the Departments of Heavy Industry & Public Enterprises as already been constituted on 02.03.1995 for a period of three year.

[English]

Production of Coffee

5496. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the traditional coffee growing States and the performance of those States in Coffee production during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have started coffee plantation in some non-traditional States on experimental basis;

(c) if so, the achievements have made in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have made any programme for increasing coffee production during Ninth Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The production of Coffee in the traditional coffee growing States in the last three years is given below:

(in Tonnes)

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Karnataka	1,23,050	1,58,900	1,41,000
Kerala	39,000	45,000	47,300
Tamil Nadu	15,870	17,500	15,700

(b) and (c) 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 20,946 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. During the year 1996-97, a total of 20,752 tonnes of coffee has been produced in the non-traditional states.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir.

Consolidation and expansion of area under coffee is envisaged in non-traditional states apart from increasing the production and productivity in the traditional areas, so as to achieve the targeted production of 3 lakh tonnes by the turn of the century. Coffee Board has proposed a comprehensive programme in the Ninth Plan to support consolidation and expansion of coffee area in North-Eastern region and other non-traditional areas which includes providing subsidy for inputs, plant materials and marketing support. Similarly to increase the productivity level in small grower sector in traditional area, Board has proposed providing incentive/grants to increase the productivity and support quality upgradation.

[Translation]

Cess Collected from Tea Producers

5497. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have collected the cess from the producers of tea;

(b) if so, the rate at which this cess is being collected;

(c) the total revenue collected by the Government from the producers of tea during each of the last three years upto March 31, 1997;

(d) whether the Government have allocated any amount from the Cess Fund for increasing the production of tea during the above period;

(e) if so, the details thereof, year-wise; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Under Section 25 of the Tea Act, 1953 cess is levied and collected on all teas produced in India. At present, the rate of cess on tea is 30 paise per kg except in case to teas produced in some tea growing areas of Darjeeling where the rate of cess is 12 paise per kg.

Amount of cess collected from tea during the last 3 years has been as under:

Year	Amount of cess collected from Tea (Rs. Crores)
1994-95	10.56
1995-96	10.34
1996-97	11.65 (Budgeted)

Source: Receipt budget: Govt. of India.

(d) to (f) Proceeds of the cess on tea are utilised to meet expenditure towards research and development activities, labour welfare, foreign promotion of tea, administrative expenditure of the Tea Borad etc. Expenditure incurred on research and development activities out of cess proceeds during the years 1993-94 to 1995-96 has been as under:

Year	Expenditure on R & D activities from cess budget of Tea Borad (Rs. in lakhs)
1993-94	250.40
1994-95	443.45
1995-96	540.96

Audited figures of the expenditure for the year 1996-97 are not available.

[English]

Burn Standard Co. Ltd.

5498. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for delay in considering the feasibility Report of Burn Standard Co. Ltd. which has since been referred to BIFR;

(b) whether the Burn Standard Co. Ltd. is facing shortage of fund;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are considering to provide Burn Standard Co. Ltd. with plan non-plan fund, pending consideration of the feasibility Report by BIFR; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Burn Standard & Company Ltd. is a multi-product Company with eleven units spread over four States. The finalisation of the revival package required thorough examination of the economic revivability of each unit and this process involved more time.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. Brun Standard Company Ltd. (BSCL) is facing problems of shortage of funds. It has seven sick Refractory units which have been incurring losses since inception. The abrupt reduction in wagon orders in 1993-94 and 1994-95 has also adversely affected its financial performance. There are strains on working capital management. However, the Companies bank account is regular and it gets advance from Railways. Government has provided counter guarantee of Rs. 49.50 crore to bank for providing working capital requirement. With improvement in wagon orders from the Railways, BSCL's financial position is improving.

Release of Plan/Non plan funds required under the revival scheme would depend on the final sanction of revival scheme.

[Translation]

Supply of Hank Yarn to Uttar Pradesh

5499. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the demand of hank yarn made by Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and the hank yarn supplied by National Handloom Development Corporation;

(b) whether the weavers of the State have to face difficulties due to irregular supply of hank yarn; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to ensure supply of hank yarn to weavers keeping in view their demand?

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

(a) The data regarding State-wise demand of hank yarn is not being maintained. The National Handloom Development Corporation supplies hank yarn under Mill Gate Price Scheme and under Hank Yarn Price Subsidy Scheme which was in operation during 1994-95 and 1995-96. In addition, NHDC also supplies yarn as a part of their general operation. The NHDC has supplied following quantities of yarn to agencies of Uttar Pradesh during last three years:

Year	Quantity (In lakh Kgs)
1994-95	5.76
1995-96	8.96
1996-97	13.96

(b) No difficulty/grievance was reported from the State about the irregular supply/non availability of hank yarn.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Irregularities/corruption in Coal Mines

5500. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents pertaining to irregularities, corruption and theft of coal at coal mines are increasing; and

(b) if so, the scheme formulated by the Government to check them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Trade with South East Asian Countries

5501. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of areas identified by his Ministry for promotion of trade and commerce with South East Asian Countries through North Eastern Region in terms of Prime Minister package announced in October, 1996;

(b) the proposed area of N.E.R. which will be connected through Trans Asia Railway network; and

(c) the other infrastructural facilities proposed to be created during the Ninth Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Ministry of Commerce has identified agro products including spices, horticultural and floricultural produce as the thrust commodities for promotion of trade and commerce with South East Asian Countries through North-Eastern region. In this regard, detailed studies have also been commissioned through concerned trade promotion organisations including Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, etc. In order to boost border trade from North-Eastern States, traditional trade routes with Myanmar have been activated.

(b) India has urged ESCAP to connect North-Eastern Region under the proposed Trans Asia Railway link between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

(c) Ministry of Commerce provides assistance, under its Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme, to the State Governments for strategic debottlenecking and creation of export related infrastructure on receipt of specific proposals from the State Governments. Export Promotion Industrial Parks have also been sanctioned in two States. It is also proposed to create shortly cold storage facility in Guwahati airport.

[Translation]

Lok Adalats

5502. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Lok Adalats organised in Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years till date;

(b) the number of cases disposed of therein;

(c) whether the Government propose to organise some more Lok Adalats in Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House when received from the Uttar Pradesh Legal Aid & Advice Board, Lucknow.

(c) to (e) Lok Adalats which were heretofore voluntary efforts for resolution of disputes through persuasive and

conciliatory methods have been accorded statutory base with the enforcement of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 with effect from 9th November, 1995. The District Legal Services Authorities and Taluk Legal Services Committees etc. as envisaged under the Act are yet to be constituted though the provisions of Chapter III of the said Act have been extended to the State of Uttar Pradesh w.e.f. 5.7.1996. Pending constitution of the Authorities etc. as envisaged under the said Act, Lok Adalats in the State of Uttar Pradesh are being organised on the pattern as was in vogue prior to the enforcement of the Legal Services Authorities Act.

[English]

Joint Venture of Ford Motor Company

5503. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ford Motor Company has submitted a proposal to the Government for the setting up of a new joint ventures company to be called Automotive Components India (P) Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof including equity participation of the ventrue; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. M/s. Ford Motor Company, USA submitted a proposal for setting up a joint venture company to be called Automotive Components India Pvt. Ltd. for manufacture of auto components in Tamil Nadu with a paid up capital of Rs. 16200 lakhs. M/s. Ford Motor Company of Usa would have an equity participation of 80% in the Joint Venture. The proposal has since been approved.

Handloom Industries

5504. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any remedial measures to protect the handloom industry in view of the increase in freight charges announced recently as the industry is already facing financial constraints due to decline in export;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) With a view to protect the handloom industry from the impact of freight charges, the Government has been implementing Mill Gate Price Scheme. Under the Scheme, State Handloom Development Corporations, State Apex/Regional Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies, Handloom Development Centres, Primary Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies, Registered Societies (NGOs),

and any other Organisation recommended by the State Government are eligible for reimbursement of freight charges on procurement of yarn through National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd.

The exports of Handloom Fabrics and made-ups has registered an increase from Rs. 1491.32 crores in 1995-96 to Rs. 1758.89 crores in 1996-97.

[Translation]

Decline in Export

5505. SHRI L. RAMANA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the value and details of the export and import undertaken during 1996-97;
- (b) the extent of increase or decline registered in export and import in comparison to the previous year;
- (c) the reaction of the Government in regard to the lowest rate of increase in export; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the export target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) As per the latest information available from DGCI&S, for the year 1996-97 (Provisional), export are valued at US \$ 33105.72 million and imports at US \$ 38547.81 million. These represent an increase of around 4% and 6% respectively over the corresponding levels in the previous year.

The details of exports and imports by principal commodities & Countries are voluminous and are contained in the monthly publication "Foreign Trade Statistics of India" (Principal Commodities and Countries) Published by DGCI & S, Calcutta and which are also placed in the Parliament Library.

(c) Though exports have not declined, the rate of growth of exports during 1996-97 has been relatively lower. This could be attributed to inter alia international market conditions, tariff and non-tariff barriers, infrastructural bottlenecks, cost of export credit etc.

(d) Export promotion is a continuous exercise. This includes simplification of policy and procedures for providing export friendly environment, involvement of States in export promotion, consultation with export organisation, trade and industry to tackle general as well as sector specific problems for initiation of appropriate remedial measures from time to time.

[English]

Assistance to Coir Industry

5506. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government have received any

proposal from Government of Uttar Pradesh for getting assistance for the Coir Industry in Uttar Pradesh; and

- (b) If so, the details thereof?

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

- (b) Does not arise.

Inclusion of computer floppy under OGL

5507. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have announced some computer hardware and software items under O.G.L.;
- (b) If so, the details of such items;
- (c) whether the computer floppy is still under restricted list; and
- (d) If so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) No, Sir. Policy for hardware and Software item is same as in the previous year and there is no change.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) There are no restrictions on the import of floppy disc drive etc., for computers.

- (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

P.M.R.Y.

5508. SHRI N.J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the funds allocated for Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana is being diverted to other purposes in the country;
- (b) If so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps being taken or propose to be taken by the Government to improve the situation?

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

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

[English]

Defaulters in Export Obligation

5509. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE: 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 Pioneer dated April 10, 1997 under captioned "Export obligation defaulters to be penalised";

(b) if so, the number of units who have failed to meet their export obligation and the extent of failure during 1996-97, state-wise;

(c) the details of top ten defaulting exporters during 1996-97 with the extent of default; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The attention of the Govt. has been drawn to the Stated news item regarding "Export obligation defaulters to be penalised".

Action in advance licences cases where export obligation has not been fulfilled has been initiated to recover the Customs duty alongwith the interest and surrender of Special Import Licence under para 128 of Hand Book of procedure Vol. I, 1992-97. In cases where there is a suspicion of fraud or misrepresentation, Enforcement action under the FT(D&R) Act, 1992 has been instituted. The Customs authorities have also initiated adjudication proceedings in all such cases under the Customs Act, 1962 and other related legal Enforcement provisions. The data of such default in export obligation is not being maintained State-wise or individual exporter wise basis.

Crisis in Hindustan Newsprint

5510. SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government of Kerala has submitted a memorandum regarding present crisis in the Hindustan Newsprint Limited in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) A memorandum dated 24.7.96 submitted by Kerala Newsprint Employees Union on the crisis in Hindustan Newsprint Limited, Kerala in marketing of newsprint was forwarded by the Government of Kerala. The memorandum brought out the problems faced by Hindustan Newsprint Limited on account of the import of news print without customs duty etc. and sought review of the newsprint import policy.

(c) 10% customs duty has been levied on imported newsprint since October'96 and "Actual User Condition" has been imposed from January'97.

Renewable Energy Sources

5511. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated potential of renewable energy sources in the country, State-wise and for Maharashtra in particular;

(b) the estimated potential proposed to be released during the 9th Plan with State-wise and source-wise break up and for Maharashtra in particular;

(c) the details of achievements reported during 1996-97, source-wise, State-wise in general and Maharashtra in particular;

(d) the details of agenda of action to be taken during 1997-98, State-wise, source-wise with details of financial and physical target fixed; and

(e) highlights of fresh policy initiatives taken during 1996-97 and under consideration during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The estimated potentials for the installation of Improved Chulhas and Biogas Plants, state-wise including for the State of Maharashtra are given in statement-I. Broad estimates potentials of various renewable energy sources which have been made on country-wide basis, are given in statement-II.

(b) The potentials of various renewable energy sources in the country proposed to be realised during the 9th Plan, are given in statement-III attached.

(c) The achievements made under Non-conventional Energy Programmes during 1996-97 programme-wise and State-wise including the State of Maharashtra, are given in statement-IV attached.

(d) The financial and physical targets set under various non-conventional energy programmes for the year 1997-98, are given in statement-V attached. State-wise targets are finalised based on past performance and proposals received from the States.

(e) The major policy initiatives taken during 1996-97 which would also continue in 1997-98 include provision of fiscal and financial incentives under a wide range of programmes being implemented by the Ministry and simplification of procedure for private investment including foreign direct investment in the non-conventional energy projects. The fiscal incentives provided for this purpose include 100% depreciation in the first year of the installation of the project, exemption from excise duty and sales tax and concessional customs duty on the import of material, components and equipment used in non-conventional energy projects. In addition, the Government provides financial incentives such as interest-subsidy and capital subsidy from the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and soft loans from the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a Public Sector Company of the Ministry.

For creation attractive facilities for evacuation and purchase/wheeling/banking of electrical energy generated from non-conventional sources, the Ministry has issued a set of guidelines to all the States. It has been suggested that the States should announce general policies for purchase/wheeling/banking of electrical energy generated

from all non-conventional energy sources. A minimum purchase price of Rs. 2.25/unit with an annual escalation of 5% for first 10 years, with liberal wheeling/banking

facilities at nominal charges has been suggested. Twelve States have so far announced such policies in respect of various non-conventional energy sources.

Statement-I

State-wise Potential for Improved Chulha and Biogas Plants in the Country including Maharashtra

S.No	State/UTs	Biogas (Nos. in Lakhs)	Improved Chulha (Nos. in Lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.65	97.08
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.075	1.50
3.	Assam	3.77	36.00
4.	Bihar	9.39	123.83
5.	Goa	0.08	1.17
6.	Gujarat	5.54	50.72
7.	Haryana	3.00	20.61
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1.25	8.53
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.28	11.75
10.	Karnataka	6.80	60.76
11.	Kerala	1.50	40.73
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1.49	101.58
13.	Maharashtra	8.97	96.50
14.	Manipur	0.38	2.64
15.	Meghalaya	0.24	2.54
16.	Mizoram	0.022	0.73
17.	Negaland	0.067	2.01
18.	Orissa	6.05	54.55
19.	Punjab	4.11	25.38
20.	Rajasthan	9.15	55.54
21.	Sikkim	0.073	0.73
22.	Tamil Nadu	6.15	80.16
23.	Tripura	0.28	4.65
24.	Uttar Pradesh	20.21	187.45
25.	West Bangal	6.95	98.72
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.022	0.40
27.	Chandigarh	0.014	0.66
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.02	0.25
29.	Daman & Diu	—	0.10

1	2	3	4
30.	Delhi	0.12	9.06
31.	Lakshadweep	—	0.10
32.	Pondicherry	0.043	0.59
33.	Others		
Total		107.696	1177.02

Statement-II*Potentials of various Renewable Sources of Energy in the Country*

Source/Technology	Approx. Potential availability
Biogas Plants	12 Million Nos.
Improved Chulha	120 Million Nos.
Biomass/Bioenergy	17500 MW
Mini-Micro Hydel Power	10,000 MW
Wind Power	20,000 MW
Solar Energy	20 MW/KM ²
Ocean Energy	78000 MW
Urban and Industrial Waste	1700 MW

Statement-III*Physical Targets proposed for the 9th plan*

S.N.	Programme/Sub-Programme	Unit	Physical Targets
1	2	3	4
I. RURAL ENERGY			
1.	Family Biogas Plants	lakh Nos.	14.50
2.	CBP/IBP/NBP@	Nos.	4000
3.	Improved Chulhas	Lakh Nos.	250
4.	Biomass Standalone		
	(a) Gasifier Systems	MW	50
	(b) Village Electrification	No.	200
5.	Integrated Rural Energy Programme(New Blocks)	Nos.	750
6.	Urjagram/Energy Survey	Nos.	125/500
7.	Special Area Demonstration	Nos.	400
8.	Animal Energy	Nos.(Block)	150

1	2	3	4
II. SOLAR ENERGY			
9.	Solar Photovoltaic Programme		
a.	SPV Street Lights	Nos.	
b.	SPV Domestic Lights	lakh Nos.	5
c.	SPV Lanterns	lakh Nos.	10
d.	SPV Power Plants(Small)	Mwp]	5
e.	Other Systems	Mwp]	
f.	SPV Irrigation Pumps	Nos.	10,000
10.	Solar thermal Energy Programme		
a.	Solar Water Heating Systems	Lakh Sq.m.	13.00
B.	Solar Cookers	Lakh Nos.	5
11.	Wind pumps and Hybrid systems		
a.	Wind pumps	Nos.	1500
b.	wind Battery Chargers	KW	700
12.	Solar Energy centre		
III. POWER GENERATION			
13.	Wind Power	MW.	2000
14.	Small Hydro Power	MW	400*
			(266)**
15.	Biomass Power	MW	500*
			(395)**
16.	Solar Thermal Power	MW	150
17.	Solar Photovoltaic Power	MW	10
IV. URBAN & INDUSTRIAL ENERGY			
18.	Urban & Industrial		
	Energy Projects	MW	6
V. NEW TECHNOLOGIES			
19.	Alternate Fuel for Surface Transportation		
a.	Battery operated Vehicle	Nos.	1000

* Sanctioning

**Commissioning

@CBP- Community Biogas Plants

IBP- Institutional Biogas Plants

NBP- Night Soil Biogas Plants.

Statement-IV*State-wise achievements made under various Non-conventional Energy Programme during 1996-97.*

S.No.	Name of State	Wind Energy (MW)	Small Hydro Power (MW)	Biomass Combustion & Co-generation (MW)	Solar Power (KW)	Solar Water Pumping Systems (Nos.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9.39	—	—	—	69
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	1.00	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—	17
4.	Bihar	—	0.40	—	—	39
5.	Goa	—	—	—	—	02
6.	Gujarat	31.137	—	—	—	13
7.	Haryana	—	—	—	—	03
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	0.02	—	—	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	04
10.	Karnataka	3.27	5.40	1.0	—	42
11.	Kerala	—	3.00	—	—	82
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2.7	1.00	—	240	01
13.	Maharashtra	2.77	0.75	1.5	—	22
14.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	08
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Orissa	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	27
20.	Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	27
21.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	118.485	—	27.0	126	68
23.	Tripura	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	—	4.25	7.5	—	26
25.	West Bengal	—	0.52	—	—	26
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	13
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—
33.	Others	—	—	—	—	—

S.No.	Name of State	Solar Thermal		Solar Photovoltaic Systems			Biomass Gasifier	
		Solar Cooker (Nos)	Solar Water Heating Systems(m ² coll. areas)	SPV Systems (Nos.)	Power Plants/Packs(kwp)	Biogas Plants (Nos.)	Improved Chulha (Nos.)	No. Systems Capacity (kw)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	587	—	—	5.76	14921	204732	54 1320
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	269	—	—	—	27	415	— —
3.	Assam	—	—	100	1.00	5843	4382	— —
4.	Bihar	—	—	14614	—	1382	6069	— —
5.	Goa	15	—	—	—	163	9444	1 40
6.	Gujarat	865	—	1632	—	19362	63921	— —
7.	Haryana	1800	330	3097	—	2288	353240	— —
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1035	1451	4700	—	1300	17390	— —
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	2840	—	196	14000	— —
10.	Karnataka	—	—	—	—	26124	67588	— —
11.	Kerala	—	1506	12081	—	3421	74234	— —
12.	Madhya Pradesh	13000	96	5000	—	20798	248312	6 700
13.	Maharashtra	950	—	—	—	15067	124535	1 500
14.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	201	5068	— —
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	655	—	20	—	— —
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	120	2950	— —
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	182	1850	— —
18.	Orissa	116	22	233	—	11894	172602	— —
19.	Punjab	1295	1217	—	—	4468	60000	— —
20.	Rajasthan	625	—	5556	76.95	1869	106721	— —
21.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	201	5117	— —
22.	Tamil Nadu	4	—	1219	—	3894	208142	— —
23.	Tripura	6	—	—	—	87	3188	— —
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1112	—	13800	—	16141	227889	— —
25.	West Bengal	700	—	739	—	12591	169823	5 500
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	10	38	—	7	1740	— —
27.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	1500	— —
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	2	1000	— —
29.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	— —
30.	Delhi	—	—	307	—	3	2120	— —
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—	291	—	—	—	— —
32.	Pondicherry	363	—	2	—	1	2256	— —
33.	Others	—	—	—	—	—	—	— —

M=Meter,

KW = Kilo-watts.,

MW = Mega Watts.

Statement-V*Programme-wise financial outlays and Physical targets for the year 1997-98*

S.No.	Programme/sub-programme	Unit for Physical targets	Physical Targets 1997-98	Financial outlay 1997-98 (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5
RURAL ENERGY				
1.	Family Biogas Plants	Lakh Nos.	1.80]	68.00
2.	CBP/IBP/NBP	Nos.	3.00]	
3.	Improved Chulha	Lakh Nos.	30	18.00
4.	Animal Energy Programme			0.05
5.	Biomass/Standalone Gasifiers	MW	6.00	4.00
6.	IREP	No. of Blocks	100	12.00
7.	Urjagram	Nos.	50	1.00
8.	Renewable Energy Programme	Nos.	25	1.00
SOLAR ENERGY				
9.	Solar Photovoltaic Programme			33.00
10.	SPV Irrigation Pumps	Nos.	1,000	13.00
11.	Solar Thermal Energy Programme Collector area in meter ²		35,000]	5.00
12.	Solar Cookers	Nos.	35,000]	
13.	Solar Energy Centre			3.50
14.	Wind Pumps & Wind Battery Chargers	KW (Nos.)	25 (200)	1.00
POWER GENERATION				
15.	Wind Power	MW	350	5.00
16.	Small Hydro Power	MW	20	26.00
17.	A. Biomass Power	MW	45	9.00
	(a) Biomass Co-generation			
	(b) Biomass Combustion Power			
	(c) Biomass Gasifier Power			
18.	Solar Power			3.00
	(a) Solar Thermal Power	MW		
	(b) Solar Photovoltaic Power	MW	0.3	
URBAN & INDUSTRIAL ENERGY				
19.	Energy from Urban & Industrial Wastes	MW (Nos.)	10 (6)	6.00
NEW TECHNOLOGIES				
A:				
(a)	Chemical Sources of Energy			3.50
(b)	Hydrogen Energy			1.00
(c)	Geo-Thermal Energy			0.50

1	2	3	4	5
B:				
(a)	Alternate Fuels for Transportation	Nos.	200	4.00
(b)	Ocean Energy			1.00
I & P AND IREDA				
20.	Information & Publicity			3.50
21.	International Cooperation			1.70
22.	TIFAC/Data Bank			0.75
23.	Regional Offices			0.75
24.	Seminars			0.25
25.	IREDA			
	(a) Equity			33.50
	(b) Technology Commercialisation Fund			1.00
	Total NBS:*			260.00
26.	Counterpart fund for IREDA:			
	(a) IDA/DANIDA counterpart funding			66.00
	(b) SDC Grant			14.13
	G.B.S.**			340.13

[Translation]

Cheating PSU Gold by Jewellers

5512. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some exporters of Uttar Pradesh have cheated the Government by procuring gold in a large quantity from Public Sector Undertakings due to failure in exporting the ornaments made out of above gold and thus diverting this gold elsewhere;

(b) if so, the details of such exporters and the quantity of gold given to each exporter;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the Government have detected some employees of these Public Sector Undertakings in the matter; and

(f) if so, the action taken against those found guilty and the measures taken to check the recurrence of such frauds in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (f) Seven Jewellery exporters operating in the Noida Export

Processing Zone in Uttar Pradesh have not been able to account for 91 kgs of gold issued to them by MMTC under the schemes of Exim Policy. FIRs have been filed by the MMTC against these exporters with the UP police. 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, 1995 and the relevant recommendations made by this Committee have also been implemented. Government had also appointed an Inter-Ministerial Group on 22nd March, 1996 to oversee and take coordinated action against the exporters of gold-jewellery who have committed irregularities. In order to further reduce the possibilities of misuse of facilities under the schemes of Exim Policy, the Government has since made a number of changes in the new Exim Policy (1997-2002) including furnishing of bank guarantee of 100% value of gold obligatory for BOU/EPZ units.

Amendment in Article 124 of the Constitution

5513. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been recommended in the 14th report of "Law Commission, 1958" that the basis of appointment of Chief Justice of India should be 'suitability' and not 'seniority'?

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to amend the Article 124 of the Constitution for empowering the Executive with the rights of selection, appointment and transfer of Chief Justice and Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of progress made so far in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) In its 14th Report of "Reform of Judicial Administration" (1958), the Law Commission had recommended that "The practice of appointing the senior-most puisne Judge of the Supreme Court as the Chief Justice of India, is not desirable. Instead, the most suitable person whether from the court, the Bar or from the High Courts should be chosen" The Government then decided that the recommendation should be accepted and that the appointment need not go to the seniormost Judge if another Judge was considered more suitable.

(c) to (f) The Government decided to introduce a Constitution Amendment Bill in Parliament to make changes in the existing system of appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court, Chief Justices of the High Courts, Judges of the High Courts and transfer of Judges of the High Courts. The draft Constitution (Eighty-Second Amendment) Bill, 1997 has accordingly been circulated to members of Lok Sabha.

[English]

Chari Committee Report

5514. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Minister has since examined the Chari Committee report on integrated coal policy; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction to some of the salient features of the Chari Committee recommendations particularly the survival strategy for State Units in decontrolled regime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government have considered the Chari Committee Report on Integrated Coal Policy and have decided as follows:-

(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 Limited (CIL) and the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (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 the 1st January, 2000.

(iv) Subject to legislative approval, the setting up of an independent body to monitor detailed and regional exploration of coal and lignite resources in the country;

(v) Subject to legislative approval, the allocation of new blocks on the basis of a competitive bidding process in which Indian companies including nationalised coal companies may participate;

(vi) Subject to legislative approval, the establishment of a Regulatory Body which would perform an appellate function to resolve the price disputes between the producers and the consumers.

Integrated Infrastructural Development Project

5515. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Government has submitted any proposals for setting up of Integrated Infrastructure Development Project at Khurda, Paradweep and Rayagada;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether no formal sanction of funds for IID centre at Khurda has yet been issued;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the time by which the formal sanction of funds for IID centre at Khurda is likely to be accorded; and

(f) the remaining proposals likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Government received a proposal for setting up of Integrated Infrastructure Development Project at Khurda which was sanctioned on 20.6.96.

(c) to (e) The Central Government has not released any funds because the State Government is yet to complete the requisite formalities. The Small Industry Development Bank of India has sanctioned a loan of Rs. 296 lakhs.

(f) No proposal is pending with the Central Government.

Industrial Production

5516. SHRI B. L. SHANKAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the target of Industrial production fixed for 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) whether the target has been achieved during 1996-97;

- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target for 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (e) Though no target for overall industrial production was fixed for 1996-97 overall industrial growth was expected to be in double digit. As per the information available the overall industrial growth in April-January, 1996-97 was 7.5%. Deceleration in industrial growth has been mainly due to under performance in crude petroleum, power, fertilizer and consumer durable sectors. Sector specific strategy has already been initiated to remove the constraints in the under performing sectors. The Credit Policy announced recently by RBI is also expected to provide further impetus to industrial growth. Government has also proposed initiatives in Union Budget, 1997-98 for accelerated industrial growth.

[Translation]

Artificial Yarn

5517. SHRI N. J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether there has been decline in the export of artificial yarn from the States including Gujarat particularly from the tribal areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for this decline; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the export of artificial Yarn?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) State-wise export statistics are not maintained. However, India's overall exports of rayon filament yarn have declined from Rs. 105.34 crores in 1995-96 to Rs. 65.68 crores in 1996-97. The decline is mainly attributed to production constraints, inter-alia due to the problem of pollution.

- (c) Government have been taking a number of steps to boost export of textile items, including rayon filament yarn, 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.

Export of Textiles

5518. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the target fixed for the export of textiles during 1996-97;
- (b) whether this target has been achieved; and

- (c) if so, the details thereof and the facilities being given to exporters to encourage the export of textiles?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) A target of US \$ 11,800 million had been fixed for the exports of textiles (including handicrafts, jute and coir) during 1996-97. The achievement against the target has been US \$ 11839.13 million (provisional).

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.

Production of Core Industrial Sectors

5519. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been decline in the production of core industrial sector in the country during 1996-97 as compared to the previous year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government to the effect on the general industry as a result of decline in the production of the core industrial sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Six infrastructure industries, viz., electricity, coal, crude petroleum, saleable steel, petroleum refinery products and cement registered a growth of 3.2% during 1996-97 as compared to a growth of 7.9% in the corresponding period of last year. The decline in the production of infrastructure sector has been due to under performance in mainly crude petroleum and power sectors.

- (c) Development of a strong economic infrastructure in sectors like power, transport and communication is considered critical for sustained industrial growth. The extensive application of market mechanism in these sectors through de-regulation of production and distribution is expected to provide added stimulus. Foreign investment in these sectors is also encouraged to supplement domestic resources. An Infrastructure Development Finance Company with an authorised share capital of Rs. 5000 crores, has also been set up to finance infrastructure projects.

[English]

Coal Mafia

5520. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases registered by CBI against in Coal Mafia in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the details of cases processed during the last three years and outcome of investigation alongwith the action taken thereon;

(c) the details of pending cases and the reasons for delay; and

(d) the details of action taken by the Government to curb the growing activities of coal mafias and result achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Appointment of Judges

5521. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to appoint some more judges with a view to settle the delays in the court work due to engagement of several judges in cases of corruption etc. and piling of other cases in the Supreme Court and High Courts; and

(b) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) Judge strength of High Courts is reviewed once in three years and the next review is due in 1998. While there is no proposal to create new posts, action is under way to fill up existing vacancies of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts.

[*English*]

Growth rate in Export and Import

5522. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the growth of export and import during each of the last three years and the resultant trade deficit;

(b) the target set and achieved during the eighth Plan period;

(c) the target set for Ninth Plan period; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure achievement during the Ninth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) As per the DGCI&S data, exports imports and trade deficit for the last three years is as under:

US \$ Million

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (P)
Imports	28654	36678	38548
Exports	26330	31797	33106
Trade Deficit	-2324	-4881	-5442

(b) and (c) The Eighth Five Year Plan document envisaged a growth rate of 13.6% per annum in real terms for exports of goods during the Plan period. As per the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), the export growth rate during Eighth Plan is placed at 11.4% per annum and for the Ninth Plan, export growth rate per annum of 14.5% has been visualised under accelerated growth scenario.

(d) Export promotion is a continuous process and steps are initiated by the Government to promote exports through simplification of policies and procedures, improving bilateral trade, debottlenecking of export infrastructure, and enhancing the quality and competitive edge of Indian products.

Fire in Coai Mines

5523. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coal mines fields under fire at present, State-wise;

(b) the number of people affected in view of the various problems of the fire; and

(c) the measures taken to extinguish the fire and save the lives of the affected people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Isolated but controlled fire exists in 99 coal mines of Coal India Limited (CIL). There is no case of fire existing in any mine of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL). State-wise break-up of mines under CIL where such fire is persisting is as under:-

State	No. of mines where fire exists
Bihar	74
West Bengal	16
Orissa	1
Madhya Pradesh	7
Maharashtra	1

(b) and (c) The problem of fire which has affected surface and persons living around exists mainly in Jharia coalfield.

Out of 70 fires identified in Jharia coalfield of Bihar at the time of nationalisation of coking coal mines in 1972, 10 fires have been completely extinguished.

With the objective of finding a long-term solution to the problem of Jharia coalfield fires, a detailed diagnostic study was undertaken under the Jharia Mine Fire Control Technical Assistance Project with World Bank assistance. The study has been completed and report submitted. As a follow-up action, two workshops have been held at Dhanbad and Pittsburgh, USA with a view to outline and finalise course of action. As per the report, 10,800 families are residing in the high risk zone of environmental pollution.

Government of India has constituted a high level Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Coal, to look into the problems of subsidence and fires in the Jharia and Raniganj Coalfields and recommend suitable measures to deal with the problems. The Committee has started its deliberations.

Coal Mining Operation

5524. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have declared the names of the Mouzas unstable and unsafe for habitation due to coal mining operation;

(b) if so, whether the population of those Mouzas have been shifted and rehabilitated with adequate compensation for their loss of properties and one employment in each affected family;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for stabilisation, reclamation and protection from all types of environmental hazards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, the names of the areas which had become unstable on account of unscientific mining carried out by the erstwhile owners have been declared unsafe.

(b) to (d) The concerned coal companies have been publishing appeals in the local Newspapers informing the residents about the instability of the underground workings below the built-in areas and requesting them to vacate but people are not willing to shift. Regular follow-up and liaison with the District Authorities and local MPs/MLAs is being maintained for evacuating people from the areas declared unsafe. Wherever feasible, action is taken to stabilise the unstable underground workings under the built-in areas adopting the innovative technology of Hydro-Pneumatic stowing.

With a view to solving the above problem in a com-

prehensive manner, a Committee has been constituted on 19/12/1996 with Secretary (Coal) as the Chairman and representatives of Planning Commission, Ministry of Labour, Govt. of West Bengal and Bihar, Director General Mines Safety, Coal India Limited, Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited, Bharat Coking Coal Limited and Eastern Coalfields Limited as members. The Committee is expected to submit its report by June, 1997.

[Transaltion]

Jute Mills

5525. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) The number of public sector and private jute mills functioning in the country at present, Statewise;

(b) the State-wise, number of jute mills closed and the number of jute mills running in losses separately out of it;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to revive these mills;

(d) -whether the Government propose to extend assistance to these jute mills under United Nations Development Programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) As per existing status cases of every sick unit are to be referred to BIFR. This quasi-judicial body examines cases of rehabilitation. Revival schemes of the units are being prepared/examined by the Operating Agency appointed by BIFR. On receipt of the scheme BIFR decides cases of rehabilitation of individual unit.

(d) and (e) No such proposal is in the pipeline at present. However, these mills if required may obtain assistance/support under Jute Entrepreneurs Assistance Scheme.

Statement

The number of public sector and private jute mills functioning in the country

State	Private Sector	Public Sector	Total
1	2	3	4
West Bengal	50	6	56
Andhra Pradesh	4	-	4
U.P.	2	-	2

1	2	3	4
Bihar	1	1	2
Madhya Pradesh	1	-	1
Assam	1	-	1
Tripura	-	1	1
Orissa	1	-	1
Grand Total	60	8	68

I Statewise Number of Jute Mills Closed

West Bengal	3
Bihar	1
U.P.	1

II No. of Jute Mills Running in Losses:

All the above 5 jute mills at (I) above were running at losses at the time of closing.

[*English*]

Recognition to National and Regional Parties

5526. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has recommended sweeping changes in the present criteria for recognition of national and regional parties;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for implementation of these recommendation?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Losses suffered by MMTC as per audit investigations

5527. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether audit investigations into deals made in the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. have unearthed several cases where top officials were involved in either doling out favour to certain firms of causing heavy losses to the public exchequer;

(b) if so, the details of such cases including the losses, suffered in each case; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) The report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India for the year ending 31st March, 1996 has made few observations with regard to anomalies in the operation of gold schemes by MMTC under the Exim Policy. The report inter alia mentioned that foreign exchange amounting to Rs. 57.65 crores remained unrealised in respect of Gems and Jewellery exports.

(c) The Government has initiated action for verification of facts and for remedial measures, with the concerned agencies.

Rehabilitation of Heavy Engineering Corporation

5528. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved a proposal for rehabilitation of the Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC);

(b) if so, whether this is the first sick Public Sector Undertaking for which the Government have provided funds;

(c) if so, the total public sector sick units at present; and

(d) the number of Public Sector Undertakings improving their profitability?

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

(b) and (c) 23 public sector undertakings under the Department of Heavy Industry are sick and have been referred to BIFR as per SICA. Out of these sick PSUs, BIFR has sanctioned revival schemes for 7 PSUs including Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd. and necessary funds are being provided by the Government.

(d) Out of the 7 PSUs where BIFR have sanctioned revival schemes 3 PSUs namely Scooters India Ltd. (SIL), Richardson & Cruddas Ltd. (R & C) and Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd. (BBVL) have achieved turnaround and have earned profits in 1996-97.

[*Translation*]

Production of Car

5529. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the production of cars in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the total number of cars manufactured in the country during 1991-92 and the total number of cars manufactured indigenously during 1996-97;

(c) whether the export of these cars has also been promoted; and

(d) if so, the number of cars exported during 1991-92 and 1996-97 and the total value thereof?

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

(b) The total number of cars manufactured in the year 1991-92 and 1996-97 are as under:

	Production (In numbers)	
	1991-92	1996-97
Cars	1,66,389	4,04,040

(c) and (d) A number of proposals for setting up of joint ventures for manufacture of latest state-of-the-art cars have been approved. This step would give boost to export of cars. The export of cars has been as follows:

Exports

	1991-92	1995-96	1996-97
Cars	23,824	31,321	37,161
(numbers)			
Value	162 Crs.	609 Crs.	Not available.

[English]

Development of Handloom Sector

5530. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes being implemented for the welfare of handloom weavers; and

(b) the details of the financial assistance provided for implementation of each of these schemes during each of the last three years alongwith the number of weavers benefited therefrom, State-wise?

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

(a) Government of India is implementing the following Schemes for the welfare of handloom weavers:-

- (1) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme.
- (2) Thrift Fund Scheme.
- (3) Group Insurance Scheme.
- (4) Health Package Scheme.

(b) Details of the financial assistance provided for implementation of each of these schemes during each of the last three years alongwith the number of weavers benefited therefrom, State-wise are given in statement-I, II, III and IV attached.

Statement-I

Name of the Scheme: Workshed-cum-housing scheme

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
		Amount Released	No. of Weavers benefited (Estimated)	Amount Released	No. of Weavers benefited (Estimated)	Amount Released	No. of Weavers benefited (Estimated)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	159.00	3,100	225.74	1,981	381.18	3,302
2	Assam	143.13	2,078	140.00*	—	—	—
3	Bihar	80.00	2,000	100.00	2,500	—	—
4	Himachal Pradesh	29.49	750	26.00	650	24.72	618
5	J & K	3.27	218	14.56	364	—	—
6	Karnataka	80.00	2,000	227.78	3,820	100.00	2,500
7	Kerala	95.10	1,137	50.00	430	50.00	500

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8	Madhya Pradesh	18.24	456	93.52	1,168	—	—
9	Maharashtra	22.00	550	24.00	600	14.08	352
10	Manipur	45.60	1,140	—	—	80.00	2,000
11	Meghalaya	1.20	30	—	—	1.40	35
12	Mizoram	10.00	250	—	—	—	—
13	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	164.78	1,177
14	Orissa	100.00	2,500	—	—	55.64	1,391
15	Rajasthan	6.00	150	7.40	180	18.20	455
16	Tamil Nadu	56.00	400	140.000	1,000	140.00	1,000
17	Tripura	40.00	1,000	40.00	1,000	—	—
18	Uttar Pradesh	182.00	3,050	100.00	2,500	—	—
19	West Bengal	43.97	1,200	110.00	2,750	—	—
Total		1,115.00	22,009	1,299.00	18,943	1,030.00	13,330

*The balance amount released for the beneficiaries of the year 1994-95.

Statement-II

Name of the Scheme: Thrift fund scheme.

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
		Amount Released	No. of Weavers benefited (Estimated)	Amount Released	No. of Weavers benefited (Estimated)	Amount Released	No. of Weavers benefited (Estimated)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	47.50	47,500	81.50	81,500	90.60	44,574
2	Bihar	21.60	21,600	—	—	—	—
3	Gujarat	3.61	3,600	—	—	1.00	2,250
4	Karnataka	10.00	10,000	5.00	5,000	14.00	7,000
5	Madhya Pradesh	1.50	1,500	—	—	11.49	8,686
6	Maharashtra	24.39	24,390	11.19	11,190	—	—
7	Manipur	1.37	1,370	—	—	—	—
8	Orissa	56.00	56,000	30.00	30,000	—	—
9	Rajasthan	1.00	1,000	1.00	1,000	2.00	2,000
10	Tamil Nadu	166.06	1,66,060	192.14	1,92,140	140.05	1,11,184
11	Uttar Pradesh	18.00	18,000	22.50	22,500	—	—
12	West Bengal	10.00	10,000	12.00	12,000	—	—
13	Delhi	1.50	1,500	—	—	—	—
Total		362.53	3,62,520	355.33	3,55,330	259.14	1,75,694

Statement-III*Name of the Scheme: Group Insurance Scheme.**(Rs. in Lakhs)*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
		Amount Released	No. of Weavers benefited (Estimated)	Amount Released	No. of Weavers benefited (Estimated)	Amount Released	No. of Weavers benefited (Estimated)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	21.20	53,000	14.01	50,000	16.00	40,000
2	Bihar	1.24	3,100	4.04	13,200	—	—
3	Gujarat	—	—	—	—	4.13	10,325
4	Karnataka	10.00	25,000	10.00	25,000	10.00	25,000
5	Madhya Pradesh	1.80	4,504	—	—	—	—
6	Manipur	0.12	300	—	—	0.60	1,500
7	Orissa	10.00	25,000	10.00	25,000	10.00	25,000
8	Tamil Nadu	28.22	1,12,899	26.06	1,04,224	27.28	1,03,302
9	Uttar Pradesh	10.00	25,000	10.00	25,000	—	—
10	West Bengal	1.66	4,141	3.00	7,500	2.00	6,377
Total		84.24	2,52,944	77.11	2,49,924	70.01	2,11,504

Statement-IV*Name of the Scheme: Health Package Scheme.**(Rs. in Lakhs)*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
		Amount Released	No. of Weavers benefited (Estimated)	Amount Released	No. of Weavers benefited (Estimated)	Amount Released	No. of Weavers benefited (Estimated)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	76.50	17,000	188.15	27,300	270.09	41,870
2	Assam	48.75	12,950	53.50	12,250	20.15	3,950
3	Bihar	79.80	8,000	75.00	—	—	—
4	Gujarat	4.60	1,900	16.00	1,970	—	—
5	Himachal Pradesh	0.63	290	—	—	—	—
6	Haryana	—	—	—	—	7.88	1,100
7	Karnataka	49.93	10,150	—	—	—	—
8	Kerala	16.80	6,500	55.00	7,500	—	—
9	Madhya Pradesh	0.13	15	11.16	4,348	—	—
10	Maharashtra	25.14	6,817	28.50	8,200	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	Meghalaya	548	1,100	—	—	—	—
12	Manipur	140	290	—	—	—	—
13	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	6923	9,230
14	Orissa	2920	10,000	—	—	—	—
15	Rajasthan	—	—	2550	3,850	—	—
16	Tripura	2230	4,000	2290	4,050	—	—
17	Tamil Nadu	11607	20,269	7984	11,349	350	500
18	Uttar Pradesh	5800	8,500	—	—	—	—
	Total	53473	1,07,781	55555	84,817	37085	56,650

HMT and KINFRA Joint Venture

5531. SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sent a representation to the Union Government for resumption of 400 acres of land now in possession of Hindustan Machine Tools, Kalamassery as per the Kerala Land reforms Act and also proposal of HMT and KINFRA for the formation of Joint Venture Commission to set up an Industrial Park;

(b) if so, whether the representatives of the HMT and KINFRA held discussions and drafted Memorandum of understanding about equity share allotment by KINFRA to HMT;

(c) whether the Union Government's approval for signing of the MOU is awaiting since long;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA) had approached HMT for setting up of a Joint Venture Industrial Park in about 400 acres of land at HMT IV, Kalamassery. The various aspects of the proposal were being discussed in the light of the exemption granted earlier by the State Government for utilisation of the land under Kerala Land Reforms Act, 1963. In the meantime, the State Government vide G.O. Dated 28.8.95 resumed 400 acres of land. Since the proposal was not finalised, HMT obtained a stay against the resumption of the land from the Kerala High Court.

(b) HMT and KINFRA agreed to a draft MOU for setting up of the Joint Venture Industrial Park envisaging transfer of 360 acres of land to the State Government for setting up of the Joint Venture including 50 acres for Kerala State Housing Board. HMT would be compensated in the

form of equity in the Joint Venture Company to the extent of Rs. 7.2 crores in consideration for the transfer of the said land.

(c) Approval of the Union Government was sought. However, the Board of Directors reconsidered the matter and decided not to pursue the Joint Venture with KINFRA because it would not be beneficial to HMT. Hence, HMT withdrew the proposal.

(d) The question does not arise.

(e) The question does not arise.

Common Approach for Nine PSUs

5532. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have called a meeting of the Chief Executives of the Navratna (ninemags) to finalise a common approach for globalisation of these undertakings;

(b) if so, the details of agenda discussed and strategy finalised/decision taken therein; and

(c) the details of agenda for action worked out for 1997-98 for strengthening "Navratna"?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A meeting with CEOs of "Navratna" PSUs and senior representatives of the administrative Ministries was held recently to consider measures to make them global giants and further strengthen them by imparting greater financial and managerial autonomy. No decision has been taken and this is a continuous process.

Grid Capable Non-Conventional Power Generation

5533. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are embarking upon an ambitious programme of establishing 'grid capable of non-conventional power generation schemes' to augment the overall energy scenario in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government have since formulated any comprehensive policy on non-conventional energy spelling out the role of the Government, industry, Non-Government Organisations, Research Institutes and the users;

(d) if so, the broad features thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which the Government propose to announce the non-conventional energy policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) A power generation capacity of about 1200 MW based on non-conventional energy sources has already been established in the country. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has proposed a target of 3000 MW of additional power generation capacity for the Ninth Plan period from wind, small hydro, biomass and solar energy. The projects will mainly be taken up as commercial projects through private sector participation. Their location will depend upon potential, technical feasibility and economic viability. No State-wise targets have therefore, been fixed.

(c) to (e) Government have not yet finalised a comprehensive policy on non-conventional energy sources. Preparation of such a policy and its finalisation would take some more time.

Subsidy on Sericulture

5534. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested for increase in the subsidy on sericulture;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the measures taken during 1996-97 and likely to be taken in 1997-98 to boost the production of silk in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) No request for increase in subsidy on sericulture has been received from the Government of Karnataka for the ongoing schemes of the Central Silk Board. However, while finalising the sericulture schemes for IXth Plan period, the requests/suggestions, if any, of the various State Governments including Karnataka would be examined/considered.

(c) The programmes/schemes for development of sericulture in Karnataka are being formulated and implemented by its State Sericulture Department. The Central Silk Board has supplemented the efforts of the State Government through its R&D activities such as undertaking

field trials of newly developed improved bivoltine hybrids and cross breeds during 1996-97. In addition, CSB has undertaken the installation of 9 Ushankotis to help in pupae drying. 3 Demonstration Water Treatment Plants are also being located in Karnataka by the CSB to help improvement in reeling quality. 3 units have been assisted for by-product utilisation besides holding a no. of demonstration for seeding improved technology. Since Karnataka is a traditional sericulture state, the State Sericulture Department as well as CSB are likely to continue their efforts towards sericulture development in this state during 1997-98.

[Translation]

154th Report of Law Commission

5535. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendations made by the Law Commission in its 154th report on the criminal procedure code regarding hearing of rape cases;

(b) the other important recommendations made in the said report; and

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the important recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) 154th Report of the Law Commission was laid on the Table of the House on 20.12.1996. In respect of hearing of rape cases, paras 37 to 41 in Chapter XXII of the report are the main recommendations. All other recommendations are also included in the said Chapter.

(c) A copy of the report has been forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs with a view to implementing the recommendations contained in the report.

[English]

Pollution by Dankuni Coal Complex

5536. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news report appeared in the 'Pioneer' dated March 21, 1997 under the captioned "Fishermen raise stink over polluting Dankuni canal";

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

(c) the details of funds allocated by the CIL during 1996-97 and 1997-98 for pollution control and environment protection of the area; and

(d) the other steps taken for pollution control and environment protection?

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

(b) Status and comments in regard to the various points reported in the aforesaid news item are given in the statement attached.

(c) The budget allocation for environmental protection measures for the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 are Rs. 94 lakhs and 210 lakhs respectively.

(d) The steps taken for pollution control and environment protection are as under:-

- (i) Reducing waste water quantity by its recycling.
- (ii) Plugging leakages of high strength waste water.
- (iii) Using isobutyle acetate as an extraction solvent.

(iv) Operating the existing effluent treatment plant under the expert guidance of All India Institute of Hygiene & Public Health.

(v) Tar oil separator is under construction.

(vi) M/s. All India Institute of Hygiene & Public Health designed additional aerators which is likely to be constructed within 8 months time.

(vii) National Environmental Engineering and Research Institute (NEERI) have been approached to suggest long-term measures to be adopted at Dankuni Coal Complex.

Statement

Points in the news item	Status & Comments
1	2
1. Dankuni Coal Complex produces coal-gas, oil-coke, chemicals etc. and are polluting Dankuni canal, and irrigation canal.	DCC produces 500 tonnes CIL Coke, 2 Lakh M3 of gas and other valuable chemicals. Only after treatment in Biological Treatment Plants, the treated effluent is discharged in the canal.
2. The phenol concentration in the discharged water of DOC is very high (4500 Mg/Litre).	Main effluent generated in the plant has phenol concentration of 4500 and above mg/lit., but the same is discharged after bringing below 10 mg/lit.
3. M/s. National Environment Engineering and Research Institute has criticised Dankuni Coal Complex for mal-operation of different units.	NEERI had in their report submitted in May, 1996, incorporated various deficiencies which were rectified by DCC in 1996 itself.
4. The paddy yield and fish yield have been badly affected due to pollution in Dankuni canal.	It is not a fact.
5. It has been alleged that coloured water is still being discharged at the canal and the workers have to inhale the unhealthy gas due to frequent leakage and steps being taken by DCC are not enough and the workers are panicking.	Coloured but harmless water is discharged at Dankuni canal.
6. Shri D. Chakraborty, representative of West Bengal Pollution Control Board has admitted that WBPCB do not have the equipment to measure air pollution and if DCC emitting gases at night, the local residents should file FIR.	On the advice of West Pollution Control Board, DCC has engaged All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health for quarterly monitoring of air quality and the results are well within the norms.
7. The management agreed to form a Joint Committee to investigate the extent of pollution and its impact on the health of the local population.	It is a fact. Joint committee is in the process of being formed.
8. NEERI in their report has pointed out certain loopholes for the environmental monitoring system of DCC. In particular, the coal gas emission, from different locations have been pointed out.	Same as item No. 3
9. NEERI has also alleged that the water management of DCC is not proper.	DCC has minimised the waste generation and had also recycled a part of waste water.

1	2
10. NEERI has also advised DCC to discontinue the use of light oil as solvent.	Isobutyle Accetate is being used as solvent for more than a year.
11. NEERI has also charged DCC management of discharging residues (mostly semi-solid in nature) from *TDP Section.	DCC on the advice of CFRI has adopted certain measure by which semi solid mass generation at *TDP is stopped.
12. NEERI complained that people in and around Dankuni suffered from various skin diseases, cough and asthma, nausea etc.	It is not a fact.
13. NEERI has also alleged that the effluent treatment facility of DCC is not enough and the *BOD Plant is not functioning properly.	All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health has been entrusted to operate the *BOD Plant and the plant is working satisfactorily.

B.O.D. - Biological Oxygen Demand

T.D.P. - Tar Distillation Plant

Export of Marine Products

5537. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:

SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's share for export of marine products in the world is very low;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the target fixed for the export of marine products during the current year and the target achieved in this regard so far;

(d) the names of the countries where the marine products were exported;

(e) whether the foreign collaboration is allowed in the field of deep sea fishing and fish cultivation;

(f) if so, the extent to which this permission is being given; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to increase to export of marine products during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. India occupies fifteenth position in the world seafood trade. India has a share of 2.4% in the world trade of sea food.

(c) The provisional target fixed for the export of marine products during the current year is 3,71,000 M.T. valued at Rs. 4,165 crores. During the month of April, 1997 India exported 22,050 M.T. of marine products valued at Rs. 225 crores.

(d) The following are the countries to which marine

products are being exported from India—

Las Palmas, Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa, Mali, Reunion, Republic of Panama, Canada, USA, Russia, Poland, Sri Lanka, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, Vietnam, Maldive Islands, Brunei, Bahrain Island, Qatar/Doha, Saudi Arabia, U A E, New Zealand, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Ireland, U.K. Austria, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, Greece, Spain, Malta.

(e) and (f) The Deep Sea Fishing Policy of India of 1991 has been rescinded by the Govt. of India. As such no approvals are being granted. However, the Deep sea fishing Vessels with valid approvals under the 1991 policy are being allowed to operate. As regards the fish cultivation foreign collaborations, both financial and technical collaborations are allowed in the field of shrimp culture, for setting up of shrimp hatchery/shrimp farms/feed mills and processing plants.

(g) The following are the steps envisaged by the Govt. to increase the export of marine products during the ninth plan—

1. Sustained production from eco friendly aquaculture practices.

2. Quality upgradation of the seafood industry of India.

3. Diversification of market and product base of seafood industry.

4. Promotion of value added products in the export basket of India.

5. Undertaking market promotion measures in potential markets.

Subsidence of Land in Bholgora

5538. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fresh incidents of land subsidence near east Kustore pit in Bhaigora area of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL);

(b) if so, the extent of damage caused so far to those areas under BCCL; and

(c) the scheme drawn up by BCCL to help the affected people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Government are aware of the incident of land subsidence which occurred on 8.4.1997 at East Kustore section of Kustore colliery of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) resulting in development of cracks to thirty old arched type single room chowras.

(c) All the affected quarters and the other quarters which were in the vicinity have been demolished and all concerned persons have been rehabilitated at a safe place.

School/Institutes Run by Coal India Limited

5539. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Schools, Colleges and other educational institutions are being run by Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and places where they are situated;

(c) the number of students, teaching and non-teaching staff in each institutions; and

(d) the amount spent of such institutions during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of reply at (a) above.

Sugar Exports

5540. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar export has been facing rough weather for the last three months;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of sugar during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) issued a Trade Notice on 25.4.97 inviting applications for issue of RCAC for export of 155658 MTs of sugar. The salient features of Trade Notice are as under:-

(i) Each application is to be accompanied by proof of inward advance remittance received through a bank covering 100% FOB value or a bank authenticated irrevocable letter of credit or certified copy of the contract or a copy of export contract, a performance guarantee to the extent of 5% of the total FOB value of the contract, and in the case of merchant exporters, the name of sugar mill from which the sugar is to be contracted for exports;

(ii) Allocations shall be made on first-cum-first served basis to exporters. However, net value realisation shall be an overriding criterion for issuing a particular RCAC;

(iii) In case of applications not providing proof of 100% inward remittance or irrevocable letter of credit, RCAC with a validity of 3 months would be issued with the condition that if/the shipments are not affected within the validity period, the 5% performance guarantee furnished by the applicant shall stand forfeited without any further notice.

(iv) In case the application is based on a revolving irrevocable letter of credit or a contract for partial shipment, the RCAC would be granted only to the extent of a partial shipment stipulated in the contract.

(v) Each applicant would furnish the details of his Import-Export Code Number (IEC) and Registration Number with APEDA/Federation of Indian Exporters Organisation (FIEO) and applicants who are not registered with APEDA/FIEO currently, would be required to get themselves registered within one month of filing the application.

(vi) Shipments against the RCACs to be completed within the period of validity as specified in RCAC which shall not exceed three months.

(vii) Nominating Indian Sugar and General Industry Export Import Corporation Ltd. (ISGIEIC) to fulfill export obligations under the preferential quota to USA and European Union.

(viii) The Trade Notice provide an equal opportunity to all genuine exporters to obtain RCACs.

Import of Gold By MMTC

5541. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of gold imported by Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. under the Earnest Money Scheme during each of the last three years;

(b) the quantity of gold supplied by MMTC to each exporter during the above period;

(c) how many of the exporters have complied with the export obligations; and

(d) if not, the action taken against the exporters who diverted the loaned gold in the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) There is no earnest money Scheme operated by MMTC for import of gold. However, the total quantity of gold imported by MMTC under the schemes of chapter VIII of Exim Policy during the last three years is as follows:-

Year	Qty. in Kgs.
1994-95	17985
1995-96	20140
1996-97	12915
(as on 15.11.96)	
Total:	51040

(b) The total gold supplied to the jewellery exporters since 1994-95 upto 1996-97 (15.11.96) is 50991 Kgs.

(c) 19 exporters in EOUs/EPZs and 4 exporters in Domestic Tariff Area have defaulted in exporting gold jewellery under the schemes as reported by MMTC.

(d) 23 cases of alleged irregularities have been referred by MMTC to various investigating agencies including CBI, DRI, Enforcement Directorate and DGFT for investigation and necessary action.

Tea Auction Norms

5542. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tea Board had discussion with the Chair-Persons of the three auction Committees to standardise tea auction norms involving free trade samples in line with the recommendations of the Consultative Committee or of the Plantation Associations;

(b) if so, the outcome of the discussions;

(c) whether any decision has been taken to reduce sample quantity per lot;

(d) if so, whether all the three auction Committees were in agreement to revert to the three-year aggregate purchases norms; and

(e) if so, the details of the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (e) Suggestions of the Consultative Committee of Plantation Association for revision in the norms for purchase of teas at various auction centres were sent by the Tea Board

to the Auction Committees at Calcutta, Siliguri and Guwahati, seeking their views in the matter. Views of the Calcutta Tea Auction Committee have since been received by the Tea Board, whereas replies from Guwahati Tea Auction Committee and Siliguri Tea Auction Committee are awaited. Tea Board will hold discussions with the Auction Committees after views of the remaining two committees are received, in order to improve the tea auction norms.

Payment of Dividend

5543. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the Public Sector Undertakings fail to comply with the Government's directives of 1996 to pay increased dividends;

(b) if so, the names of such Public Sector Undertakings;

(c) whether the Government have directed the financial advisors on the Board of PSUs to take steps to ensure Payment of dividend; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of steps likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) The Government have instructed the financial advisors of the administrative Ministries to ensure that the profit making PSUs which are essentially commercial declare a minimum stipulated dividend, based on their Net Profit after Tax or as percentage of paid up capital. However, depending upon their requirements for funds for their approved investment plans, the PSUs are permitted to finalise the level of dividend by mutual consultations.

[Translation]

Export Promotion Industrial Park

5544. SHRI N.J. RATHWA:

SHRI VIJAY PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved eighteen proposals for setting up of export Promotion Industrial Park in the country;

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

(c) the total funds earmarked by the Government for these Export Promotion Industrial Parks during 1997-98, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have selected the places for setting up more Export Promotion Industrial Park in the country for promoting export during the current year; 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) Yes, Sir. The location-wise details of the approved 18 Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIP) are given the statement attached.

(c) An amount of Rs. 20 crores has been provided for EPIP in the Budget Estimates for 1997-98. Funds are not earmarked State-wise, as Central Grant to State Governments for EPIP is released in proportion to the

State's contribution, linked to progress of implementation of the Park.

(d) and (e) Project location for setting up of Export Promotion Industrial Park is determined by the concerned State Government. Proposals have been received from the Governments of Karnataka, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh for setting up a second Export Promotion Industrial Park in Mangalore, Rangreth in District Budgam, Tapukara in District Alwar and Ram Nagar in District Varanasi respectively.

Statement

Details of approved EPIPs, location-wise

	Name of State Government	Location of EPIP	Central Grant released
1.	Punjab	Dhandari Kalan, Distt. Ludhiana	Rs. 5.90 crores.
2.	Maharashtra	Ambarnath, Distt. Thane.	Rs. 6.75 crores.
3.	Himachal Pradesh	Baddi, Distt. Solan.	Rs. 3.00 crores.
4.	Rajasthan	Sitapura, Distt. Jaipur.	Rs. 10.00 crores.
5.	Karnataka	Hoodi, Distt. Bangalore.	Rs. 10.00 crores.
6.	Kerala	Kakkanad, Distt. Ernakulam.	Rs. 5.39 crores.
7.	Haryana	Kundli, Distt. Sonipat.	Rs. 4.00 crores.
8.	Uttar Pradesh	Surajpur, Distt. Ghaziabad.	Rs. 10.00 crores.
9.	Tamil Nadu	Gummidipoondi, Distt. Chengai-MGR	Rs. 2.37 crores.
10.	Andhra Pradesh	Pashamylaram, Distt. Medak.	Rs. 2.25 crores.
11.	Gujarat	Savli, Distt. Baroda.	Rs. 5.20 crores.
12.	Bihar	Hajipur, Distt. Vaishali,	Rs. 3.00 crores.
13.	West Bengal	Durgapur, Distt. Burdwan	Rs. 4.15 crores
14.	Meghalaya	Byrnihat, Distt. Ribhoi.	Rs. 4.50 crores.
15.	Orissa	Bhubaneswar, Distt. Khurda.	Rs. 4.50 crores.
16.	Assam	Amingaon near Guwahati, Distt. Kamrup.	Rs. 5.00 crores
17.	Madhya Pradesh	Pithampur, Distt. Dhar	Rs. 4.50 crores.
18.	J&K	Samba, Distt. Jammu	Rs. 2.25 crores.

[English]

Import of Fabrics

5545. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Financial Express' captioned "move to shift fabrics from restricted list";

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to shift fabrics from restricted list and allow its import against the new duty entitlement Pass book scheme notified in the export-import policy (1997-2002);

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):
(a) to (d) Review of Exim Policy is an ongoing process

and changes are made in it as and when considered necessary. Presently, there is no move to shift fabrics from the Restricted list of Negative list of Imports. As per current Exim Policy, credit facility under Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme is available for all items, except those appearing in the Negative List of Imports.

Trade with Neighbouring Countries

5546. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR:

SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA:

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

DR. ASIM BALA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's trade with its neighbouring countries has doubled during each of the last three years;

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

(c) the main items which were imported and exported during the above period, country-wise;

(d) whether India has signed any agreement with its neighbouring countries particularly Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal recently;

(e) if so, the details thereof, separately; and

(f) how far these agreements are likely to boost the trade with its neighbouring countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) India's trade with Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and China has grown by 48.31%, 51.10% and 38.65% during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively. In the case of trade with Myanmar (figures compiled in US \$), the trade growth rate has been 20.27%, 4.47% and 18.92% during the same period.

(b) Statement-I showing India's trade with these neighbouring countries from 1992-93 upto 1996-97 (Apr-Feb) year-wise and countrywise is enclosed.

(c) The main items which were imported and exported during the above period, country-wise, are shown in Statement-II attached.

(d) and (e) India has existing bilateral trade agreements/treaties with each one of these neighbouring countries except Pakistan and no fresh Agreement has been signed recently with any of these neighbouring countries except that the existing Treaty of Trade between India and Nepal has been extended for a further period of 5 years in December 1996. On 11th April 1993, an Agreement on Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) was signed by these seven countries as Members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) under which tariff concessions are being exchanged and the aim is to establish a Free Trade Area preferably by 2000 A.D. but not later than 2005 A.D.

(f) India's trade with the SAARC Member countries is on the increase.

Statement-I

India's Trade with Neighbouring Countries

(Value in Rs. crores)

Country	1992-93		Total Trade	1993-94		Total Trade	1994-95		Total Trade	1995-96		Total Trade	1996-97 (Apr-Feb)		Total Trade
	Export	Import		Export	Import		Export	Import		Export	Import		Export	Import	
Bangladesh	1030.86	35.99	1066.85	1349.69	56.09	1405.78	2024.13	119.85	2143.98	3469.91	282.14	3752.05	2624.68	194.44	2819.12
Bhutan	6.29	3.5	9.79	31.10	9.34	40.44	34.83	57.40	92.23	57.56	107.20	222.32	63.88	85.35	149.23
Maldives	18.63	0.21	18.84	24.63	1.02	25.65	48.28	0.73	49.01	52.52	0.55	53.07	33.27	0.51	33.78
Nepal	210.48	71.75	282.23	304.87	85.62	390.49	377.00	114.89	491.89	536.45	166.95	703.95	543.06	265.72	808.78
Pakistan	151.27	373.50	524.77	200.66	136.48	337.14	179.71	165.61	345.32	256.80	150.80	407.60	511.12	124.37	635.50
Sri Lanka	646.61	40.61	687.22	897.47	62.19	959.66	1151.08	96.49	1247.57	1335.62	145.83	1481.45	1499.92	145.31	1645.23
China	409.18	364.90	774.08	857.19	972.35	1829.54	799.72	2368.02	3167.74	1097.44	2732.84	3830.28	1903.32	2334.97	4238.29
Total	2473.32	890.46	3363.78	3665.61	1323.09	4988.70	4614.75	3665.61	7537.74	6806.06	3586.31	10450.72	7179.25	3150.68	10329.23
%Growth						48.31			51.10			38.65			
Myanmar	6.79	111.27	118.06	21.00	121.00	142.00	21.78	126.58	148.36	25.27	157.73	183.00	26.65(*)	105.91(*)	132.56(*)
(Values in US\$ Million)															
%Growth						20.27			4.47			18.92			

(*) Figures for April-November 1996

Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta

Statement-II

Country	Exports from India	Imports by India
Bangladesh	Rice (other than Basmati), Glass, Enamels & Ceramics, Machinery & Instruments, Transport Equipments, Cotton Yarn/Fabrics	Raw Jute, Fertilizers (manu.) Chemicals
Bhutan	Spirit & Beverages, Misc. processed items	Wood and Wood products Inorganic Chemicals
Maldives	Rice, Glass/glswr/Cramica Cotton Yarn & Fabrics, Manufacture of Metals	Metalliferous & Metal Scrap
Nepal	Drugs & Pharmaceuticals, Machinery & Instruments, Primary & Semi Finished Iron & Steel, Coal, Cotton Yarn/Fabrics, Paper & Wood products	Pulses, Spices, Textile Yarn/Fabrics Essl. Oils & Cosmetics
Pakistan	Spices, Oil Meals, Iron Ore, Dyes & Intermediaries	Fruits and Nuts and Cashewnuts, Spices, Raw Wool, Textile Yarn/Fabrics
Sri Lanka	Transport Equipment, Gls/glswr, Fresh Vegetable Cotton yarn & Fabrics, Spices, Oil Meals, Drugs & Pharmaceuticals	Metalliferous, Ores and Metals Scrap, Natural Rubber
China	Iron Ore, Other Ores & Minerals, Oil Meals, Caster Oil, Iron & Steel, Primary & Semi finished Iron & Steel Cotton Yarn/Fabrics/ Made-ups, Plastics & Linoleum, Drugs. Pharma & fine Chemicals	Organic Chemicals, Coal, Coke & briqutes, Raw Silk Medicinal & Pharma products Electronic Goods, Newsprint machinery except Electric & Electronics, Textile Yarn, Fabrics & made ups, Non- Ferrous Metals, Project Goods
Myanmar	Engineering goods, GlS/ Glswr, Paints, Ceramics, Enamels Varnishes, Cement, Primary & Semi finished Iron & Steel, Iron & Steel (Bar/Rods)	Pulses, Wood & Wood Products

Tariff Concessions for Imports

5547. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether slashing the imports tariff has paved the way for cheaper import of industrial products and other items;

(b) if so, to what extent imports and exports position has improved or will improve the economy of the country during the current year;

(c) whether any monitoring system is being considered by the Government; and

(d) if so, to what extent the imports and exports will be increased after providing these tariff concessions during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Reduction in import tariff and promotion of exports are being carried out as part of the overall process of economic liberalisation and globalisation. Imports are based on the actual requirements for domestic production, consumption and exports and are related to the emerging needs of the growing economy. Based on DGCI&S data, it is observed that exports and imports have shown improvement in recent years as cited below:

(US \$ Million)

Year	Exports	Imports
1993-94	22237	23306
1994-95	26330	28654
1995-96	31797	36676
1996-97	33106	38548

(Provisional)

(c) The trade performance is being monitored by the Government continuously.

(d) Imports are based on requirements and as such no targets are fixed for imports. Export performance is dependent on a number of factors including inter alia international market conditions, tariff and non-tariff barriers, domestic supportive infrastructure, cost of export credit etc. Export Promotion measures taken by the Government include changes in policies and procedures to provide for export friendly environment, involvement of States in export promotion, consultation with trade and industry for initiation of general and sector specific remedial measures as warranted from time to time.

[Translation]

Exim Policy

5548. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take any measures with the aim of increasing exports alongwith simplifying the procedure of new Export Import Policy (Exim Policy) during the Ninth Five Year Plan in comparison to the steps taken by the Government to increase the export during the last three years;

(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) to (c) Export promotion is a continuous process and steps taken are initiated by the Government to promote exports through simplification of policy and procedure, improving bilateral trade, debottlenecking of the infrastructure, involvement of States in export promotion, consultation with trade and industry for initiation of general and sector specific remedial measures as warranted from time to time. In the new Exim Policy coterminous with the 9th Five Year Plan the Government has focussed on making the procedures transparent and less discretionary. Considerable automaticity has been introduced in the procedures.

[English]

South-Eastern Coalfields Ltd.

5549. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether South-Eastern Coalfields Ltd., and the Steel Authority of India Ltd., are carrying out mining operations in Madhya Pradesh without any licence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government to regularise them by entering into a formal lease agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL) is operating three mines on the basis of working permission granted by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh as per details given below:-

Name of Mines	Notification No.	with date
Pali UG	3/88/80/12	dated 22.10.1980
Bhadra UG	4008/1636/XII	dated 14.05.1980
Govinda UG	4005/1788/XII	dated 11.05.1980

The terms and conditions governing all the three working permissions are given below:-

(i) The date of lease will be recognised from the date of issue of working permission.

(ii) Any compensation payable to any tenant or Government will be paid by the applicant.

(iii) The applicant will pay royalty as per rules and undertake mining operations also as per rules.

(c) The delay in executing formal lease deed agreement in respect of Pali UG with the State Government of Madhya Pradesh was due to the following factors:-

(i) Forest land clearance was obtained only in the year 1989.

(ii) Individual consent from the land owners is required to be obtained.

However in respect of Bhadra & Govind UG the delay is mainly with regard to obtaining individual consent from the land owners.

These matters are being vigorously followed up with the State Government and efforts are being made for executing mining lease deeds with the Government of Madhya Pradesh at the earliest.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Papers Laid on the Table of the House. Shri Murasoli Maran.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Review of the working of the National 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—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Industrial Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Industrial Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi 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-1925/97]

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Engineering Projects (India) Limited and the

Department of Heavy Industry for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1926/97]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Industrial Development Corporation Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1927/97]

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1928/97]

(iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1929/97]

(v) Memorandum of Understanding between the HMT Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Industry for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1930/97]

(vi) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan paper Corporation Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Industry, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1931/97]

(vii) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Small Industries Corporation Limited and the Department of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural industries for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1932/97]

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year March, 1996

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 5 of 1997) for the year ended the 31st March, 1996 (Scientific Departments), under article 151 (1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1933/97]

Annual Report and Review on the working of Amendable Textile Industry's Research Association, Ahmedabad for the year 1995-96

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English

versions) of the Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association, Ahmedabad, 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 Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association, Ahmedabad, 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-1934/97]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai 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 Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai 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-1935/97]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Handloom Export Promotion Council, 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 Handloom Export Promotion Council, Madras, 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-1936/97]

- (7) 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 Central Cottage Industries Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Central Cottage Industries Corporation 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-1937/97]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working

of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports 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-1938/97]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited, Shillong for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1939/97]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Jute Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Jute Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (8) Four Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1940/97]

- (9) A copy of the Textile (Development and Regulation) (Amendment) Order, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 36(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th January, 1997, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1995.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1941/97]

Annual Report and review of the working of MMTC Ltd. for the year 1995-96 and Statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): Sir, on behalf of Shri Bolla Bulli Ramaiah 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:-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of

the MMTC Limited, for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the MMTC Limited, 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 paper mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1942/97]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Projects and Equipment Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Commerce for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1943/97]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the State Trading Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Commerce for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1944/97]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Commerce for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1945/97]

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the MMTC Limited and the Ministry of Commerce for the year 1996-97.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item (iv) of (3) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1946/97]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 250(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 1997 regarding increase in the rates of uss on tea issued under sub-section (1) of section 25 of the Tea Act, 1953.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1947/97]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 25 of the Rubber Act, 1947:-

- (i) The Rubber Board Employees (Conduct) (Amendment) Rules, 1995 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 411 in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 1995.

- (ii) G.S.R. 490 published in Gazette of India dated the 9th November, 1996 making certain amend-

ments in the Rubber Board Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1958.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1948/97]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tea Board, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Tea Board, Calcutta, 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 Tea Board, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96.

- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1949/97]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council Arbitration, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1950/97]

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Arbitration, New Delhi for the year 1995-96.

- (11) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 359(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 1997 suspending the operation of the provisions of sections 10, 10A and 13A of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975 in the States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh for a period up to the 30th June, 1997, issued under section 30 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1951/97]

Notification under Coal Mines Provident Fund (Amendment) Scheme 1997 etc.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 7A of the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1948:-

- (1) The Coal Mines Provident Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R.

102 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd February, 1997.

- (2) The Andhra Pradesh Coal Mines Provident Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 103 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd February, 1997.
- (3) The Rajasthan Coal Mines Provident Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 104 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd February, 1997.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1952/97]

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

12.03 hrs.

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 1997 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd May, 1997 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.03 1/4 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Minutes

[English]

SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU (MADURAI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sittings of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House held on 5 December, 1996 and 12 March, 1997.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Fifth Report

12.03 1/2 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (DUMDUM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to present the Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance on the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill, 1996.

12.04 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER in the chair)

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please speak one by one.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, please allow me to speak. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (AHMEDABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have cooperated with the Chair. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you have cooperated with the Chair. Please tell me what is that you want to say.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: It was the unanimous decision of the Cabinet of the previous Government to release Rs. 2,005 crore for the rehabilitation of the NTC workers and of the textile mills because of the demand of the various Members of Parliament and from all the political parties.

The decision has been taken by the previous Government. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is not correct.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: The Government says that it is not implementing the decision.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, you took the initiative.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I will allow you.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: My request is that the Government should, keeping in view the larger interest of the workers, implement the decision taken by the previous Cabinet for the rehabilitation of the textile workers. It is the demand of all the Members of Parliament.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (HOWRAH): Sir, you are one of the architects to decide the destiny of the workers in the textile sector. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may recall the way you tried to protect the workers since the Government came out with a package with certain formulae. The package should have been implemented with the initiatives of the Government and the BIFR. Time and again, we have been raising this matter in the House. In the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front, a basic guarantee was given to protect the interests of the working class in the large textile sector. If now the Minister comes and says that they cannot implement that package, it means you are leaving the workers in the streets. They are already deprived of their salaries and wages for the last three months. Now withholding the budgetary support means total betrayal of the working class. I, therefore, appeal to the Minister, the Leader of the House and the Finance Minister to take this matter to the Cabinet and come out with a

proper package to protect the workers in the textile sector. That is my only submission. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Please hear me also.

MR. SPEAKER: I know. Please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: You are the architect of this package, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I know the position very well. When this tripartite agreement was done, well, I was also a party as the Labour Minister. Some problems have cropped up. The Government have also some genuine difficulties. I know the difficulties also. What I will do is, I will myself call a meeting of the Textile Ministry in my chamber where all the Members of Parliament where the NTC mills are operating, will be invited.

12.07 hrs.

[*English*]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

Fortieth Report

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHANDIGARH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Fortieth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the Lokpal Bill, 1996.

12.07 1/4 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

Lokpal Bill-Evidence

[*English*]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHANDIGARH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Evidence tendered before the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the Lokpal Bill, 1996.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chaturanan Mishra. He is not here. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

12.07 1/2 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission I announce in the House that Government business for the week commencing Monday, May 12, 1997 would consist

- (1) The Dock Workers' (Regulation of Employment)

(Inapplicability to Major Ports) Bill, 1997, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

(*Consideration and passing*)

- (2) Discussion on the Motion regarding Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002).

- (3) The Export-Import Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 1997.

(*Consideration and passing*)

- (4) The Vice-President's Pension Bill, 1996.

(*Consideration and passing*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar. Just before you speak, I will like to announce one thing. After the statement of the Parliamentary Affairs Minister regarding the Government business, we normally allow Members to give submissions for consideration of these issues to be taken up in the House. Normally after submission is made, it is forgotten. Nothing is done. Yesterday, in the Business Advisory Committee, this matter was discussed. We have now decided that all those submissions which are made after the statement of the Minister will be placed before the Business Advisory Committee and.....

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (DUMDUM): At first, this was not discussed in the Business Advisory Committee. It was discussed in the Rules Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: I said so.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: You mentioned 'Business Advisory Committee'.

MR. SPEAKER: No. I said that the Rules Committee decided to place it before the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: I stand corrected.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (BAREILLY): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are thankful to you because we have been saying since the last Lok Sabha that everything that should be transparency in all the matters. I have to make one more submission in this regard. We get reply in regard to issues raised under rule 377. Similarly, I would like that whatever decisions the Business Advisory Committee takes on the submission made by the members and whatever individual problems we raise here, the Ministry concerned should send us a note in this regard stating the latest position with regard to the follow up action.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Once you concede one demand, then more demands will come.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. To make announcement for providing studio (for shooting programmes) facility on priority basis to the local artistes at Doordarshan Kendra located at Bareilly.
2. To hold discussions regarding non giving of recognition by the Ruhelkhand University to the successful students of Indira Gandhi Open University.

[English]

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY (KHRISHNAGAR): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. To discuss the reasons for delay to finalise the revival and modernisation schemes of IISCO, West Bengal.
2. To discuss the faulty barbed-wire fencing in Indo-Bangladesh border in different districts of West Bengal, particularly in Nadia district.

[Translation]

MR. VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (AURANGABAD): Mr. Speaker, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda and it may be taken up for discussion:-

1. To consider on the demand for providing/fixation of reservation in Government jobs to the sports persons in order to encourage the Indian sports persons.
2. To consider on the demand to abolish Gadgil formula for the development of poor states.

[English]

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY (NIZAMABAD): The following item may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Statement made by the hon. Minister regarding the fire that broke out at Macca (Saudi Arabia) in which Haj pilgrims were killed may be discussed in the next week.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (KARAD): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Decision by the U.S. Government to put India under the priority watch list under U.S. law 301, bypassing the multilateral WTO mechanism.
2. Decision by Government to print Indian currency notes abroad, and its security implications.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (KOTA): Mr. Speaker, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. There is a district level post office running in rented building in Bara district of Rajasthan. It is in dilapidated condition. It leaks throughout the rainy season causing damage to the postal letters. Postal department is working in such a building. This is for construction of

district level post office immediately.

2. There is ample scope of tourism in Bundi district. The state Government have sent a package scheme to the Union Government in this regard, but no attention is paid thereon. The Union Government must grant approval to this Hadauti Package scheme immediately.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. To discuss the reinstatement of dismissed/re-trenched Railway employees for their trade union activities under Rule 14(2).
2. To discuss the embargo imposed by the Government on recruitment in the offices of the Central Government and Public Sector Undertakings which cast a serious reflection on the unemployment problem of the country and lift the ban on recruitment in the interest of the nation.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (UDHAMPUR): Mr. Speaker, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. A double railway track be constructed from Jalandhar to Jammu immediately so that the movement of trains could be improved and the commuters could avail the facility of timely service.
2. The unemployed youth particularly Engineers, Doctors and Diploma holders who are out of job for the last Eight years may be absorbed immediately and subsistence amount be paid to those who could not be provided with employment.

[English]

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (ASANSOL): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. To discuss the non-payment of Provident Fund dues by the Office of Provident Fund Commissioner for years together to the retired/re-trenched/deceased workmen of the sick and closed units, both in the public and private sector.
2. To discuss the revival of sick and closed units—both in the public sector and private sector i.e. JESSOP, MAMC, BOGL, Engineering and Refractory units of Burn Standard Co. Ltd., Hindustan Pilkington Glass, Bengal Paper Mill, IISCO, Cycle Corporation of India.

[English]

MR SPEAKER: The Finance Minister to reply now.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (BARH): Sir, what about zero hour?

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. It is with advance notice.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am deeply grateful to the hon. Members who have taken part in the debate in the last two days.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (MAVELIKARA): Sir, what about my personal explanation?

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Prof. Kurien wanted to give some explanation. The Minister may speak after it.

Prof. Kurien, you tell your point in just one minute.

12.16 hrs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION UNDER RULE 357

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (MAVELIKARA): Thank you, Sir. Day before yesterday, while the hon. Finance Minister was replying to some of the points which I raised, Finance Minister made some remarks which, I know, are off the cuff remarks. However, since they are not in conformity with facts, I thought that for record's sake I must correct it. I am quoting from what he said.

"SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have invited him to meet with the Member (Customs) and Member (Budget)."

'He' means me. He said: "The file is being shown to him contrary to normal rules of the Government". I did not see any file neither I asked for. He said: "Yet if Prof. Kurien does not understand the basic facts there is nothing I can do to help him. He will call me at midnight". I never called him at midnight. Yes, I called him at 10.45 p.m. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know whose watch went wrong.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I am only requesting that we should give him a good watch. That is my submission.

He said: "He will call me at 5.00 in the morning". I never get up at 5 a.m. I get up at 6 a.m. only. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think it is okay now.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I called him only at 7.45 a.m. And then he said he could charge me that I am lobbying for industries.

Sir, I am taking pride for lobbying for the small scale growers and small scale industries. My point was only that the small scale growers of rubber in Kerala cannot sell their latex because the buyers, who are small scale industries producing rubber foam, are crippled because of competition from synthetic material. My only request and my earnest request to the hon. Finance Minister is only one thing. I have no quarrel with him. My earnest request on behalf of these small rubber growers and these small scale industries is: please give some relief, at least five per cent excise duty relief to these small scale industries. If you are not convinced, please announce that you will consider and then come and see whether these rubber growers are facing problem or not. Please come and see the situation.

MR. SPEAKER: I think that is enough.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: This is my earnest appeal. I request him, through you, to please protect us. Please use your good offices. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Finance Minister is a person that if he wants to do he will do it in one appeal.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this time.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): Sir, he should get up before 5 a.m. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Sir, I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to give some excise duty relief with regard to use of latex rubber for small scale industry. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think it is enough. Let the hon. Minister reply.

12.19 hrs.

FINANCE BILL, 1997-CONTD.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am deeply grateful to the hon. Members who have participated in this debate over the last two days. Even while criticising some aspects of the Finance Bill, even while pointing out what they believe are errors and departures from good policy, I note with some satisfaction that they broadly support the direction and thrust of this Budget and which is reflected in the Finance Bill.

I am grateful to the Leaders of the parties who led the discussion and who spoke at great length like Dr. Murl Manohar Joshi, Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, Dr. Debi Prosad Pal and all other Members who made very valuable suggestions.

The Finance Bill only reflects the legislative changes that are required to implement the Budget. The Budget itself was discussed extensively and I have already replied to the Budget discussion. Naturally, there will be some overlap between that discussion and this discussion. There is, of course, a time interval which results in such a overlap in the two discussions. There is also the political crisis which overtook us for 30 days which means that we tried to go back to what we fairly were prior to March, 30 and tried to revive the continuity of the Government of India.

Specific suggestions have been made about specific issues, both of indirect taxes and direct taxes. Normally, the Finance Minister receives hundreds of representations. This year also we received a large number of them, but I am told by my office that the number is much smaller than in the previous years which are being scrutinised.

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

Secondly, as I took pride to mention, we introduced the innovation of post-Budget consultations. These post-Budget consultations gave an opportunity to exchange views and to understand each other's point of view and try to find a meeting ground on some issues. Wherever it is possible to concede to the points raised by hon. Members, I have in fact made these concessions and, in fact, Rs. 111 crore worth of concessions have been announced both in Excise and Customs. I have also accepted a number of suggestions on the taxation proposals and the legislative proposals. Yet a large number of complaints will remain. The best example is, of course, the one put forward by Prof. P.J. Kurien a few minutes ago. How does the Finance Minister respond to this? I believe he should respond to this rationally based on facts which can stand challenge, both inside the court room and outside the court room. We cannot act arbitrarily. Every decision must be based on economic rationale plus, of course, any other relevant considerations like social necessities, political necessities and even sometimes regional aspirations. But the fundamental consideration must be an economic rationale for taking a decision. A few minutes later, I will deal with the specific issue raised by Prof. P.J. Kurien as illustrative of a situation where an hon. Member of Parliament puts himself in a position which is squarely opposed to what the Government has decided for the time being and charges the Government or the Minister being completely unresponsive. I want the hon. Members to ponder over how such a situation should be resolved. I think, I am resolving it in the only manner that it should be resolved. But I will place the facts before the House to decide whether the kind of response which the Minister gives to a demand of that kind, is correct or not. Let the House decide whether I am fair or unfair, partial or impartial, just or unjust. But that is for the latter part of my intervention.

First to deal with some matters relating to direct taxes, in direct taxes, as I said, none of the political parties which met me raised any serious objections except one political party which said that the top rate of duty should remain 40 per cent and that it should not be reduced. I have explained why I am unable to accept that suggestion. I said this when I presented the Finance Bill day before yesterday. I believe that India's rates must be competitive with Asian rates.

I believe that is necessary to promote domestic investment, to encourage domestic entrepreneurship, to encourage domestic capital formation and to encourage people to invest more in industries.

Since 1994-95, there has been a sluggishness in India's economic growth. The 7.2 per cent that we saw in 1994-95 was as a result of earlier reform measures. But as the Economic Survey points out, since 1994-95, there has been a slowing down resulting in a tight money situation, very high interest rates and a sharp decline in investment. I am not blaming anyone for this. But in 1996-97, when this Government came into office, it was faced with this problem of tight money, high interest rates of about 21 or 22 per cent, PLR was 18 per cent and the sharp slow

down in investment. The disbursements of financial institutions picked up. But the new sanctions slowed down. What we have done has brought about a qualitative change. The tight money situation has virtually vanished. Interest rates have started moving down. PLR today for most banks is 14 per cent. I believe, now investment will pick up. It is at this point of time that we need to give a big boost to those who can save and those who can invest. I respectfully submit that the best savers in India are the households. Their savings rate is close to 18 per cent. Private savings rate in India is about 23 per cent. Public Sector savings rate is very very modest and the Government sector dis-saves. Therefore, we must encourage savings and the best way to encourage savings is to tax less leaving more money in the hands of people who can save and invest wisely. I believe the trend that was commenced in 1991 of lowering tax rates is a correct approach. Give an opportunity to what I have tried this year. Let us see its impact on direct revenues and we can always make corrections, if necessary.

A question was raised about double taxation of dividends. I am not entering into a philosophical argument whether it is double taxation or not. That is not the point. Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee can put forward a powerful argument that it is not double taxation; one income is earned by the corporate and one income is earned by the individual. How can it be double taxation? Purely as a theoretical proposition that is right. But that is not the way the taxes are looked upon by people. The question is: what do most Members of Parliament see in the case of taxation of dividend? What do most people see? What they see is, here is a corporation which has made profit. It has paid a corporate tax. When that part which is retained by the corporation is distributed as dividend, why should it be taxed again? The popular view of it is the same income is being taxed twice. The sense that I got last time, the sense that I get this time is that an overwhelming majority of Members of Parliament thinks it is double taxation, whatever the meaning of the word "double" there is and that the taxation should go. I have conceded that point. I think the debate which has been going on for the last seven or eight years must end here once for all.

Then, the question arises: what about Mutual Funds and the UTI? I think the point is raised by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi. The point is valid. If UTI and the Mutual Funds were only distributing dividend income which they receive from their investments, the point is valid. But the facts are otherwise. Take the UTI, for example. The UTI has three kinds of income: one is from dividends from its investments on shares of other companies; the other is interest income from fixed instruments and the third is capital gains. It is nobody's case that the capital gains part should not be taxed. It is nobody's case that the interest income should not be taxed. So, what is the proposition? We did some analysis and what we found in the case of the UTI is that 92 per cent of the UTI's income which is distributed to the unit holders comes from capital gains and interest. It is only eight per cent which comes from dividends which it receives from shares held by it. Therefore, if I exempt

all that income from further taxation, it would mean exempting the capital gains, exempting interest and that is not, I believe, the argument which found favour while we exempted the dividend income.

I think so long as UTI, Mutual Funds' income composition—at least UTI's composition of income—remains, as I said, as it is, there is no case of extending that benefit to dividends distributed by UTI or by Mutual Funds.

A point was raised about the Sick Industries Act and why should MAT apply the moment it comes out of the sickness. I think it is an inadequate understanding of the provisions. A company declared sick under Section 17 is out of the purview of MAT. It becomes liable to MAT only when its net worth becomes equal or exceeds the accumulated losses. Under the present proposal MAT will not apply until all the book losses are wiped out. Only when the company returns a book profit, MAT would become applicable. Therefore, merely because its net worth equals or exceeds the accumulated losses, it will not become liable to MAT unless it is able to wipe out all the accumulated losses and it returns a book profit. So, I do not think there is any serious problem in the way MAT is Structured regarding sick industries.

Dr. Joshi raised a point about allowing income-tax practitioners the same facility as Chartered Accountants for the purpose of certain certification. In fact, as the Income Tax Act stands today, accounts have always to be certified only by a Chartered Accountant. An income-tax practitioner is allowed to appear before the authorities, but if he presents accounts, those accounts must be certified by a Chartered Accountant. In fact, there is no provision in the Income Tax Act today which allows anyone other than a Chartered Accountant to certify the accounts. Therefore in the retail trade estimated income that we have introduced where we say that the accounts must be certified by a Chartered Accountant, that is consistent with the existing provisions. An Income Tax practitioner can appear and argue the matter; but if he carries a certified account, that account must be certified by a Chartered Accountant. It is consistent with the existing provision.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (ALLAHABAD): Can you expect a small retail shop keeper to obtain certificates of a Chartered Accountant in all small towns? There is the system of having mercantile accounts and cash accounts.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The principle is whether accounts can be certified by anyone other than a Chartered Accountant.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: But you must look into the basic conditions of this country. How can you ask a person who deals in cash accounting to keep his accounts on the basis of mercantile accounting?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have understood the point. That is a different point.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (DUMDUM): If you create unemployment among Chartered Accountants, the problem would be solved !

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The method of accounting is a separate issue. Whatever is the method of accounting, it is a sound principle that accounts have to be certified by a qualified Chartered Accountant.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: You have therefore to modify your income-tax laws also in cases where there are cash accounts. You cannot expect a person to get them certified by a Chartered Accountant. It is very very difficult. It is highly impractical, it will only lead to harassment and corruption.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It is quite right. Until 1.4.1997 both kinds of accounting were allowed—mercantile accounting as well as cash accounting. In both cases Chartered Accountants were certifying. There is no ground to believe that a Chartered Accountant cannot certify accounts which are maintained on cash basis. In fact, they are. ...*(Interruptions)* I heard him say that cash accounting cannot be certified by a Chartered Accountant. Earlier he said about retailers as to how they can go to a Chartered Accountant. My answer is there are any number of young Chartered Accountants, any number of people starting their careers and they will surely find a Chartered Accountant to certify those accounts. But the principle whether accounts should be certified by anyone other than a Chartered Accountant is I think a great principle.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (AHMEDABAD): They cannot afford to go to a Chartered Accountant. That is the contention. Because they are so small, they cannot afford to go to a Chartered Accountant. Their fees are very high.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have understood the point. Please understand my answer. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think he has understood it. You do not have to repeat it again and again.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I do not agree. With great respect, I do not agree that a small businessman or a small retailer cannot go to a Chartered Accountant.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: He cannot afford to go to him.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I do not agree that he cannot go to a Chartered Accountant, either. There are any number of Chartered Accountants; there are any number of people who start their careers. There are income tax practitioners and lawyers. There are young lawyers who start their careers; and there are young Chartered Accountants who start their careers.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (SOUTH DELHI): You may not agree, but the ground reality is this, about which Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi has said.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Madam, the next point is graver. The next point is about the principle, that is, should accounts be certified.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: You only deal with big companies and big persons. But the tragedy is that we have to deal with small persons. That is the only difference between you and me.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I reject. I resent and reject such an insinuation; and I will ignore it. I maintain my ground that—the principle—accounts should be certified by Chartered Accountants is a sound principle and I do not think, accounts should be certified by anyone other than a Chartered Accountant.

Then the last point that was raised was about the method of accounting; I think, Shri Suresh Prabhu raised it. It is true that Section 145 of the Income Tax Act was amended in 1995 and that came into force on 1.4.97, that is, assessment year 1997-98. Now, in fact, what has happened is that although the assessment year begins on 1.4.97, the effect of this came into force even on 1.4.96. Since 1.4.96, they are all required to choose their method of accounting. They have chosen their method of accounting and they have either kept it under the Mercantile Account or the Cash Account; and I do not think, it will be quite right for me to reverse what has happened since 1.4.96. They have already chosen it; they have lived with it; they have gained or learnt some experience. The assessment year begins today, but the effect came even last year. I do not think it is correct for me to reverse what was approved by Parliament in 1955 and which came into effect, effectively on 1.4.96.

Then, there was a question about sports. There was some demand which was made about encouragement to sports. I share that support for sports. The Income Tax Act contains provisions relating to exemption for income of notified sports bodies and also allows deduction for contributions made to an eligible project or scheme for promotion of sports. Sportsmen including athletes receiving income from outside India are eligible for a deduction of 75 per cent of the foreign exchange brought into India, besides any expenditure incurred for sponsoring sports activities is allowable as a deduction, being in the nature of business expenditure.

Various suggestions have been received that Government should lay down a Sports Policy, so far as the financial aspects are concerned, to enable encouragement of sports activities. I accept these suggestions in principle; and I propose to hold detailed discussions with the office bearers of the Indian Olympic Association and other recognised national sports bodies, so that when industry or trade sponsors various sports activities at the national or international level, such sponsorship gets fiscal incentives. I will invite them to the discussions.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR): You may include Members of Parliament also who are sportsmen.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: ...who are sportsmen or who were sportsmen?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: There are certain equipments which are used in gymnasium for general health purposes. There were hitherto considered as a part of sports. Now, you are separating the two.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I do not believe that you raised it in your speech. I do not have an answer now.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: You may please consider this. Whenever you consider sports and health, you should consider giving incentives for equipments used in gymnasium also.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Okay.

The last point which Shri Chatterjee mentioned is about VDS. As I said, none of the political parties which met me during the meeting opposed VDS. That is a fact. I have detailed notes of the meetings and that is a fact. It is true that a section opposes VDS. As I explained, I have no particular fascination for people who accumulate black money and who wish to convert it into white money.

Now, the point is our tax policies pursued in the past have encouraged generation of black money. That is a hard fact. There is no way of running away from that fact. We can pat ourselves on the back about tax policies which tax people of 97.5 per cent. I believe that they were wrong and there is no shame in admitting that they were wrong. Today, we are changing over to a tax regime which makes us competitive with the Asian nations. We have had, in this country, a long history of non-compliance with tax laws. I want to introduce a culture of compliance with tax laws. I have to start somewhere. I, therefore, believe that while we switch over to a competitive tax rate, we must simultaneously give one chance to everyone to come clean, come on board and say, "All right, here are my accumulated undisclosed income and wealth and hereafter, there is no justification to hold back on tax basis." I am not saying that this will convert everyone into an honest man overnight but I believe that an opportunity must be given for people to come clean, come on board and 77.5 per cent of whatever money is raised is going to the States. I pointed out last time and I quoted from the speech of Shri Jyoti Basu in the National Development Council as well as the BJP's manifesto. I pointed out and said that both, in a way, support what I have done. In fact, both go further. Both say that what is disclosed should not be taxed at all. But what I have said is that it should be taxed at 30 per cent. Therefore, we should give them a chance ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Why do you equate the honest tax payer and the dishonest through amnesty scheme tax? This is the question. You should impose a penalty on those who did not pay tax.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the Finance Minister had explained that earlier also.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The answer is evident. If you have a high penal rate for conversion, there is no incentive to convert because the cost of managing the black funds has been estimated to be only 18-25 per cent. Therefore, you will continue to keep it as black funds and continue to pay the cost of management. The only way in which it can be made attractive for him is to come clean. If he still does not come clean, as you know, in the last Session of Parliament or earlier in this Session, we have tightened the provisions of Chapter 14(b). There was a huge loophole

there and nobody complained about that loophole until I pointed out that loophole. Anybody from whom money was seized may simply say, "All right, take 60 per cent and leave 40 per cent for me." We have plugged that loophole now and we have tightened up certain seizure provisions. We have given more time for people to assess, who are going to reopen accounts for ten years on a block account. All this has been done. Simultaneously, I am giving people a last chance. But believe me, behind the velvet glove, there is a firm fist. If people do not avail of this opportunity and continue to avoid taxes, the law will come down very very heavily on people and I will not hesitate to prosecute people for income tax violation. Prosecution for income tax violation in this country has been an exception rather than a rule. I intend not only to impose penalties and interest but also intend to launch selected cases of prosecution for those who will violate income tax after the new tax rates have been approved by this House. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Finance Minister seems to threaten us.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am not threatening anyone. I am only saying the laws. *...(Interruptions)* We will see.

Sir, I now turn over to indirect taxes. A large number of suggestions were made. I have accepted many and I will respond to a few of them. Dr. Joshi said that a notification had been issued on 11th April, 1997 under the signature of a young officer, Shri Rajiv Talwar. I asked Shri Rajiv Talwar as to what he did to provoke Dr. Joshi like that. The poor chap told me that it was nothing but he merely issued notifications to implement the EXIM Policy which was announced on the 31st March, 1997. Now, when the EXIM Policy was notified on 31st March, 1997, one has to issue parallel notifications on the customs and excise side. So, he had issued Notification Nos. 20, 21 and 36 for the purpose of implementing the EXIM Policy. Notification No. 19 was issued in order to take care of a case where there was a break in the MODVAT chain and therefore, a specific duty had to be imposed instead of ad valorem duty. Notification No. 37 had to be imposed in order to exempt goods imported for setting up crude petroleum refinery from custom duty and additional customs duty which I explained in my speech. So, nothing wrong had been done on 11th April, 1997. The poor man was just doing his job and on 11th April, 1997, a notification was issued. I do not think he has done anything wrong. All notifications are with me and I have gone through them.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: But Government fell on that day.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: But what has it got to do with that? EXIM Policy cannot be reversed nor can this chain be stopped.

Some specific issues were raised. I want to respond in the telegraphic language. 'Eco-boards'. I am willing to consider eco-boards. But I cannot do that in isolation. Eco-boards are of the same category as boards made from rice husk, jute particle boards, cement bonded particle boards, bagasse boards, etc. So, we are collecting data

on all these boards. We will take an appropriate decision at the appropriate time.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: You have certainly to convert it. They do use it. It is anti-pollution.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Let me collect that data. *...(Interruptions)* It is in a telegraphic language. Now, Ayurvedic medicines. There is some misconception. There is no excise duty on ayurvedic medicines manufactured according to the Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia. Some medicines pretend to be Ayurvedic medicines. They are not according to the Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia where there has been an excise duty of eight per cent. I hope, nobody is pleading that case. These are mainly cosmetics which would pretend that they are Ayurvedic medicines. They are not Ayurvedic medicines.

A demand has been made about extracts. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We are short of time.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (KOTTAYAM): It is very important. These Ayurvedic medicines have been prescribed by Ayurvedas.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: There is no excise duty on it.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: That is not correct. We can cite any number of examples. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot go on like this.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: This is one of the areas where more people are coming. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

VAIDHYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (KOTA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am giving the name of a special Medicine. You please get it checked.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Wait a minute, please. *...(Interruptions)* How is it possible to respond if everybody interrupts? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We are short of time. Today is Private Members' day.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Sir, This is not fair.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, I have got an important point *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Why do you not sit down? Let me complete.

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

There is no excise duty on Ayurvedic medicines manufactured according to the Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia. I maintain that statement. There is an excise duty on those who manufacture what are described as Ayurvedic medicines but not according to the Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia. And I do not propose to make a change there. ...*(Interruptions)* How is it possible to reply like this?

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think we can carry on like this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: What is this?

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI: I am giving the name of the medicine excise duty has been imposed on Liv-52.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think, the problem is that there are too many good doctors in the House.

(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Is there any mechanism through which you have identified that these are the medicines or these are the items sold which are not according to the Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We will ensure that it is according to the Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia. ...*(Interruptions)* The label which show that it is according to the Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Have Ayurvedic physicians been taken into confidence?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The Pharmacopoeia is there. If he says that according to the Pharmacopoeia, the ingredients have been given, then, there is no excise duty.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Now, the Ayurvedic practitioner, Vaidya Dau Dayal Joshi, says that a particular medicine has been prepared on the lines of Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: In that event, it means that there is no excise duty.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: But he says that there is an excise duty.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Then, he must raise the dispute on that. It will be decided by the Collector. It will be decided by the appellate authority. There is a method to decide it. ...*(Interruptions)*

Those who have a special knowledge of the matter must advise them. There is a machinery to decide a dispute. We cannot decide the dispute in Parliament today.

Then, there is a question about vegetable saps and extracts. It is true that vegetable saps and extracts have been subjected to excise duty. But those vegetable saps

and extracts are also produced captively by the manufacturers of Ayurvedic medicines. I have, therefore, decided that captive manufacture and consumption of vegetable saps and extracts by Ayurvedic manufacturers will not be subjected to excise duty of eight per cent. Those vegetable saps and extracts alone will be excluded. If it is captively manufactured and captively consumed, those vegetable saps and extracts will be excluded.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: No medicine should be taxed whether it is Ayurvedic or not.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Then about aluminium circles, I have already explained that I have integrated the dual excise rate and a system of compounded levy is under consideration. When the system of compounded levy comes, much of the problem will be solved.

Sir, some questions were raised on Camphor. Camphor powder already attracts an Excise Duty at 18 per cent. The camphor tablets also attract Excise Duty at 18 per cent. But the first Excise Duty would be MODVATED in the second. Therefore, there is no additional Excise Duty as such. But the value addition in Camphor ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I would like to know ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, how is it possible if after every sentence ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Joshi, I am sorry. I do not think that on each item we could go on like this.

Mr. Finance Minister, you do not have to touch every item.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, how could I do that?

MR. SPEAKER: You have to conclude within ten minutes.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I am going to complete within ten minutes.

On Camphor tablets the value addition is 300 per cent. But there is no excuse and no justification not to tax the value addition of 300 per cent. In any event, SSI exemption is available for Camphor and all the small manufacturers of camphor come under the SSI.

Sir, there were some disputes about rags of blankets. I have reduced the customs duty from 30 per cent to 25 per cent. So, there could be no complaints about customs duty on rags for blankets. As regards excise duty, blankets not exceeding Rs. 100 per square meter are unconditionally fully exempted from paying excise duty. Therefore, shoddy blankets do not suffer any excise duty at all.

On Titanium Dioxide we have not reduced the customs duty. We have kept it at 40 per cent. DGFT has also included Titanium Dioxide in the list of sensitive items. Therefore, there is no danger of Titanium Dioxide import coming and swarming the domestic production.

On lamps, there were some criticisms about the multinational companies taking over our lamp industry. It is completely wrong. There are both multinational and Indian companies among the leading lamp manufacturers. Among the leading Indian lamp manufacturers are M/s Bajaj, Mysore Lamp, Laxman Sylvania, Surya and HMT. They have a fair share of the product. Nothing has been done to affect the domestic lamp industry.

Sir, now I wish to touch upon a few general issues on which comments were made ...*(Interruptions)* I have nothing more to say on *bidis* except to say that we have increased the excise duty on *bidis* from Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 per thousand after four years. It adds to one paise per ten *bidis*. A packet of 25 *bidis* would cost two and a half paise extra. Whereas if you compare it with mini cigarette—yielding to the demand made by Smt. Geeta Mukherjee—in the last Budget I raised it from Rs. 60 to 75 a thousand and in this Budget it has been increased from Rs. 75 to 90 per thousand. There is a 15 time increase on mini cigarettes as compared to *bidis*. The increase has been 15 times. I see no reason at all why anybody should complain on that ground ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Finance Minister, you do not have answer to all the queries.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, finally I wish to touch upon one or two general issues on which some points were raised particularly by Shri Fernandes. He wanted to know about the Indian Bank case I told him to raise the Indian Bank case and I would answer him. In the Indian Banks case, so far 19 cases have been registered by the CBI. Therefore, it is incorrect to say that cases are not being registered. 19 cases have been registered by CBI. I sanctioned one case only yesterday evening. There were some charges that we are interfering with the investigation. The CBI is being monitored by the Supreme Court of India. In the Supreme Court, the CBI has stated categorically—I am not at liberty to read from the affidavit—and the sum and substance of what the CBI has said was that the CBI is carrying its statutory duties honestly and sincerely. Nobody will be spared and no order from any Minister has come in the matter. The CBI has made this to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court is monitoring the case. So, there need be no apprehension that anyone will interfere with the Indian Bank case.

The third point that he made was about the appointment of the Chairman. I offered to the Supreme Court that if the Court desires then we would give the court a factual report on the appointment of the Chairman. The Court has accepted that and it has asked the Cabinet Secretary to submit a report to the Court and the Cabinet Secretary is preparing that report. There is nothing to hide in the Indian Bank case. The Indian Bank case gave rise to the most popular phrase of last year, that is, the law will take its own course.

There were also some references to the newspaper baron. I specifically rose to ask Shri Fernandes if he was charging me. He would not answer that question and so

I assume that he is not charging me. He is simply quoting charges from others.

On the newspaper baron case, there are two cases pending; one is filed in Calcutta High Court and the other is filed by him in the Delhi High Court. Two cases are pending. The judge of the Calcutta High Court is hearing the matter. The judges of the Delhi High Court are hearing the matter. There is nothing you or I need to do or say anything about it. The courts will decide who is right or wrong. It is a private dispute which I believe goes back to 20 years.

There was a recurring theme in this debate highlighted by the speakers from time to time. For example, one hon. Member asked me, what kind of hope is expected by my Budget! The case he cited was that of Anant Rai who committed suicide. I am sorry for that. Another Member suggested that the Budget should directly help the poor although he did not spell out what can be done. The concern for the poor is perfectly justified and fits into our national ethos but even those who hold great wealths must hold it as trustees for the welfare of the people.

The Common Minimum Programme of the United Front Government has reaffirmed and I quote:

"That growth with social justice will be the motto of the United Front. There is no substitute for growth. It is growth which creates jobs and generates income. The CMP has underlined that the country needs a GDP growth of about 7 per cent per year in the next 10 years in order to abolish endemic poverty and unemployment but we do not set stone by growth alone. We are aware that millions of people live in existence. Hence the CMP says and I quote:

"A frontal attack on poverty is an important element in any development policy. This is the rationale for anti-poverty programmes. Such programmes must be re-designed so that a significant number is brought above the poverty line every year and poverty as we have known it, is abolished by the year 2005."

The Economic Survey for 1996-97 contains an objective review of the economic situation. Both, strengths and weaknesses of Indian economy have been sufficiently captured in that document. I pointed out that there was a marked slow down in the pace of reforms since 1994-95. I have pointed out that the performance of key infrastructural sectors, particularly power and crude oil is extremely weak. Petroleum production has declined by 10 per cent. Power has increased only marginally by 3.7 per cent. I have pointed out that the annual rates of inflation when this Government took over has gone back to the average long term level. I have pointed out that the export growth had decelerated markedly. I noted with concern that in 1995-96, agricultural crop production has declined sharply. The entire sector last year declined by -0.1 per cent. All this was pointed out in the Economic Survey.

It is in this background that I advocated a set of policy

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

initiatives. I wish here to conclude by culling out just a few of those and saying that they are central to our economic policy making. The three challenges which are central are:

1. How to control the fiscal deficit?

2. How to provide adequate and reliable economic infrastructure services at a reasonable cost and with sustainable financing and pricing policy and how to ensure broad based employment generating growth in agriculture, industry and other sectors.

3. Anti-poverty programmes.

This, Sir, is the template against which the Budget of this Government must be evaluated. The path to fiscal deficit reduction is well known. We must ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to reply him. You must conclude.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We must persevere with tax reforms. We must seek higher non-tax revenue. We must control expenditure. The Budget has a number of proposals to support the initiatives to accelerate expansion of infrastructure services in power, telecommunication, roads, ports, civil aviation and irrigation. The Budget affirms that rapid expansion of productive employment opportunities is the best way of reducing poverty. The Budget enhances allocation for basic minimum services for those at the margin and special programmes for employment and poverty alleviation to fulfil the essential needs.

I believe and I have said it in my opening statement that inflation since the Budget has been presented, came down to 6.54 per cent. Next Monday we will report that inflation has further come down to 6.35 per cent.

13.00 hrs.

This is despite price corrections made; this is despite administered prices being corrected for foodgrains and for petroleum. Therefore, if we persevere with the path that we have taken, control fiscal deficit, expand the tax base, raise tax revenues and non-tax revenues, control expenditure, in the long term that is the surest way to abolish poverty, the surest way to help that man who committed suicide because he did not have a job, the surest way to deal with centuries old deprivation and poverty in this country.

I think, we are on the right path. We must persevere. There are a number of areas which cry for reform. I will address myself to those areas as we go along. There is no great danger that somebody will come and take us over. There is no great danger that MNCs will swamp us. I will give you one example. The Commerce Ministry liberalised the import regime. A number of items were shifted from restricted list to SIL list in August, 1996, in September, 1996, again in February, 1997, and in March, 1997. Yet, what is the position? Non-oil imports declined by one per cent. So, it is not as though that a free import regime will mean that our products will be swamped by imported

products. Eventually, quality, price, availability and the increased efficiency of the Indian producer will determine what people buy, what people will not buy. Therefore, I do not believe there is any danger that economic reforms will swamp us or the foreigners will swamp us with economic reforms. Economic reforms will add muscle and strength to the Indian economy, to the Indian producer.

Sir, I have only to conclude. I have nothing more to say on the Budget. I think it is consistent with the philosophy of the CMP and I would urge all Members to support the Finance Bill.

Finally, since you gave an opportunity to Mr. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (BILHAUR): You have allowed five percent profit in retail price. In retail, five percent profit is not allowed. Yesterday, I had given you figures relating to Indian oil and Hindustan Petroleum. Moreover, you are supplying the products/items in P.D.S. and allowing 5 per cent profit on it whereas you are asking for 5 per cent profit in return and you also want 5 percent income tax be paid. How is it possible?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: There is an opportunity for him to establish, by producing certified accounts, that his profits are not five per cent and, therefore, he should be taxed later. If the hon. Member will look at the provision of the Finance Bill, where a retail trader says that he does not want to go with the presumptive tax, all he has to produce is a certified account by a Chartered Accountant and he would be assessed on that basis.

Sir, since you gave the opportunity to Mr. Kurien to raise a specific question, I should deal with that in a couple of minutes. The issue is about mattresses made of natural rubber and polyurethane rubber. Both fall under the common entry in the Excise Schedule 9404.00. This is the classification. They have remained so for many years; I have not made any change. Excise Duty is 25 per cent. I have not made any change; this has remained so. There are two kinds of mattresses—one is latex foam mattress, the other is PU foam mattress, both, as I said, are in one category. On latex foam there is an Excise Duty of 25 per cent. PU foam also bears an Excise Duty of 25 per cent. I have made no change. Latex rubber, which is the raw material for latex foam, has no Excise Duty. It is at zero duty; whereas polyurethane, which is a raw material for PU foam, bears an Excise Duty of 30 per cent. It was 40 per cent earlier, now it bears an Excise Duty of 30 per cent. It was 40 per cent earlier, brought down to 30 per cent.

Now, the issue is, polyurethane is two raw materials, polyol and isocyanate. Until June, 1996, polyol and isocyanate were coming at a duty of 20 per cent. I raised it to 40 per cent. Nobody, complained when the duty was 20 per cent.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: That is wrong. He is misleading.

MR. SPEAKER: How can he mislead like that?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, if I am misleading, there is a method. ...*(Interruptions)* The Member can give a notice against me, if I am misleading. ...*(Interruptions)* How many times can an hon. Member be allowed to say that I am misleading?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Let it be on record. Sir, please allow me.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I cannot allow you any more.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: An hon. Member of Parliament—I have also been a Member of Parliament—will bring to the notice of the Minister his representation, press the point and leave it for a decision. A number of Members do it. If a decision is unacceptable, that is a different matter. He can vote against the provision. But to charge a Minister repeatedly that he is misleading is unfair.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: From 81 per cent in 1993-94, it was brought down to 30 per cent.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: This kind of insistent representation on one issue repeatedly, how is it fair? He is doing his duty, I am doing my duty.

Can we ever quarrel like this in this House? We make a spectacle of ourselves before the people of India. Sir, do you wish me to answer it or not?

MR. SPEAKER: If you wish you can answer. I will leave it to you.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have called the Members of Parliament from Kerala to my Chamber. I have explained to them. This file was made available to them. This morning also I invited them to look at the file. There are two Commissioners who have given their reports, and there are two Commissioners who have not yet given their reports. The conclusion, on the basis of partial information from the two Commissioners, is that Latex foam sells at Rs. 27 a kg., and carries an Excise Duty of 25 per cent. PU foams sells at Rs. 150 a kg., and carries an Excise Duty of 25 per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: You do not draw conclusion from that.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: That is why I said I do not want to draw a conclusion. You are forcing me to draw a conclusion by charging me with all kinds of things.

MR. SPEAKER: We cannot prolong like this on one issue alone. I think the Minister has agreed to call a meeting of Members of Parliament. I think that is good enough.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Latex foam mattress of four inch with thickness of 10 cms. sells at Rs. 40 a square foot at 25 per cent Excise Duty, whereas corresponding PU foam mattress good quality sells at Rs. 89.73 a square

foot at 25 per cent Excise Duty, and poor quality sells at Rs. 79.84 a square foot at 25 per cent Excise Duty. They are two different market segments. They do not compete with each other. Yet I told the Members of Parliament that let me get the report from the other two Commissioners and let me look at that data. Let me call for cost audit. I can even order a special cost audit of the manufacturers and then I will take a decision.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: At the same time something should be done on this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can conclude now.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I request the hon. Members to pass this Finance Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for lunch to re-assemble at 2.00 p.m.

13.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

{English}

14.07 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at seven minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chaturanan Mishra, how long will you take to make the Statement?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): Sir, I will take only five minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you please make your Statement.

14.08 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Introduction of the Pilot Crop Insurance Scheme

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me the time to make the Statement.

Hon. Members are aware that the Central Government has been implementing a Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS), since the year 1985. The stated objectives of the scheme are to insulate the farming community

[Shri Chaturanan Mishra]

against losses incurred due to the occurrence of natural calamities. By providing a measure of protection against such unforeseen risks the measure intended to encourage the production of commodities such as foodgrains, pulses and oilseeds.

As the scheme introduced in 1985 was limited to farmers obtaining crop production loans from the Banks there has been demand that a crop insurance cover should also be available to the non-loanee farmers. Other improvements have also been sought under the scheme such as lowering the area notified under the scheme from Tehsils to smaller geographic units so that damaged crops as a result of natural calamities occurring in smaller geographic area do get reflected in the yields thereby making the question of compensation being made realistic.

The Government have been considering the question of modification and revision of the scheme for some years but these did not materialise. The hon. Members would recall that I had written a detailed letter to all the Members of Parliament as well as to State Governments for the need for modification of the Crop Insurance Scheme in order that this provides for meaningful risk cover to the farmers.

I am glad to inform this august House, that responding to the aspirations of the farming community, it has been decided by this Government to introduce a Pilot Crop Insurance Scheme in 25 selected districts of nine States as indicated at Annexure-I covering all the small and marginal non-loanee farmers at par with farmers obtaining loans for raising cereals, oilseeds and pulses. At the initial stage, it is proposed under the scheme that the insurance charges will be met by the Central and State Governments fully in view of the poor resource base of the small and marginal farmers. It is also proposed to permit the State Governments to notify smaller geographic areas such as Gram Panchayats as a unit area under the scheme. A note indicating the salient features of the pilot scheme is appended.

I appeal to all the hon. Members to help the Government in the implementation of this pilot scheme successfully to enable its replication on a large scale subsequently.

I need not read out the Annexure.

NOTE APPENDED TO THE STATEMENT OF AGRICULTURE MINISTER ON PILOT CROP INSURANCE SCHEME

Features of the Pilot Crop Insurance Scheme

(a) The Scheme will apply to all loanee farmers and non-loanee small and marginal farmers in the identified districts of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Assam, Karnataka and Rajasthan. The identification of States/districts is made keeping in view the implementation of present CCIS in these States; the frequent occurrence of natural calamities and backwardness of the districts.

(b) All crops covered under the CCIS at present would be covered under the revised scheme.

(c) The sum insured would be 100 per cent of crops loan subject to maximum of Rs. 10,000/- per farmer. Insured amount in respect of non-loanee farmers will be at the same level as applicable to loanee farmers in respect of different crops in the same block/tehsil/district.

(d) The insurance charges would be as it is now for all loanee farmers including small and marginal farmers, that is 2% of the insured sum for cereals, and 1% of the oilseeds and pulses.

(e) The entire insurance charges in respect of small and marginal farmers would be subsidised by the Central/State Governments.

(f) The revised scheme would be implemented by the Commercial Banks/Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks and appropriate service charges would be paid to these implementing institutions.

(g) The liability on account of the settlement of indemnity claims as well as the burden on account of meeting the liability on premium of the small and marginal farmers under the proposed new scheme will be shared between the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 9:1.

(h) The scheme would be implemented by the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC).

(i) The scheme will be operated with the gram panchayat as the unit area, if so desired by the State Governments and wherever operation of lower area is possible.

Annexure

List of States/Districts Identified for the Implementation of the proposed pilot scheme

S.No.	Name of State	Name of districts
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Prakasam Mahabub Nagar
2.	Tamil Nadu	Nagapattanam Tiruvallur Pannirselvam
3.	Orissa	Bolangir Kalahandi Naupada Kendrapara Jajpur

1	2	3
4.	Madhya Pradesh	Bastar
		Sarguja
5.	Bihar	Sitamarhi
		Darbhanga
		Madhubani
		Samastipur
		Khagaria
		Palamau
		Vaishali
6.	Maharashtra	Amaravati
7.	Assam	Nagaon
		N. Lakhimpur
		Dhemaji
		Nalbari
8.	Karnataka	Bijapur
9.	Rajasthan	Jhunjunu
Total No. of Districts 25		

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA): I can make out Jhunjunu in Rajasthan. Whether you go on to natural calamity affected areas in the last 10 years or something? Have you selected these districts?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: That I have not selected. Since the Department has made other districts, after the experience, there is no other reward. The State Government officials say that they are not prepared to cover all the people in the country. They are large in number. That is one of the reasons.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think you have to go on explaining. We are very short of time today. Later on you can bring it. Please carry on.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: I have completed my statement.

MR. SPEAKER: You have completed. Thank you very much.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: The purpose of the scheme will be defeated. If it is natural calamities, in North-East, they have not sent ... (Interruptions)

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Because it has not been circulated. So I named.

MR. SPEAKER: We can discuss it later on.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (PATNA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, This is of urgent nature. Several districts of Bihar have been left out ... (Interruptions) Please include these districts which have been left out. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: West Bengal has been left out.

MR. SPEAKER: It can be discussed.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why has West Bengal been left out?

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I think everybody is very enthusiastic about it. It seems to be a very good thing. Please sit down. I am saying this that subject to availability of time, we may be able to discuss sometimes in the next week. It is because I really do not know how many Government Bills can be discussed. So there is a possibility of some time available in the next week. I will see that we can have a discussion on that. Now we go to the Finance Bill.

FINANCE BILL, 1997-CONT.

14.12 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 1997-98, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3-Amendment of Section 10

Amendments made:

page 3,—

for lines 10 and 11 substitute—

'(a) after clause (6B), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

"(6BB) Where in the case of the Government of a foreign State or a foreign enterprise deriving income from an Indian company engaged in the business of operation of aircraft, as a consideration of acquiring an aircraft or an aircraft engine (other than payment for providing spares, facilities or services in connection with the operation of leased aircraft) on lease under an agreement entered after the 31st day of March, 1997 and approved by the Central Government in this behalf and the tax on such income is payable by such Indian company under the terms of that agreement to the Central Government, the tax so paid;

Explanation.—For the purposes of this clause, the expression "foreign enterprise" means a person who is a non-resident,";

(aa) in clause (15) in sub-clause (iv) after item (i), in the Explanation, after clause (b), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—'. (248)

Page 3.—

for lines 13, *substitute—*

'(b) in clause (15A), after the words "under an agreement", the words, letters and figures—

"entered before the 1st day of April, 1997 and" shall be inserted. (249)

Page 3 —

for lines 19 and 20 *substitute—*

"(e) in clause (23G),—

(i) the words, letters, brackets and figures "which fulfils the conditions specified in sub-section (4A) of section 80-IA" shall be omitted;

(ii) in the Explanation, for clause (c), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—"; (250)

Page 3, line 23,—

add at the end "which fulfils the conditions specified in sub-section (4A) of section 80-IA". (251)

Page 3, line 24—

add at the end "which fulfils the conditions specified in sub-section (4A) of section 80-IA"; (252)

Page 3, line 26,—

add at the end "where such project starts generating power on or after 1st day of April, 1993";(253)

Page 3, line 27,—

add at the end "on or after the 1st day of April, 1995.", (254)

..(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 4, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4, was added to the Bill.

Clause 5, Amendment of Section 35

Amendments made:

Page 3, lines 43 and 44,—

omit "and such expenditure is of capital nature". (255)

Page 3, line 47,—

for "sub-section", substitute "clause". (256)

Page 3, line 49,—

for "sub-section", substitute "clause". (257)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 5, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5, as amended was added to the Bill.

Clause 6-Insertion of new section 35 ABB

Amendment made

Page 3, line 54 and 55,—

for 'with effect from the 1st day of April, 1998", substitute "and shall be deemed to have been inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 1996". (258)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 7 to 10 stand Part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 7 to 10 were added to the Bill.

Clause 11

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (ALLAHABAD): I beg to

Page 5,—

(i) line 26,—

after "Income-tax Act, the clause (b),"

insert—"a)"

(ii) after line 32, insert—

'(b) for the word "accountant" wherever it occurs, the words "Income-tax practitioner or an accountant" shall be substituted.' (188)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put Amendment no. 188, moved by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, to the vote of the House.

The amendment No. 188 was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 11 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 11 was added to the Bill.

Clause 12—Amendment of Section 44AD

SPEAKER: Shri Bhargava, are you moving your Amendment number 21?

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR): No, Sir.

[English]

Amendment made:

Page 5, for lines 33 to 35, substitute—

'12. In section 44AD of the Income-tax Act,—

(i) in sub-section (2), the following proviso shall be inserted and shall be deemed to have been inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 1994, namely:—

"Provided that where the assessee is a firm, the salary and interest paid to its partners shall be deducted from the income computed under sub-section (1) subject to the conditions and limits specified in clause (b) of section 40;"

(ii) sub-section (5) shall be omitted.' (259)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 12, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 12, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 13—Amendment of Section 44AE

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: I beg to move:

Page 5, lines 37 and 38,—

for "shall be inserted and shall be deemed to have been inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 1994."

substitute "shall be inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 1998." (22)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put Amendment No. 22, moved by Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava, to the vote of the House.

The amendment No. 22 was put and negatived.

Amendment made:

Page 5, for lines 36 to 38, substitute—

'13. In section 44AE of the Income-tax Act,—

(i) in sub-section (3), the following proviso shall be inserted and shall be deemed to have been inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 1994, namely:—

"Provided that where the assessee is a firm, the salary and interest paid to its partners be deducted from the income computed under sub-section (1) subject to the conditions and limits specified in clause (b) of section 40;"

(ii) sub-section (6) shall be omitted.' (260)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 13, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 13, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 14—Insertion of new Section 44AF

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: I beg to move:

Page 5, Line 42

for "five per cent" substitute "two per cent" (23)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put Amendment No. 23, moved by Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava, to the vote of the House.

The amendment No. 23 was put and negatived.

Amendment made:

Page 5, line 49,-

omit "and clause (b) of section 40". (261)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

Amendments made:

Page 5,—

after line 51, insert—

"Provided that where the assessee is a firm, the salary and interest paid to its partners shall be deducted from the income computed under sub-section (1) subject to the conditions and limits specified in clause (b) of section 40." (262)

Page 5,—

omit lines 59 to 61 (263)

Page 6,—

omit lines 1 and 2 (264)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 14, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 14, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

That clause 15 stands part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 15 was added to the Bill.

Clause 16

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Joshi, are you moving Amendment Number 88?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I am not moving.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 16 stands part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16 was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

That clause 17, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 17 was added to the Bill.

Clause 18-Amendment of Section 48

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Joshi, are you moving Amendment number 89?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I am not moving.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Thank you.

Amendment made:

Page 6, line 39,—

add at the end "other than capital indexed bonds issued by the Government". (265)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 18, as amended, stands part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 18, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

That Clause 19 to 24, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 19 to 24 were added to the Bill.

Clause 25-The amendment of Section 80-1A

Amendment made:

Page 7, line 16,—

after "industrial park", insert "or commercial production of mineral oil in the North Eastern Region". (266)

Page 7, line 18,—

for "1999", substitute "1998". (267)

Page 7,—

for line 32, substitute "1997 and ending on the 31st day of March, 2001", (268)

Page 7, line 42,—

for "1998", substitute "1997". (269)

Page 7, line 43,—

for "2002", substitute "2001". (270)

for "sub-section", substitute "sub-section". (271)

Page 7,—

after line 54, insert—

"4(E) This section applies to any undertaking which begins commercial production of mineral oil in the North Eastern Region". (272)

Page 7,—

for lines 56 to 62, *substitute*—

'(a) after clause (ib), the following clause be inserted and shall be deemed to have been inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 1996, namely:-

"(ic), in the case of an undertaking referred to in sub-section (4C), hundred per cent of the profits and gains derived from such business for the initial five assessment years and thereafter, twenty-five per cent of the profits and gains derived from such business:

Provided that where the assessee as a company, the provisions of this clause shall have effect as if for the words "twenty-five per cent", the words "thirty per cent", had been substituted";

(b) after clause (ic), as so, inserted, the following clause shall be inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 1998, namely:-

"(id) in the case of an industrial park referred to in sub-section (4D), hundred per cent of the profits and gains derived from such business for the initial five assessment years and thereafter, twenty-five per cent of the profits and gains derived from such business:

Provided that where the assessee is a company, the provisions of this clause shall have effect as if for the words "twenty-five" per cent", the words "thirty per cent", had been substituted". (273)

Page 8, line 7,—

for "inserted", *substitute* "inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 1998". (274)

Page 8,—

after line 7, *insert*—

"(iv) after clause (iv), the following clause shall be inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 1998, namely:-

(v) in the case of undertaking referred to in sub-section (4E) hundred per cent of profits and gains derived from such business for the initial seven assessment years."; (275)

Page 8, line 13,—

for "clause", *substitute* "clauses", (276)

Page 8,—

after line 16, *insert*—

'(viii) seven in the case of an assessee being an undertaking referred to in sub-section (4E) deriving profits and gains from commercial production of mineral oil in the North Eastern Region;

(g) in sub-section (12), in clause (c)—

(i) after sub-clause (3), the following sub-clause shall be

inserted and shall be deemed to have been inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 1996, namely:-

"(4) in the case of an undertaking referred to under sub-section (4C) means the assessment year relevant to the previous year in which the undertaking starts to provide the telecommunication services whether basic or cellular.";

(ii) after sub-clause (4) as so inserted, the following sub-clauses shall be inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 1998, namely:-

"(5) in the case of an undertaking operating an industrial park referred to under sub-section (4D) means the assessment year relevant to the previous year in which the undertaking starts operating such industrial park notified for the purposes of the said sub-section.

(6) in the case of an undertaking engaged in the business of commercial production of mineral oil referred to under sub-section (4E) means the assessment year relevant to the previous year in which the undertaking commences the commercial production of mineral oil."

(iii) after clause (1), the following clause shall be inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 1998, namely:-

'(g) "North Eastern Region" means the region comprising of the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Maghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.' (297)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 25, as amended, stands part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 25, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clauses 26 to 28 stand part of the Bill".

Motion was adopted.

Clauses 26 to 28 were added to the Bill.

Clause 29-Amendment of Section 80-0

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I beg to move:

"Page 8,—

for clause 29, *substitute*—

"29. In section 80-0 of the income-tax Act, for the words beginning with "where the gross total income of an assessee" and ending with the words "In computing the total income of the assessee" the following words shall be substituted, namely:-

"Where the gross total income of an assessee, being an Indian company, or a person (other than a company) who is resident in India, includes any income by way of royalty, commission, fees or any similar payment received by the assessee from the Government of a foreign State or a foreign enterprise in consideration for the use outside India of any patent, invention, model, design, secret formula or process, or similar property right, or information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific knowledge, experience or skill made available or provided or agreed to be made available or provided to such Government or enterprise by the assessee, or in consideration of technical or professional services rendered or agreed to be rendered outside India to such Government or enterprise by the assessee, and such income is received in convertible foreign exchange in India, or having been received in convertible foreign exchange outside India, or having been converted into convertible foreign exchange outside India, is brought into India, by or on behalf of the assessee in accordance with any law for the time being in force for regulating payments and dealings in foreign exchange, there shall be allowed, in accordance with and subject to the provisions of this section, a deduction of an amount equal to one hundred per cent of the income so received in, or brought into, India in computing the total income of the assessee". (129)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (SOUTH DELHI): They are doing injustice to us. ...*(Interruptions)* Please cooperate with us in this matter. Tax is being imposed on the Indian scientists who are earning and bringing money from abroad. Multi Nationals are being spared and tax is being imposed on the scientist ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will now put Amendment No. 129 moved by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi to the vote of the House.

The amendment No. 129 was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 29 stands part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 29 was added to the Bill.

Clause 38-Amendment of Section 88

Amendment made:

Page 8,—

for lines 30 to 32, substitute—

'30. In section 88 of the Income-tax Act, in sub-section (2) in clause (xvi), with effect from the 1st day of April, 1998,—

(i) after the words "by a public company", the words "or as subscription to any eligible issue of capital by any public financial institution" shall be inserted;

(ii) in the *Explanation*,—

(A) for clause (i), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

"(i) "eligible issue of capital" means an issue made by a public company formed and registered in India or a public financial institution and the entire proceeds of the issue is utilised wholly and exclusively either for the purposes of developing, maintaining and operating an infrastructure facility or for generating, or for generating and distributing, power or for providing telecommunication services whether basic or cellular;"

(B) after clause (iii), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

(iv) "public financial institution" shall have the meaning assigned to it in section 4A of the Companies Act, 1956'. (278)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 30, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 30, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clauses 31 to 36 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 31 to 36 were added to the Bill.

Clause 37-Amendment of Section 115-JA

Amendments made:

"Page 9,—

for lines 21 and 22, substitute—

"(viii) the amount of profits eligible for deduction under section 80IIC, computed under clauses (a), (b) or (c) of sub-section (3) or sub-section (3A), as the case may be, of that section, and subject to the conditions specified in sub-sections (4) and (4A) of that section;

(ix) the amount of profits eligible for deduction under section 80IIIE, computed under sub-section (3) of that section." (279)

Page 9—

for line 40, substitute—

"(6) Where as a result of an order under sub-section

(1) or sub-section (3) of section 143, section 144, section 147, section 154." (280)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 37, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 37, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clauses, 38 and 39 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 38 and 39 were added to the Bill.

Clause 40-Insertion of new Chapter XII D

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 9,—

after line 63, insert—

"(5) No tax in terms of sub-section (1) to (4) of this section shall be leviable in respect of the amount declared, distributed or paid as dividends from the profits in respect of which the company is liable to pay tax at the rate relevant to the assessment year 1997-1998." (24)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I put amendment No. 24, moved by Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava to the vote of the House.

The amendment No. 24 was put and negatived.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I beg to move:

Page 9, line 53—

after "dividends" insert—

"in excess of fifty per cent of capital" (90)

Page 9, line 57—

for "fourteen days" substitute—

"thirty days". (91)

MR. SPEAKER: I put amendment Nos. 90 and 91 moved by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi to the vote of the House.

The amendments No. 90 and 91 were put and negatived.

Amendments made:

Page 9—

after line 55, insert—

"(1A) notwithstanding that no income-tax is payable by a domestic company on its total income computed in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the tax on distributed profits under sub-section (1) shall be payable by such company." (281)

page 9, lines 57 and 58—

for "from the date of declaration of dividends",

substitute—

"from the date of—

(a) declaration of any dividend; or

(b) distribution of any dividend; or

(c) payment of any dividend,

whichever is earliest." (282)

Page 9, line 63—

add at the end—

"or the tax thereon." (283)

Page 10—

for line 11, substitute—

"Explanation.—For the purposes of this Chapter the expression "dividends" shall have the", (284)

(Shri P. Chidambaram).

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 40, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 40, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clauses 41 and 42, stand part of the Bill."

Clause 41 and 42 were added to the Bill.

Clause 43-Amendment of Section 143

Amendment made:

Page 10—

for lines 41 to 44, substitute—

"43. In section 143 of the Income-tax Act, in sub-section (1) in clause (a) with effect from the 1st day of April, 1998—

(i) for the second proviso, the following proviso shall be substituted, namely:—

"provided further that an intimation shall be sent to the assessee whether or not any adjustment has been made under the first proviso and notwithstanding that no tax or interest is due from him.";

(ii) in the third proviso, the words "for any tax or interest due" shall be omitted." (285).

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 43, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 43, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 286 to the Finance Bill, 1997 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved." (329)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"The this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 286 to the Finance Bill, 1997 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 43A

Amendment made:

Page 10—

after line 44, insert—

Amendment section 167A. "43A. In section 167A of the Income-tax Act, for the words "maximum marginal rate", the words "rate as specified in the Finance Act of the relevant year" shall be substituted with effect from the 1st day of April, 1998." (286).

(Shri P. Chidambaram).

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"The New Clause 43A, be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 43A, was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clauses 44 and 45, stand part of the Bill."

The Motion was adopted.

Clauses 44 and 45 were added to the Bill.

Clause 46-Amendment of Section 194

Amendment made:

Page 10, lines 59 and 60—

for "dividends declared, distributed or paid, as the case may be, on or after the 1st day of June, 1997", substitute "dividends referred to in section 115-0". (287)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 46, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 46, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 47, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 47 was added to the Bill.

Clause 48-Amendment of Section 195

Amendment made:

"Page 11, lines 7 and 8,—

for "dividends declared, distributed or paid as the case may be, on or after the 1st day of June, 1997", substitute "dividends referred to in section 115-0". (288)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 48, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 48, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 49-Amendment of Section 196C

Amendment made:

"Page 11, lines 11 and 12,—

for "dividends declared, distributed or paid as the case may be, on or after the 1st day of June, 1997", substitute "dividends referred to in section 115-0". (289)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 49, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 49, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 50-Amendment of Section 196D

Amendment made:

"Page 11, in lines 15 and 16,—

for dividends declared, distributed or paid as the case may be, on or after the 1st day of June, 1997", substitute "dividends referred to in section 115-0".
(190)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 50, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 50, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clauses 51 to 56 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 51 to 56 were added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 291 to the Finance Bill, 1997 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved." (330)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 291* to the Finance Bill, 1997 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved." (330)

The motion was adopted

New Clause 56A

Amendment made:

"Page 11,—

after line 60, insert,—

Amendment of Schedule IV '56A. In Schedule IV to the Income-tax Act, in Part A, in rule 6, in clause (a), for the word "ten", the word "twelve"

shall be substituted with effect from the 1st day of April, 1998'. (291)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 56A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 56A was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clauses 57 and 58, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 57 and 58 were added to the Bill.

Clause 59-Amendment of Section 4 of Act 35 of 1987

Amendments made:

"Page 12, line 12,—

for "1999", substitute "1988". (292)

"Page 12, line 15,—

for "1999 and ending on 31st day of March, 2009", substitute "1998 and ending on the 31st day of March, 2008". (293)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 59, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 59, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 60-Short Title and Commencement

Amendments made:

"Page 12, line 17,—

omit "AND WEALTH". (294)

"Page 12, line 18,—

omit "and Wealth". (295)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 60, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 60, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 61—Definitions*Amendment made:*

"Page 12, lines 23 and 24,—

omit "or sub-section (1) of section 63". (296)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 61, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 61, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 62—Charge of Tax on Voluntarily disclosed income

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (DUMDUM): Sir, let me first make one statement. I have so many amendments coming later. Some of our amendments have been accepted and some of our amendments have not been accepted. Under both counts what we intend to do is, we take the amendments to the people and not press them here in the Parliament because we do not accept it. It is our regret that we do not accept the approach as enunciated in his reply and, therefore, with regret we are not pressing the amendment here and we intend to take them to the people.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: First withdraw your support to the Government and then go to the people.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Even if we do not take a leaf out of your book, we know what to do.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a major policy statement that he has made.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR): He has to seek leave of the House to withdraw his amendment.

AN HON. MEMBER: He has not moved his amendments at all.

Amendments made:

Page 12, line 31,—

for "section 64", substitute "section 63". (297)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

Page 12, line 51,—

omit "or under section 37A of the Wealth-tax Act". (298)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

Page 13,—

for line 1, substitute—

"Income tax Act was made, or survey under section 133A of the Income-tax Act was carried out or in respect of any earlier"; (299)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 62, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 62, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 63

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, in respect of Clause 63, since we have changed the VDS scheme into VDIS scheme, the whole of Clause 63 is to be deleted. Therefore, we are voting against Clause 63. There is no amendment. We are deleting the whole of the clause. So, when you move this clause, we are going to vote against it.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 63 stands part of the Bill."

The motion was negated.

MR. SPEAKER: Clause 63 is dropped from the Bill. The subsequent clauses may be re-numbered accordingly.

Clause 64—Particulars to be furnished in declaration*Amendments made:*

Page 13, line 57,—

omit "or under sub-section (1) of section 63". (300)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

Page 14,—

for lines 19 to 23,—

"(3) Any person, who has made a declaration under sub-section (1) of section 62 in respect of his income or as a representative assessee in respect of the income of any other person, shall not be entitled to make any other declaration, under that sub-section in respect of his income or the income of such other person, and any such other declaration, if made, shall be deemed to be void." (301)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 64, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 64, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 65—Time for payment of tax*Amendment made:*

Page 14, line 24,—

omit "or wealth". (302)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 65, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 65, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 66-Interest payable by declarant

Amendments made:

Page 14, line 26,—

for "section 65, substitute "section 64", (303)

Page 14, line 32,—

omit "or wealth", (304)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 66, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 66, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 67-Voluntarily disclosed income not to be included in the total income

Amendment made:

Page 14, line 42,—

for "section 65 or section 66", substitute "section 64 or section 65". (305)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 67, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 67, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

That clause 68 stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 68 was added to the Bill.

Clause 69-Tax in respect of Voluntarily disclosed income or wealth not refundable

Amendment made:

Page 15, lines 1 and 2,—

omit "or under sub-section (1) of section 63". (306)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"Clause 69, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 69, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 70-Declaration not admissible in evidence against declarant

Amendment made:

Page 15, line 4,—

Omit "or sub-section (1) of section 63". (307)

(Shri P Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"Clause 70, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 70, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 71-Secrecy of declaration

Amendment made:

Page 15, lines 8 and 9,—

Omit "or under sub-section (1) of section 63." (308)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"Clause 71, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 71, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 72-Exemption from Wealth tax in respect of assets specified in declaration

Amendments made:

Page 15,—

after line 33, insert—

"(iii) the value of the jewellery or bullion so declared shall be taken to be its market value as on the 1st day of April, 1987, where the disclosure is made in respect of an assessment year earlier than assessment year 1987-88, and for the purposes of this Chapter the expression 'jewellery' shall have the same meaning assigned to it in Explanation 1 to sub-section (viii) of section 5 of the Wealth Tax Act." (309)

Page 15, line 39,—

for "section 67", substitute "section 66". (310)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"Clause 72, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 72, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 73, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 73 was added to the Bill.

Clause 74-Removal of doubts

Amendment made:

Page 15, line 45,—

for "section 72", substitute "section 71". (311)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"Clause 74, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 74, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 75 stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 75 was added to the Bill.

Clause 76-How to make rules

Amendment made:

Page 16, line 4,—

omit "or sub-section (1) of section 63." (312)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"Clause 76, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 76, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 77-Scheme not to apply to certain persons

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Girdhari Lai Bhargava.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Sir, I am not moving.

Amendment made:

Page 16,—

after line 33, insert—

27 or 1992 "(c) to any person notified under section 3 of the Special Court (Trial of Offences Relating to Transactions in Securities) Act, 1992." (313)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"Clause 77, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 77, as amended, was added to the Bill.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I beg to move:

Page 16,—

after line 33, insert—

"77A. The proceeds of the tax collected under this scheme shall be utilised for specified objects towards—

(a) development of infrastructure in power, transport and communications; and

(b) provision of facilities for supply of safe drinking water, water supply for minor irrigation, sanitation, housing for poor and roads in rural and backward areas." (134)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I have already assured about it. It is about infrastructure. I have said it in my speech also.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Please assure it again.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I can only request the States to spend this money on infrastructure. We should not do it as it is.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: It should also be on urban slum clearance, etc.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Yes. All that is included in infrastructure. I will request the States to do it.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Okay. The hon. Minister has assured and hence, I would withdraw it.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House that the amendment moved by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi be withdrawn?

The amendment No. 134 was, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 78

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Murli Manohar Joshi.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I am not moving.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Girdhari Lai Bhargava.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: I am not moving.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 78 stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 78 was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 79, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 79 was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of rule

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 315 to the Finance Bill 1997 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."
(331)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 315 to the Finance Bill 1997 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."
(331)

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 79A

Amendment made:

Page 17,—

After line 24, insert—

"79A. After section 3 of the Central Excise Act, 1944 (hereinafter referred to as the Central Excise Act), the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

"3A. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 3, where the Central Government, having regard to the nature of the process of manufacture or production of excisable goods of any specified description, the extent of evasion of duty in regard to such goods or such other factors as may be relevant, is of the opinion that it is necessary to safeguard the interest of revenue, specify, by notification in Official Gazette, such goods as notified goods and there shall be levied and collected duty of excise on such goods in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(2) Where a notification is issued under sub-section (1), the Central Government may, by rules, provide for determination of the annual capacity of production, or such factor or factors relevant to the annual capacity of production of the factory in which such goods are produced, by the commissioner of central Excise and such annual capacity of production shall be deemed to be the annual production of such goods by such factory:

Provided that where a factory producing notified

goods is in operation only during a part of the year, the production thereof shall be calculated on proportionate basis of the annual capacity of production.

(3) The duty of excise on notified goods shall be levied at such rate as the Central Government may by notification in the Official Gazette specify, and collected in such manner as may be prescribed:

Provided that, where a factory producing notified goods did not produce the notified goods during any continuous period of not less than seven days, duty calculated on a proportionate basis shall be abated in respect of such period if the manufacturer of such goods fulfils such conditions as may be prescribed.

(4) Where an assessee claims that the actual production of notified goods in his factory is lower than the production determined under sub-section (2), the Commissioner of Central Excise shall, after giving an opportunity to the assessee to produce evidence in support of his claim, determine the actual production and redetermine the amount of duty payable by the assessee with reference to such actual production at the rate specified in sub-section (3).

(5) Where the Commissioner of Central Excise determines the actual production under sub-section (4), the amount of duty already paid, if any, shall be adjusted against the duty so redetermined and if the duty already paid falls short of, or is in excess of, the duty so redetermined, the assessee shall pay the deficiency or be entitled to a refund, as the case may be.

(6) The provisions of this section shall not apply to goods produced or manufactured,—

(i) in a free trade zone and brought to any other place in India; or

(ii) by a hundred per cent export-oriented undertaking and allowed to be sold in India.

Explanation 1.—For the removal of doubts, it is hereby clarified that for the purposes of section 3 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, the duty of excise leviable on the notified goods shall be deemed to be the duty of excise leviable on such goods under the Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985, read with any with any notification for the time being in force.

Explanation 2.—For the purposes of this section the expression "free trade zone" and "hundred per cent, export-oriented undertaking" shall have the meanings assigned to them in section 3.(315)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That New Clause 79A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 79A was added to the Bill.

Clause 80-Insertion of new Section 4A

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Sir, I beg to move:
Page 17, line 41,—

after "consumer" insert—

"which shall not be more than five per cent. of the assessable value" (26)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put Amendment No. 26 to Clause 80 moved by Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava to the vote of the House.

The amendment No. 26 was put and negatived.

Amendment made:

Page 17, line 25,—

omit "1944 (hereinafter referred to as the Central Excise Act)". (316)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 80, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 80, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 81, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 81 was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of rule

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 317 to the Finance Bill, 1997 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved." (332)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which

it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 317 to the Finance Bill, 1997 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved." (332)

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 81A

Amendment made:

Page 18,—

after line 13, insert:

"81A. In section 38 of the Central Excise Act, in sub-section (2), after the words 'every notification issued under' the following shall be inserted, namely:—

'section 3A, section 4A',". (317)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That New Clause 81A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 81A was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

That Clauses 82 and 83 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 82 and 83 were added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of rule

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 318 to the Finance Bill 1997 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved." (333)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 318 to the Finance Bill 1997 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved." (333)

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 83A*Amendment made:*Page 18, after line 17, *insert*—

Provision as to duties of excise on specified petroleum products in relation to a certain period and the validation.

"83A. (1) The notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) No. G.S.R. 240(E) dated the 3rd day of May, 1997, which was issued in exercise of the powers conferred by rule 57A of the Central Excise Rules, 1944, to restrict credit of duties paid on specified petroleum products used as inputs in the manufacture of final products shall,—

(a) be deemed to have, and to have always had, effect on and from the 23rd day of July, 1996; and

(b) be deemed to prevail, and to have always prevailed, over all notifications issued on or after the 23rd day of July, 1996, but before the 3rd day of May, 1997, under rule 57A of the said rules in relation to specified petroleum products.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, "specified petroleum products" means naphtha, furnace oil, low sulphur heavy stock, light diesel oil, bitumen and paraffin wax falling under Chapter 27 of the Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985.

(2) Any action or thing taken or done or purported to have been taken or done on or after the 23rd day of July, 1996, and before the 3rd day of May, 1997, in relation to specified petroleum products, under the Central Excise Rules, 1944, read with notifications referred in clause (b) of sub-section (1), shall be deemed to be, and to have always been, for all purposes, as validly and effectively taken or done as if the provisions of sub-section (1) had been in force at all material times and such action or thing had been taken or done under the Central Excise Rules, 1944, read with the notification dated the 3rd day of May, 1997, referred to in sub-section (1), and, accordingly, notwithstanding anything contained in any judgement, decree or order or any court, tribunal or other authority,—

(a) credit of duties restricted on or after the 23rd day of July, 1996, and before the 3rd day of May, 1997 on specified petroleum products, shall be deemed to be, and shall be deemed to have always been, as validly restricted, as if the provisions of this section had been in force at all material times;

(b) no suit or other proceedings shall be maintained or continued in any court for allowing the credit, and no enforcement shall be made by any court of any decree or order allowing the credit, of duties which have been restricted and which would have been validly restricted if the provisions of this section had been in force at all material times;

(c) recovery shall be made of the credit of duties, which have not been restricted but which would have been so restricted if the provisions of this section had been in force at all material times, within a period of ninety days from the date of enactment of this Bill and the event of non-payment of such credit of duties within this period, in addition to the amount of credit of such duties recoverable, interest at the rate of eighteen per cent. per annum shall be payable, from the date immediately after the expiry of the said period of ninety days till the date of payment.

Explanation.—For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that no act or omission on the part of any person shall be punishable as an offence which would not have been so punishable if this section had not come into force." (318)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new Clause 83A, be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 83A, was added to the Bill.

Clause 84-Amendment of Act 32 of 1994

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, about Clause 84, there are a number of Amendments. I have already made a statement day before yesterday that it will not be brought into force immediately. We will give an opportunity to each industry. The rules will be framed. Only after that, the tax will be levied. In view of that, I think all hon. Members may kindly not press the Amendments to Clause 84.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody has agreed.

Amendment made:

Page 21,—

after line 46, insert—

"(1A) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) of section 68, in respect of the taxable service referred to in items (g) to (r) of sub-clause (41) of section 65, the service tax for such service shall be collected from such person and in such manner as may be prescribed at the rate specified in section 66 and all the provisions of this Chapter shall apply to such person as if he is the person responsible for collecting the service tax in relation to such service." (319)

Page 21,—

for line 48, substitute—

"section (1) or sub-section (1A), as the case may be, shall be paid to the credit of the Central Government by the 15th of the month." (320)

Page 21,—

for line 51, *substitute*—

"accordance with the provisions of sub-section (1) or sub-section (1A), as the case may be, shall, notwithstanding such failure, be liable to". (321)

Page 21,—

after line 54, *insert*—

"(1) in the opening portion, for the words, brackets and figures "sub-section (1) of section 68", the words, brackets, figures and letter "sub-section (1) or sub-section (1A) of section 68, as the case may be," shall be substituted;". (322)

Page 21, line 55,—

for "(i)", *substitute* "(ia)". (323)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 84, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 84, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, are you moving your amendments?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: No. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"The clause 85 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 85 was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of rule

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 314 to the Finance Bill 1997 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved." (334)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 314 to the Finance Bill 1997 and that this

amendment may be allowed to be moved." (334)

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 86

Amendment made:

Page 22,—

Amendment of Act 52 of 1963.

After line 48, *insert*—

"86. In the Unit Trust of India Act, 1963, in section 32, sub-section (3) shall be omitted with effect from the 1st day of June, 1997". (314)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That New Clause 86 be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 86 was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the First Schedule stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The First Schedule was added to the Bill.

Second Schedule

Amendments made:

Page 30,—

"for lines 9 and 10, *substitute*—

'(ii) in sub-heading No. 0802.11, for the entries in column (4) and column (5), the entries "Rs. 55 per Kg." and "Rs. 50 per Kg." shall respectively be substituted'. (324)

Page 30,—

for lines 11 and 12, *substitute*—

'(iii) in sub-heading No. 0802.12, for the entries in column (4) and column (5), the entries "Rs. 100 per Kg." and "Rs. 95 per Kg." shall respectively be substituted'. (325)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Second Schedule, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Second Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Third Schedule

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I beg to move:

"Page 37,—
omit lines 28 to 31. (113)
 Page 37,—
omit lines 37 to 40. (114)
 Page 37,—
omit lines 45 and 46. (115)
 Page 38,—
omit lines 2 to 5, (116)
 Page 39,—
omit lines 8 to 11. (117)
 Page 39,—
omit lines 29 to 32. (118)
 Page 40,—
omit lines 17 to 20. (119)
 Page 40,—
omit lines 25 to 28. (120)
 Page 41,—
omit lines 1 to 4, (121)
 Page 44, line 27,—
for "8%" *substitute* "Nil" (122)
 Page 48, line 40,—
omit "9506.00", (123)
 Page 50, line 12,—
for "8 % of *substitute* "Nil". (124)
 Page 50, line 23,—
for "8%" *substitute* "Nil". (125)
 Page 50, line 28,—
for "8%" *substitute* "Nil". (126)
 Page 52,—
 (i) *after* line 8, *insert*—
 (i) in heading No. 29.14, for sub-heading No. 2914.20,
 the following shall be substituted, namely:-
 "2914.20 Camphor (other than camphor tablets made
 out of camphor powder)"
 (ii) line 9, *for* "(i)" *substitute* "(ia)". (127)
 Page 65, line 50,—
for "8%" *substitute* "Nil". (128)

Page 41, line 34,—
omit "3917.00" (135)
 Page 54,—
 (i) *after* line 2, *insert*—
 "(i) for heading No. 39.17 and the entries relating
 thereto, the following shall be substituted namely:-
 3917.10 Tubes, pipes and hoses, and fittings therefor (for
 example, joints, elbows, flanges) of, plastics
 25%
 3917.20 Layflat tubings Nil"
 (ii) line *for* "(i)" *substitute* "(ia)" (136)
 Page 44, line 4,—
for "8%" *substitute* "5%" (169)
 MR. SPEAKER: Now, I shall put all the amendments
 moved by Dr. Joshi to the vote of the House.
*The amendments No. 113 to 128, 135, 136 and 169
 were put and negatived.*

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (ALLAHABAD): Why do
 you want to deny the poor their bread and butter?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF
 COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I have
 already explained that *bhujia*, *papad* etc. are already
 exempt.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANHAR JOSHI: But you have raised the
 duty on chutni Pickles, soft drinks etc.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It is only for the branded
 products. You can add a few more of them. Give me a
 list and I would add a few more.

Amendments made:

Page 38,—
omit line 15, (326)
 Page 46,—
after line 55, *insert*—
 "(ia) *after* NOTE 6, the following NOTE shall be inserted
 namely:-

"7. For the purposes of heading No. 85.24, "recording"
 of sound or other phenomena shall amount to manufac-
 ture," (327)

Page 50,—

for lines 30 to 35, substitute—

"(6) in Chapter 22,—

(i) in heading No. 22.02, for sub-heading No. 2202.30 and the entries relating thereto, the following shall be substituted, namely:—

2202.30— Soya milk drinks, whether or not sweetened or flavoured Nil

2202.40— Fruit pulp or fruit juice based drinks 8%

(ii) for heading No. 22.04, and the entries relating thereto, the following shall be substituted, namely:—

22.04 ETHYL ALCOHOL OR ANY STRENGTH WHETHER DENATURED OR NOT BUT NOT INCLUDING ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

2204.10— Denatured ethyl alcohol of any strength 18%

2204.90— Other Nil" (328)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Third Schedule, as amended, stands part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

The Third Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Fourth Schedule stands part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

The Fourth Schedule was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 1, Enacting Formula and the long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed".

15.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Prof. Rupchand Pal, would you like to speak?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGHLY): I would speak very briefly.

MR. SPEAKER: We have already decided to go to the people.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHANDIGARH): In that case, if they press all the amendments, it will be easier for them to go to the people at an early date.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The serious reservations of my Party are with regard to several provisions which are against the interest of the common people of this country, particularly against our self-reliance. They would adversely affect the domestic industries. We have submitted a memorandum both to the Finance Minister as well as to the Prime Minister. We are distressed that a very few, hardly any of the important, suggestions have been accepted by the Finance Minister. We are committed to the United Front Government. We are supporters of this Government.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA): Are you walking out?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: No, Sir, we are not walking out. To save the country from the hands of divisive and communal forces of the country, we are compelled to support the Finance Bill, otherwise we have serious reservations about several provisions.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: On listening to the speech of my esteemed friend, the Chairman of the Estimates Committee, I am reminded of a small couplet.

MR. SPEAKER: I think Prof. Pal has made it very clear.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I would like to speak a different point. He has already expressed the views of my Party. We had submitted memorandum. We had discussions with the Finance Minister and also the Prime Minister. We gave several suggestions.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I am told that Shri Somnath Chatterjee has deliberately stayed away from the House.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No, he is not well. He was in the hospital. Yesterday only he was discharged from the hospital.

None of our suggestions regarding disinvestment of the public sector undertakings, strengthening of the public sector undertakings, taxation on the dividend, opening of insurance sector, etc. have been accepted by the Finance Minister. What he has stated would help the insurance sector. He has assured on the floor of the House that he would give autonomy to LIC and GIC. I have been discussing with him. I had a number of meetings with him. There are two issues with regard to the insurance sector. One is, the employees of LIC/GIC do not have a right to collective bargaining. Previously they used to have that right. The wage revision is always imposed upon them. As is being done with the employees of the banking sector, the wage revision is being thrust upon the employees of the insurance sector. We pointed out several anomalies that are there. When the wages of the employees of the insurance sector was revised last time, there were some discriminations and anomalies.

Their take-home salary was being reduced. I was assured that what was given to the employees of the banking sector would be extended to the insurance sector also. I do not know why the Finance Minister has become so rigid in regard to the employees of the insurance sector. When he has assured that autonomy will be given, the management to LIC and GIC were asked to negotiate with the employees and their associations, and settle the pending issues. I request the Finance Minister that the right to collective bargaining, as he has assured on the floor of the House today, be given to the employees of LIC and GIC. The management should negotiate with the employees to settle the pending issues. We have expressed our reservations.

MR. SPEAKER: I think you have expressed them very eloquently

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I am reminded of a small couplet of the great Urdu poet Akbar Allahabadi.

Gaam Key Gham Mein Dinner Khaati Hai: C.P.M.
Hukkaam Key Saath

Dard Aapko Bahut Hai Magar Aaraam Key Saath.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have held discussions with Shri Acharia. An opportunity for a wide-ranging debate on the insurance sector is coming up when the IRA Bill will be introduced in this House. I have already written to him and to his party leader also. Let the debate come. At that time the views that I had expressed in my letter, I will articulate in the House. He has a right to say what he wants to say. The House can debate the insurance sector. I believe, Sir, that notwithstanding their ideological and philosophical reservations on the Finance Bill and the Budget, in the heart of hearts, they support the direction of the reforms that we have taken up. And I thank all sections of the House for the broad and generous support they have given me in piloting this Budget and this Finance Bill.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (PANSKURA): I hope that the IRA Bill will have a different connotation when it comes.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed

The motion was adopted

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I must thank all the hon. Members very sincerely. For clause-by-clause discussion, we had earmarked two hours. For third reading, we had earmarked one hour. Out of the three hours allotted, we spent exactly 58 minutes to transact this business. Congratulations to all of you.

Since there is no more Government business before the Private Members Bills, I adjourn the House for twenty

minutes, as a tea break, to meet again at 3.30 p.m.

15.09 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

15.41 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at forty-one minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

(SHRI P.M. SAYEED in the Chair)

[English]

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Eighth Report

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (PATIALA). Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Eighth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions Presented to the House on the 7th May, 1997."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Eighth report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 7th May, 1997."

The motion was adopted.

15.42 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Illegal Immigrants-contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN. We shall take up further discussion on the Illegal Immigrants Resolution moved by Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona on the 13th December, 1996. The time allotted for this Resolution is five hours, the House has already taken four hours and twelve minutes, and only forty-eight minutes are left. Shri G.M. Banatwalla was on his feet.

Shri G.M. Banatwalla, you may please continue your speech.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is most unfortunate that the entire question of the presence of illegal migrants in the country has been politicised and a bogle is sought to be raised about for the so-called large scale infiltration in the country.

The very origin of this controversy lies in the electoral battle that was to be fought in Assam. Accordingly, a question was raised on the occasion of the by-election of

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

Mangaldoi Parliamentary constituency of Assam in 1978. An objection was taken to about 48,000 voters in Mangaldoi Parliamentary Constituency and to about 35,000 voters in Barpeta Parliamentary Constituency. So, we find that the origin of the entire political propaganda starts with the electoral rolls and the approaching of the by-election in Mangaldoi Parliamentary Constituency in 1978.

Sir, I must point out here that this large scale propaganda about the presence of the so-called illegal migrants in our country is going on incessantly.

This is obvious from the fact during the period from January 1986 to July 1993, nearly 2,87,000 complaints were referred to the Tribunal in Assam to determine their status as to whether they were illegal migrants. Out of this 2,87,000 complaints referred to the Tribunal, hardly 8,000 were identified as illegal migrants and in other cases, the complaints were found to be frivolous. That itself shows the politically motivated propaganda that has gone on with respect to this particular problem. Also, I have already given the official figures given by the Home Minister with respect to infiltration cases in reply to an Unstarred Question here in the House. I will not repeat them.

But then I may point out another factor. Take the electoral rolls themselves for certain periods and examine the percentage rise in the number of voters in those electoral rolls. In order not to consume too much time of the House, I may concentrate on Assam. The Assam electoral roll of 1991 had 1,18,73,952 voters. By 1996, the number of voters were hardly 1,25,87,659. So what is the increase? You talk about the large scale infiltration. You talk about millions coming in and getting registered as electors, as voters, as electing to this particular House and having their impact upon the Ministries. But then, what is the percentage rise in the electoral roll between the years 1991 and 1996? From 1,18,00,000, the number has increased to hardly 1,25,00,000 in Assam which is supposed to be the centre for all this controversy. In other words, the percentage increase in the electoral roll was hardly 6.01 per cent. I have figures here for all the States. They are there in the reports of the Election Commission.

Why should I take up the time of this House by giving all those figures which do not justify any such outcry as has been sought to be made? In Jammu and Kashmir there are certain other situations into which I do not want to go. But the percentage rise in the electoral roll between the periods 1991 and 1996 as given by the Election Commission is 5.65 per cent. However, there are various other factors into which I do not want to go. The point that I am making is that it is unfortunate that a bogey is sought to be created of large scale infiltration of the people entering the electoral roll so as to bring about, the disenfranchisement of thousands and thousands and this has been sought by those who have politically vested interests.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I had earlier indicated, there must not be any harassment whatsoever of the minorities, particularly, the Muslim minorities on the pretext of iden-

tification of the so-called illegal migrants.

I have already dwelt on that particular aspect and will not repeat what I have already spoken last time. But it is shocking to find that the right to citizenship in our country is not a fundamental right. That is even against the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights.

I must take this opportunity to urge upon the Government for even an amendment of the Constitution so as to make the right to citizenship a fundamental right in accordance with the international thinking as embodied in the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights.

People are being harassed and those who are staying here for generations and generations are harassed despite the fact that the Citizenship Act was amended in the year 1985 to provide that those who came before 1st January, 1966 to Assam are deemed to be the citizens. Now, the question was solved and those who came by 1st January, 1966, were already given all the rights of citizens by an amendment of the Citizenship Act. Those who came between 1966 and 25 May, 1971 were given all rights except, of course, the right to vote which they would acquire after ten years. But despite all these provisions, people residing for generations and generations and who were born here were harassed. Such, therefore, is the situation that we have in this particular respect.

Sir, I will not take much time and conclude by making an appeal. Let us distribute what you may call residency cards or residency certificates in our border areas. I am not talking of citizenship certificates. I am only talking of residency certificates and they should be given to each and every one who is there right now at the border so that those who come later on—if that is the case they say—can be easily identified. But at least a beginning can be made and we can think in terms of residency certificates to be given to each and every person residing in our borders. But without any harassment, manipulation or discrimination, everyone, at present, at the border should be given the residency certificates. The question of citizenship, as I said, can be decided later on according to the law. Let there be no harassment, let the law take its own course. But that also does not mean that indiscriminately the people are sought to be prosecuted under all sorts of complaints, as we have found in the case of the working of the Tribunals in Assam. A large number of frivolous complaints are brought by the people and the authorities.

Now, it is high time that we address ourselves to important questions rather than raise such bogies for only political exploitation. I suggest that in view of the circumstances which are prevailing today, the Government must firstly amend the Constitution to make citizenship a fundamental right.

Secondly, as I have already indicated earlier, you amend the Foreigners' Act in order to provide that the onus or burden of proof whether a person is or is not a citizen should lie upon the complainant or the complaining author-

ity. Today we have an obnoxious rule that it is the accused who is asked to prove his own citizenship. This is a colonial legacy that we have had because of the World War situation that was then prevailing. This particular position must go and the Foreigners' Act must be amended.

Thirdly, in view of the discrimination that is there, the complaints that are there of harassment of the genuine citizens, I must say that the Centre must not delegate its authority for the identification of the citizens and illegal migrants to any State. The matter must continue under the Central supervision, under the Central guidance, through Central guidelines and without delegation of authority to any State whatsoever.

Such is the situation today, Mr. Chairman, that not only the question has been politicised but it has also been communalised. I will not go into the details pointing out how the non-Muslims coming from Bangladesh were called refugees and the Muslims coming from Bangladesh were called infiltrators. Such distinctions were made. We are victims of the unfortunate events and developments and the attitudes that were taken towards all this. The situation must, therefore, come to an end.

With these words I conclude with my fervent appeal to one and all and specially to the Government to see that in the process of the identification of the so-called illegal migrants no genuine citizen specially those belonging to the minorities is persecuted.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (HOWRAH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I heard in the last two occasions this particular debate on this resolution. Before I participate in the discussion on the resolution, I had the privilege to hear the distinguished Home Minister Shri Indrajit Gupta the other day while replying to a question. I do not know the reason and the logistics which provided him the strength to admit in the House that about ten million foreigners are now residing in India. Having said so on the floor of the House that ten million foreigners are in the country at the moment and also admitting the fact that the people who are to prevent their entry from across the border, are not performing their jobs very efficiently, it really gave a handle to those who have been creating a lot of hue and cry on this issue and to a great extent had communalised this campaign as Shri Banatwalla said just now.

I am sorry to say that the responsibility will be on the Government as to how to justify their own answer and to find a solution to it. I am not going into a debate. I will now narrate my viewpoints on the whole issue.

Sir, it is a fact that historically when India, Pakistan and Bangladesh were together during the days of freedom struggle, when we were all one against the British empire, our cultural, social, and political aspirations and our emotional ties were one.

16.00 hrs.

I do consider today that the ties are still similar and one. They are inseparable, be it a Tamilian in Jaffna or be it a Tamilian in Chennai, their common emotional ties are unbreakable and no Constitution of the world can break that emotional tie. Be it a Bengalee in Bangladesh, or be it a Bengalee in West Bengal, their emotional and cultural ties are unbreakable. Be it a Muslim in Bangladesh, be it a Muslim in Pakistan, their dreams for this sub-continent in the days of the struggle against the British and their cultural, religious, emotional passion, are the same today also. But ironically and historically, it is a fact that the country had to get its own sovereignty and identity, right after the liberation struggle, through different courses of history which, as a student of politics and as a student of the Constitutional history of the country, we must learn and understand. As a citizen of India, I feel proud to defend my territory, the cultural heritage of this nation and of supporting the constructive contribution made by our senior leaders while framing the Constitution of India. But I cannot just ignore and take a lopsided view as to what had happened during the days of partition and after.

Let us take stock of our border States and Provinces. Jammu, Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat border with Pakistan. Whether you like it or not, if anything goes wrong in these four States, a habit has developed in this country just to doubt and cast aspersions on the Muslims of this area, as the agents of Pakistan. This insult and humiliation has been going on not from today. I can cite from the pages of a number of important features and important letters outside the House during the last decade while I was a student of college and University as to how and in what manner and language they used to suspect even the *bona fides* of the Muslims of these four States which are bordering Pakistan. If there is a war again, the spies of the Government will start finding out whether the agents might not be anybody other than the Muslims. Let us try to understand in what manner we are cheating them day in and day out.

I would like to mention that one Shri Suraj Ali Khan was a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Bengal from a Constituency called Tihatta Nadia district long back in 1967. He was arrested under Defence of India Rules being a suspect of Pakistani spy during the days of war with Pakistan and then the Chief Minister was helpless to do anything. Later on, I discovered from no less a person than the mother of Shri Sidhartha Shankar Ray that Shri Suraj Ali Khan was the co-prisoner of Shri Deshbandu Chittaranjan Das Party and Shri Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das used to go with his family for campaigning for the country's liberation struggle and he had been in India for long enough. This is the plight of things that happened to many important leaders of the minority community who stood by Gandhiji's call, responded to Gandhiji's appeal and stood by the secular fabric of the Indian National Congress. Now the partition history is one. I am coming to it a little later. The States which are bordered with Bangladesh, Tripura, Assam and West Bengal have phases of history. Phase

[Shri P.R. Dasmunsi]

(a) is the part of partition, (b) onslaught of refugees coming and going (c) the poverty-stricken districts in the border and (d) the constant poverty both in West Bengal, Tripura and Assam border and of the border of Pakistan, the border which is name's sake border in map, the border which has a routine and national concept of the border, but the border which was neither guarded from their side with an iron gate nor from our side with iron gate.

Thirty years ago, a daily wage earner of the agricultural field, may be his name is, Shri Ramatulla Khan, could not thrive in his own part and maybe on the side of Tripura or West Bengal or Assam, the big landlords whether Hindu or Muslim, asked Shri Ramatulla Khan during agriculture season to come and work in the field and to give support to agricultural production. Shri Ramatulla Khan went and stayed there for long with his family and children. Now when the time has come to identify, we do not go to the background as to how Shri Ramatulla Khan came in.

We go straight to the child and tell like this: "Look here, your father came here as an illegal immigrant. We have enough documents because Rehmatullah used to stay in a village till 16th August 1947 or till such and such a date of August 1950 or August, 1960. You are his child and get out from here." This is the kind of an attitude we have always adopted throughout the country.

I was born in Bangladesh. I was student of Class-I at that time. I remember the day when I came out on the street, I heard a slogan in Bangladesh. At that time, I did not know anything. One fine morning, I found that some leaders came and told us that the school was closed. We ran in the street and heard some leaders who raised the slogan of "*Rashtra Bhasha*", that is, the language of the State should be Bengali, nothing else. That was finally the slogan of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman at a later stage.

One night I came out and found that there was a trouble. My father, mother and sister were staying in the House and the house with all the property was lit. The next day morning, I found that the gentleman and his brother, who escorted us safely to cross the border, were Muslims. After having successfully crossed the border, myself, my mother and my sister arrived by train at the border of India. After seven days, we gathered the news that the great Muslim family which helped us had been killed at the hands of some fanatics. I still remember it.

When I became a Minister, I went to visit their family. What a contribution they have made for promoting brotherhood! But, if some of the people came for treatment in India, could not go back and stayed for 10 or 20 days for various reasons, I had to approach somebody in the Government of India to help them. It was in 1954 or 1955. I had to ask the Government to accommodate the man who saved our lives. Suppose the situation stabilises and such a person stays in India. The point is that the law of the Home Ministry and the provisions and regulations describe that such a person is a foreigner and the authorities ask him to get out from this land. Yes, logically, he is a foreigner. But historically neither was he responsible

to escort me nor my parents responsible to bring them. The particular situation which we witnessed was a grave one. What was the situation that we witnessed on the night of 15th August, 1947? Who was responsible for that? Should I bring the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the late Mohammad Ali Jinnah and the late Mahatma Gandhi to dock for trial? Or, should I accept history and the reality as it is and accept that man's identity? Should I accept him as a fellow traveller, a friend of mine and ask him to stay here or not?

Having said all these words, still if they try to say that let us find out the genuine infiltrators, I could understand the logic. But a campaign is carried on in this country in such a manner that some people are in fear. Who are the Chakmas who are in Tripura? They are not Muslims. They are not Hindus. They are Buddhists. Why did they come from the Chittagong border to Tripura? Whenever I used to go to Tripura for election campaign, I used to see at a distance of three yards the tents of the Chakmas, the Buddhists, the poorest of the poor who could not stay in the Chittagong hill tracts because of the oppression and suppression of one regime. Well, now efforts are on to shift and transfer them. But if they are there, if some of them get married with some of our people and get mixed in our society, should we go there and ask them to get out? This is what is happening in Tripura also. I do agree that there is a reasonable fear which arose in the minds of the people in Assam and Tripura. I fully share their fear. The fear is that if the influx is more than the expected number which is invisible, the fear of losing one's cultural identity is there. The social identity of the tribes of Tripura who are the original claimants of that land is in danger. The fear of the Assamese about the Ahom culture is there. They are not only the masters but also the people who did preserve their land by shedding blood. There is a reasonable apprehension in the minds of the people who live in the Brahmaputra Valley that one day or the other they would be asked to go out. I fully share their concern.

In India, if you want unity in the real sense of unity in diversity, then we should not create any situation by which any part of India gains any kind of fear or apprehension that its cultural, social, linguistic and ethnic identity will be wiped out by a hidden pressure sooner or later. If we keep quiet on that matter, then I think we are not doing justice. I fully share your view. In that regard, the process of identification, the process of evaluation could be thought of in a different manner but the campaign which has been built up in this country is terrible.

In Mumbai and Delhi cities, any Bengali who wears a *lungi* and does a job is treated as a Bangladeshi which means he has come from Bangladesh, he is a foreigner. So, has to get out. Now, I will give an example of my own State. From my State, not less than 15,000 Muslim workers are working in Delhi in the unorganised trades like tailoring, embroidery, etc.

Diamond trade or diamond polishing work in Mumbai city is the best trade in the country. The people who are

working in these trades come from my constituency, Howrah. Out of them, ninety per cent are Muslims. By tradition, they do this work. I know them, and before Independence, their families were in India. Since they speak in Bengali—they dwell in Ravindarpur area—most of the time they are the victims. Since they speak Bengali and are Muslims, we say that they are Bangladeshis. When they are asked to give their identities, they tell their father's age and other particulars. Then they are also asked about their grandfather and great grandfather. Finally, when they are not in a position to reply, either they get a beating or they have to pay something to the police and get out. This is what is happening in this country. I know this case. I met a gentleman yesterday from this group. It is a terrible situation which is now prevailing. Will it lead us to any solution? If a Muslim speaks in Bengali, he is a Bangladeshi and if a Muslim speaks in Urdu, in a densely populated area, whose identity was not known to top leaders, an easy way is to tell him that he has a connection with Pakistan. Otherwise, he has to tell them the particulars of ten generations and if after seven generations, he is unable to tell the particulars, then he is named as a foreigner and asked to get out. This is not the correct approach. I cannot contest the statement made by the Government that ten million people are here in India as foreigners.

Now there are three kinds of foreigners. There are foreigners who are defaulters in not going back to a particular place after the expiry of visa and are hiding. A number of Indians are also staying in US after the expiry of their visas, whom we recommend time and again to go on student visas and after completion, they do not want to come back and then the Embassy enquires and so on. Such types of people are also in India. They are not only from Pakistan but also from Bangladesh.

Mr. Chairman Sir, you may recall that ten years back, we had a General Secretary in AICC called Poorvi Mukherjee. Her relatives were Hindus and they were settled for 30 years in Africa. One fine morning, they all came to Delhi saying that they cannot go back. What happened? All the Indians had been driven out from Zambia, Uganda and Nairobi within 40 days' notice. I recall that her family also came out one morning and said that they cannot go back and they settled here. According to the stricter sense of the term, they are also foreigners because Poorvi Mukherjee's family were Hindus. Maybe, Shri Banatwalla is right that we treat them with a colourful word called 'refugees'. Had he or she been a Muslim, we would have said that they infiltrated from Africa into India. What happened after and before Taliban took over Kabul? Let us analyse the situation honestly. Is it not a fact that a lot of people of Afghanistan, from the days of Tagore's writing the famous story 'the Kabuliwala', used to come to India?

The people from Afghanistan, who were poverty stricken, used to come with sweets, grapes and *kishmish* to the streets of India and go back. Tagore's famous story 'Kabuliwalla' was based on that. The generation after generation used to stay in India. Tagore justified that being

a Pathan Muslim, the Kabuliwala fell in love with the daughter of a Brahmin in India. When that girl grew up, the Kabuliwala came out from jail and went to his wedding and said, "I am still here because your face resembles the face of my daughter who is in Kabul." Tagore said it. Should I take all the Kabuliwallas as foreigners? Suppose they are here for the last four or five generations. Maybe their sixth generation was in Kabul. Is it right or is it wrong? The people who have been in Tibet right after Dalai Lama have come to India and are here. Should somebody take a view that we should also not tolerate the Tibetans?

I come to the sensitive point about the Muslims which is now being debated in the country. What is your arrangement with Nepal? Right from the days of the British till this day, is it not a fact that our Gorkha Regiment is an Army with the best fighting Jawans who are recruited from Kathmandu, that is, those who came from Sikkim Valley, who come from Bhutan, who come from the Kumaon region of India, who come from various parts of hill areas and substantially from Nepal. Subash Ghising has rightly pointed out the issue. I want to have an explanation. What do you mean by the Gorkha identity—not the Nepal Gorkha identity? Do the Gorkhas who belong to India or to some outside country? Do the Gorkhas not belong to India? Are they only confined to Darjeeling? Are the Gorkhas, who are in the Indian Army, foreigners? It is history. Let us accept it. You are not discussing for the Gorkhas. You are not discussing for the Tibetans. You are not discussing for the Hindus who have departed from Africa. You are not discussing for the Afghans. You are not discussing for the Chakma Tribes. I am sorry to say that our whole attention in the country is towards Muslims. It is so because it suits us. If I can hit them more, it suits me to get a communal feedback from other sections. It may benefit us temporarily. It will bring disaster. Do not mix up the issue of ISI with this issue. If anybody is engaged in espionage activity, whether it is the ISI planted from Islamabad, or the CIA planted from Washington, whether it is somebody else like Mossad from Tel Aviv, there is no question. The nation has a responsible Government. It should not have any sympathy for him irrespective of his religious identity. Let us not mix it up with those who are coming as their agents.

If the Muslims are the only agents, then I would like this House to read the statement of former Home Minister, Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda in India, issued here perhaps in February, 1964, that is, after China attacked India. While all the Communists were detained in jail and when a question was raised about how many had been there and what were the reasons, a reply was given by Shri Nanda. That is already on record. Let us not question the identity of an agent in terms of religion. An agent is an agent. It is the duty of a responsible patriotic Government to fight the agent with all possible means.

Now, I come to the question of fear and threat to cultural and social identity. It is a fact. Dhubri and Goalpara regions of Assam and border districts of West Bengal are having very fertile land due to agriculture, due to tea plantation,

[Shri P.R. Dasmunsi]

and due to many other activities for years together. Our ethnic brotherhood from this side and that side might have brought people who stay for long years and may still be coming and going. A check, a scrutiny, a kind of residential card, or as Shri G.M. Banatwala has said, a mechanism could be found. I do not mind it. It can be done. After having a successful experiment in one or two districts, if you find that there is a genuine case, do it. My request to you is that if you want to scrutinise infiltrators and foreigners in the matter of residential card in West Bengal or Assam or Tripura, please do not leave it to their Government because somebody from those States, who are not effective, will take an objective view.

For the purposes of checking if you want to send somebody to Jammu and Kashmir, or Rajasthan or Gujarat or Punjab that is those who have border with Pakistan, then send somebody from States other than these States, send somebody who are not affected. They would have an objective approach to the whole issue. At the same time I would also like to defend the concept of unity in diversity. This concept cannot be encouraged and maintained if we intentionally keep quiet and sit idle and only become mute spectators to the destruction of somebody's cultural heritage.

A lot of my Bengali brothers and sisters are residing in Assam. When I go there I find the finest of the fine things in the culture of Assam. I read a few documents of the Assam Sahitya Sabha and I got an impression as if the Brahmaputra itself was roaring. I am proud of their culture. The dance drama of Tagore and the Bihu dance of Assam are two great assets. If a Bengali girl performs a Bihu dance, I feel, she has got integrated into the basic culture of Assam. I feel proud of that. If I find her to stay away from that, then I feel that she is not doing the right thing. This is Indian culture and this is how we should accept it.

Let us take the example of Tripura. It, of course, is a very selective case. Once again my heart goes to Tagore. He has composed a number of poems and dance dramas on Tripura's cultural identity like *Bisarjan*. Here he has depicted the identity of the tribal people who reigned supreme in their land.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am aware of that.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: The Bengali population in Tripura is only 30 to 40 per cent. Now, if they do not properly honour basic culture of Tripura and accept that then it would be an insult to them. The nation must create a process for the integration of the basic cultural identities. To cite the example of my own State, the people from other States irrespective of their cultural belongings have identified themselves with the rest of the population in Bengal.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the *Durga* puja festival you would come across Muslims who are secretaries of the local *Durga* puja committees. They issue the cards. I can show you hundreds of such cases. They have accepted

the culture there. It is not as a matter of religion but they consider it as a matter of culture, as a matter of get-together, as an occasion to understand each other.

Sir, therefore, the Indian Citizenship Act requires a total review in its historical perspective. After the partition, a few words created a situation in the border. People came and they also went back. The second aspect is of natural compulsion. It was stated here that the mother was killed in Dhaka, the sister was kidnapped in Multan and the brother was hit in the Chakma trap and the rest of the family stayed back here. Should we be inhuman to them? Should we drive them out irrespective of their religion and say, 'go there and get butchered'?

Sir, the third point that I would like to make is about introduction of the residential card system in the border districts. It is a very good idea. I do not mind about your deciding the range. Check the police records of those who have come here some 15 years back and find out whether any new families have come in or not. If you discover that some new families fall within this category then you decide on the base year. If you find that they do not fall in this category and they are also not the agents of any foreign conspiracy, then negotiate with the concerned foreign Governments and find out in what manner they could be deported to their respective homelands. Otherwise, if you communalise the campaign in the name of foreigners straightway then it would be a great injustice done to them and it would not help in the maintenance of unity of this nation.

With these few words, I conclude.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (CALCUTTA SOUTH): I do not know with what intentions this Resolution has been brought before the House. From what Shri Dasmunsi or Shri Banatwala have said, our apprehensions are very clear. They have rightly pointed out that to identify one particular community, this Resolution has been brought before the House. The previous speakers have said that we have to control infiltration. Of course, it is obviously in the interest of the country but we should understand our problems also. We should understand the problems that we faced at the time of our Independence movement. The Resolution clearly says that after 1975 whoever has come into our country from outside is an infiltrator. This particular question came up in the House and even the Home Minister said that more than 10 million foreigners, that is infiltrators, are now in India.

Shri Indrajit Gupta is a very good speaker but he has totally failed as the Home Minister. I do not know from where he has collected these figures. What is the authenticity? Please, let the House know the authenticity of the figures. Who are the foreigners and how they have identified more than 10 million people as foreigners? According to 1991 census we are more than 80 billion people. As a Home Minister, he owes certain responsibility.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): Sir, I

do not think it is proper to say all these things because the Home Minister is not present here. If he was present here, he would have clarified the position.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, she can say it.

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: Whatever he said, is on record
...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (KANPUR): When the Home Minister was speaking, I asked him.

[English]

What is the basis? He said, 'the intelligence report' and this must be a part of the record. This is what he exactly said.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It does not matter. Even if the Home Minister is not here, you are representing him. Madam, you may continue.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: When the Home Minister has made a statement in the House it becomes the property of the House. Let him come and clarify it. How can he say that more than 10 million people are foreigners? Out of 90 billion population of India, how can he say that more than 10 million people are foreigners or infiltrators? Is it not wrong on the part of the Government to issue such a statement and to communalise the issue? How can he say all these things without finding out its authenticity? One of the Members has rightly pointed out that at that time it was clarified whether the figure was 10 million or 10,000 and the Home Minister said that it was 10 million. This is on record. You cannot deny the fact. The Home Minister belongs to my State but I have never seen this type of an irresponsible Home Minister before. It is most unfortunate. I am saying all these things because I have great regards for him. No doubt he is a good speaker, he was a good Leader of Opposition but he cannot speak like this without studying it properly. As a Home Minister, he cannot behave like that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Within five minutes the time allotted for this Resolution is going to be over. Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time by one hour? There are seven more speakers.

[Translation]

SHRI ILIYAS AZAMI (SHAHBAD): I want to say a few words on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the time to say a few words. Now the question is about extending the time.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time of this Resolution by one hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: I have to make a request. Six hours have been spent on the discussion. Even then many resolutions of the Members are remaining. If you issue directions/orders to the members not to take much time and not to take about anything except resolution then it will do good.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are the new member. There is a record time of two-three resolution here.

[English]

Mr. Dixit was here. He spoke for more than two hours. I was presiding over at that time. A ruling is there. It is a Private Members' time and if the Member wants to speak, a reasonable time is given. Two or three hours is not unreasonable.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: This is my request.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You leave it to the judgement of the Chair.

The time is extended by one hour. Mamata ji, you may continue.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I will not take much time of the House because I want that all Members who want to speak do get an opportunity to do so.

I am raising this because this is an alarming issue. The House is very much concerned and the people in the country are very much concerned about the statement made by the Home Minister. I challenge the Home Minister that if he has a proof of authenticity for his statement, he should submit a paper showing the list saying that at least more than one crore foreigners are staying in India. I challenge that the Home Minister come out with the list in the House and tell the House who those people are. What does he mean by foreigners? Was he calling the Indians foreigners? Or was he calling the foreigners as foreigners in the real sense of the term? The Home Minister has to clarify that point. He has to authenticate his statement. One does not create history just by saying something.

Shri Dasmunsi has already spoke about our cultural heritage and our similarities and I do not want to go into detail. It is a fact that under Nehru-Liaquat Ali pact many people came to India before 1971 after the partition of Bangladesh and India because we were in India before Independence. After that it is because our country was divided, people came over here. Even now there are problems being faced in the border areas. Without taking care of the border problems we cannot blame those people. You have to see the problems of the people. What have the Government done in the border areas? All kinds of illegal activities are going on in the border areas. Smuggling, looting, and killings are going on in those areas. The Government is not able to control the problems in the border areas. The Government is not able to ensure that

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

the funds allotted for the border areas are spent for those areas.

When the Election Commission asked for issuing voter identity cards to everybody in the border areas, nothing was done. The Election Commission had spent a lot of money on this and Identity Cards had been issued. But they have not been utilised even for the election purposes. There are some poor people who do not know much about our law because our law is a hightech law. There are some poor people who are not educated enough to know how to register their names even for citizenship. Is it not funny that for getting a citizenship certificate one has to go to a Government officer? An MP cannot issue such a certificate and an MLA cannot issue it. People at the local level cannot issue such certificates. A Government officer is allowed to issue these certificates. How is it possible for these poor people to record their names for citizenship? What is this voters list for? They have already enlisted themselves in the voters list. Their names are there in the list as Indian citizens. They had voted in the Parliamentary election, in the local body election and in the legislative elections. What is the meaning of it if people come and say now that all of them are infiltrators?

If anybody is responsible for this situation, it is the Government. These people cannot be thrown out of the country just because they belong to a particular community. We should not forget the contribution of Muslims, Sikhs and Christians all over the country in our freedom movement. This is the Golden Jubilee year of our freedom movement. Can we forget the contribution of Bahadur Shah Zafar? Can we forget the contribution of Shah Nawaz Khan? We cannot. It reminds me a small couplet of Bahadur Shah Zafar which he said before his death. History says that Tantiya Tope asked Bahadur Shah Zafar to do something for the country.

When Bahadur Shah Zafar wanted to do something for the country, his two sons died.

[Translation]

It is given in the history. You may know that Bahadur Shah Zafar was beheaded. Bahadur Shah was taken to Burma. Before one month of his death, he wrote an urdu couplet.

Kitna Hai Badnaseeb Hai Jafar, Dafan Key liye,

Do Gaj Jamin Bhi Na Mili, Koocha-E-Yaar Mein!

[English]

So, we should not forget the contribution made by these people also.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHANDIGARH): What about Shahabuddin?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Why are you comparing Shahabuddin with Bahadur Shah Zafar? I appreciate that you are an intelligent person. I appreciate your concern. After Independence, Pakistan asked even Shah Nawaz Khan to come to Pakistan but he said that he fought for

India and he will live and die in India as an Indian. So, we should not forget all these facts.

Sir, with the connivance of police and administration smuggling and looting of arms and ammunition are going on in the border areas. I am sure the Home Minister is aware of this fact. What action did he take? He did not take any action. Even the goods, like potatoes and rice produced in our country are smuggled out to Pakistan, Bangladesh and other countries with the result that those goods are not available in our own country. You are not able to control smuggling. You have only one point programme viz., to finish the minorities which is not proper. They are also our brothers and sisters.

Why I am saying all these things because nowadays I am not getting any opportunity to speak in this House. Now, it is a Private Member's Resolution, so I have got an opportunity to speak. I am grateful to hon. Chairman for allowing me to speak.

Sir, yesterday, Shri Akbar Ali Khandekar, Youth Congress President from Hooghly District came and met me. He told that he had married a Hindu girl. He asked me whether it was proper for him to marry a Hindu. I said that he had done a correct thing. I encouraged him. Sir, even now also, there are some reservations between the Hindus and the Muslims, the Sikhs, and the Christians. Why should we not consider ourselves a human being? We do not consider ourselves a human being. We consider ourselves as a Hindu or a Muslim or a Sikh or a Christian. We do not consider ourselves as Indians. That problem is very much there. That is why we are divided. Being a majority community is it not our responsibility to protect the interests of the minorities? That is why my humble submission would be that we should not consider minorities as our enemies. They are our friends. They are contributing a lot for our country. The Hindus, the Muslims, the Sikhs, and the Christians want to live together, and want to keep this country together. It is because if we are united the country will be strong, and if we are divided the country will be weak. Therefore this message should go from here to the world that we are united.

If you take the minorities collectively, they are educationally backward. If you take them individually, there are so many people who have risen to the highest level. They are highly educated. They speak very good English. They have gone abroad. The Government have set up a Minorities Commission also. As far as employment of Muslims is concerned, their percentage is only one. I want to know whether the Government had studied this fact or not. The Government have a Common Minimum Programme. Only because of this, some of these people go to Dubai or some other countries to earn their livelihood, and you are saying that they have infiltrated into our country. Why have you not taken any action in this regard? There are also some *madarsas*. There are one or two universities. Why do you not encourage Urdu language? You are not encouraging Urdu, because you do not want that the Muslims should be educated. The Muslim women are also

not getting proper education. Their socio-economic condition has to be changed. In this regard, the Government must help them so that they can come forward. They should not be dependent on somebody.

Everybody is dependable on someone but I think, everybody should stand on his own feet. Considering the socio economic conditions of the minorities, the Government has to think over the matter. Some people are urging for their reservation also. If other people ask for reservations, why can the minorities not ask for reservation? What is wrong in it?

Sometimes we appease them also. We are also responsible for this. That is why, this is right time, I think, the Government should take some proper steps so that they should not feel that they are isolated from the mainstream. Please try to help them so that they should be very much in the mainstream.

There are some problems in the Northeastern region. You will appreciate the insurgency problem. Because of insurgency problem, every day the life and security of the people in that part is not secure and their survival is at stake. The Home Minister should take proper steps.

Regarding infiltration, I am asking this question to the political leaders and Members of this House also. Is it not a fact that because of vote politics, we also exploited such communities, such castes? Who have created this caste politics, religion politics? Why are we divided ourselves on casteism and religion? It is because of the vote politics. Everybody wants to win the election. For winning the elections, every political party is trying some way to exploit the situation. That is why, poor people have become the poorest and the rich people are going richest. This is the situation. What has the Vora Commission said? Why has the Government not taken steps? The Vora Commission has said very rightly that one section of politicians, one section of bureaucrats and one section of Mafia gang are in nexus and are operating. After the public interest litigation case, the Supreme Court ordered that there must be independent committee who will look into the matter and take action against the corrupt people for breaking the nexus. But until and unless this institution is set up, the Supreme Court itself said, the President of India in consultation with the Prime Minister, the Speaker of Lok Sabha should set up the high powered committee which would go into details to break this nexus and take action against the smugglers and the corrupt people. But till today, the Government has been taking no such action. I have got a reply from the Minister regarding the Vora Commission report. I asked, what action you are taking after the Vora Commission has submitted its report. I have got the reply. No action has been taken. In this Parliament, we say something but no action is taken. Without taking action, how can a country survive, I do not know.

That is why, my submission will be, according to the verdict of the Supreme Court, the Government should initiate setting up of a committee so that this nexus should be finished. We do not want to say, you put up anti-

nationals who would destroy the country. You take action against all this. But they are under the shelter of some political parties. West Bengal is a very progressive State. At least, my city, Calcutta is a cosmopolitan city. So many people are staying there. But you know, there are some terrorists coming from different parts of the country. They are also using West Bengal, Calcutta as a free zone. You know, so many lootings, so many killings and so many things are going on. This type of thing is going on in this country.

I would request that instead of identifying a particular community to be thrown out from the country, you take action against the corrupt people, against the terrorists, against the suppliers of arms and ammunitions. I do not know about the Purulia arms dropping. I have raised so many times to tell us in details actually who are the people behind the scene. You said, Anand Margis, without going into the details. But I am challenging the Home Minister. I have all the documents with me. The Home Minister was aware of the fact. Even the State Government was aware of the fact.

The Government or the Ministry of Home Affairs have got some information from the State Government but they want to hide it. The Intelligence agencies of the Government are a total failure. Tomorrow it will come up.

I think, the Committee on Assurances noted down all these points and had submitted a report regarding Purulia Arms Drop case. It states how the Home Ministry is trying to suppress the case. I would like to submit that if the Government cannot stop all these things, it cannot stop infiltrators.

I would like to remind the House that we are very much concerned about infiltration but it does not mean that we should identify only a particular community and start accusing it. We should work together. We are one in this country and we should consider this country as one umbrella and work together as brothers and sisters under it. We have to work unitedly so that this country survives. People who are guilty and people who are involved in corruption cases should be punished. Action should be taken, under Indian Penal Code, against those people who are involved in terrorist activities. But my humble submission to the Government is that no particular community should be isolated in this country and that something should be done for the minority communities and they should also be taken into confidence.

I do not want to speak in detail because there are so many Members who want to speak on this. With these words I conclude and thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me an opportunity to speak on this subject.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI: Mr. Chairman Sir, instead of delivering a speech I would like to say one thing. The hon. Home Minister has said in this house that one crore illegal immigrants are residing in our country. He has said an

[Shri Iliyas Azmi]

important thing. If this is a fact, then I challenge him to place the list of one lakh immigrants within two months in this House or tender his resignation. He has made such an irresponsible statement. He said that one crore immigrants are residing in the country. I am not asking for list of one crore people. Let him show the list of only one lakh immigrants.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you spoken on this resolution?

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI: Yes !

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then why are you speaking again ?

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI: He had revealed this thing during Zero Hour after I had spoken.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: But there is a procedure in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI: He had said this thing during the Zero Hour. I had spoken before the Zero Hour. I do not say that I have not spoken earlier. The Home Minister of this country has said this thing. I challenge him to place the list of 1 lakh immigrants with names and addresses in this House, or else resign from the post.

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL (VARANASI): Otherwise, will you resign?

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI: I did not make any irresponsible statement ...*(Interruptions)* Let him resign ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this issue/question has been taken up in this house on regional basis where as this is a national issue. Bangladesh came into existence in the aftermath of Indo-Pak war of 1971. Thousands of our soldiers sacrificed their lives but it was later deemed as only a Political Sacrifice. Lakhs of intruders have infiltrated in the country and are living in Delhi, Mumbai, Assam and several other areas of the country. They are engaged in illegal trades. The largest number of bogus ration cards have been issued in Mumbai and two years back, news regarding issuance of bogus ration cards had appeared in the news papers. An enquiry had also been conducted in this regard. They were all Muslims from Bangladesh.

KUMARI MAMATA BANARJEE: Those who issued the cards, they must have been the public servants ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL: No ...*(Interruptions)* interrupted you while you were delivering a speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mamata ji, let him speak.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: The Commission of Delhi Police had issued a statement in this regard and a statement had also been made in this House in this regard. He had said that the riots that took place in Delhi was the handi-work of Bangladeshi infiltrators. Bangladeshi Muslims involvement was proved in the riots that took place in Mumbai and Calcutta. There is no record about their origin, trade or identity. We should maintain the records and we should repatriate these infiltrators.

I will not say much because this is my third resolution. If second resolution will be taken up then I will get priority. ...*(Interruptions)*

With these words, I support the resolution moved by Shri Drona.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yours is the shortest speech.

Now, I call upon Shri Ramesh Chennithala to speak.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (KOTTAYAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is one of the very important Resolutions which is under discussion.

This illegal migrants issue is agitating the minds of all sections of the society. I do not want to look at it as a caste issue or a creed issue. No democratic country can afford to have illegal migrants on a large scale.

If the hon. Home Minister of India is correct that the population of illegal migrants in our country is more than ten million, can India afford ten million migrants? With this huge number of illegal migrants, I want to know whether our country's unity, integrity and freedom are safe. I would like to know whether our country's freedom will be safe if such a huge number of illegal migrants are settled down in our territory. This poses a lot of questions before the administration, before the country, and before the public at large.

As the hon. Home Minister has rightly said in an answer to the question, the Centre cannot do anything because as per the Foreigners' Act, the State Governments and the Union Territories are entrusted with this job. It is the duty of the State Governments or the Government in the Union Territories to get into the details of the illegal migrants, detect those people who are staying without any valid passport or any visa, a case should be registered against them and try to have all legal measures to evacuate them from our territory.

Sir, India is a country where we have, as my hon. colleagues had rightly mentioned, all kinds of traditions. We have a composite culture. We have a culture to absorb all kinds of religion and civilisation. India has got a unique character of assimilating all kinds of characters, all kinds of religions, all kinds of castes, and all kinds of civilisation. But we have to see one thing. I do not know why this issue is being given the colour of a religion or a creed, or a caste. Of course, if anybody is looking at it on that

line, then I oppose that. During the partition of India and Pakistan, some kind of relationship with the people of Pakistan and India was always there. Nobody can deny it because once we were together, blood relations were there and even now the people are going to Sindh, Lahore and other places to see their relatives. They have a common heritage. Cultural similarity is there. And the language and the customs are similar. So, a composite culture is visible in these areas and we cannot differentiate between the relationship of the people who are staying abroad in other countries. But the most important thing is unity, integrity and independence of our country.

We should not differentiate between caste or creed. This is the main problem of Assam and it has arisen in other parts of the country also. The other day I saw on the TV that people from Tripura were going back to Bangladesh, their own homeland. It is a good thing. So this is an issue which, for the last so many years, has been discussed in various forums. We have to find out some solution to this problem. We cannot say that a person is belonging to a particular community, therefore, he should be discriminated. This is a bad thing. We cannot accept that. The only point is that the interest of those people who had applied for the citizenship of India and those people who wanted to live in India, should be protected. They should be given citizenship.

I know a number of cases. I can cite any number of examples where there is an inordinate delay in sanctioning citizenship. For example, when the people whose parents are in Malaysia or in Colombo, want to come back to India after a long time, they will apply for a legal citizenship. It will take years. There is an inordinate delay. All types of red-tapism can be seen. Proper inquiry is not conducted in a stipulated time. So, this delay should be condoned. If they are genuine people, if the law is satisfied with their cases or if the officials are satisfied by verifying all the particulars, then citizenship should be given to them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have also experienced these difficulties. You also know it personally. In earlier days, the people from Kerala, Tamil Nadu and all other Southern States went to Malaysia and Sri Lanka seeking jobs. After some time, they settled there. When their children wanted to come here and settle in India, they are facing this type of difficulties. The law of the land permits giving citizenship. But unfortunately, the people who are entrusted with the implementation of the law, they are creating trouble and they are creating inordinate delays in sanctioning the citizenship. Those who are genuine, they are denied citizenship in different parts of our country.

So, I urge upon the Home Ministry to see that the genuine people who are applying for citizenship of our country should be given citizenship and the delay should be condoned. Their rightful interest should be protected. I do not want to go into the details of it.

Colluding with the police, colluding with other international *Mafia* gangs and others, a lot of migrants who are

coming to different parts of India are creating trouble. India now became a part of the Golden Triangle. Drug trafficking is going to pose enormous disaster for the younger generation of our country. The Golden Triangle outfits are trying to cartel drug trafficking in these areas, viz., India, Bangladesh and Pakistan. India is used as a passage for drugs to these different developing countries in the South Asian region. They are creating a lot of problems for younger generation and for the generations to come. So, this should be checked.

If we examine this in some areas, we find that these people who are coming to India without any valid passport or visa, are indulging in drug trafficking and other terrorist activities. This should be checked. Our Intelligence Agencies, military and other para-military forces should be vigilant in checking this type of infiltration.

There are a lot of examples. A lot of stories are coming up in different newspapers and other mass media about the drug trafficking, terrorist activities, looting and other illegal activities which are taking place. So, our agencies, our para-military forces and our Intelligence Agencies should be made more effective and more vigilant to check this menace of terrorism.

Sir, the Centre should be very serious.

17.00 hrs.

On the other day, when the hon. Minister of Home Affairs was replying to your question, he said that the Centre cannot do anything. He showed his helplessness. He said that according to the Foreigners' Act, it is the duty of the Union Territory and the State Governments to check all the illegal migrants.

My suggestion to the Central Government is that there should be a periodical review after every three months of the arrival of illegal migrants, for the people who have applied for the citizenship of our country. The Central Government should be more vigilant in the case of illegal migrants. There should be a periodical review and from time to time instructions should be given to the State Governments. If there is any default, the Central Government should take immediate and stringent steps in this regard. Then only this problem can be solved.

Today, the world over, this is a serious issue. It is prevailing not only in India but the American Senate had recently passed an Act to check these illegal migrants to their country. They are also putting a lot of restrictions for giving visas, passports and other documents. As far as United Kingdom and other advanced countries are concerned, they are very much alert in respect of illegal migrants. So, this issue should be taken a very serious note of. This is not an issue of mere illegal migrants. This will increase terrorist activities and also help in drug trafficking. Moreover, these illegal migrants are creating trouble even for the freedom of the country.

So, these are very serious issues which are to be taken

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

note of. The problems which we can see in Assam, Jammu and Kashmir and in the North-Eastern States should be viewed in a separate manner. Of course, there are certain genuine issues. Those issues should not be viewed on the basis of caste, religion or any other consideration. I know that there are genuine issues and those issues should be settled separately.

17.03 hrs.

(SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*).

There are ethnic problems and those problems are to be settled in a different way. But if we see in a large perspective, at any cost, we should not encourage illegal migrants. As per the law of the land, we should not allow it. We should restrict it for the unity and integrity of the country. We should take care of all these aspects for the freedom of the country. But, at the same time, we cannot discriminate and we cannot see these issues on the basis of caste, creed or religion.

Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House. I think, the time has come when the Centre should take this issue in a very serious manner. There is a very callous attitude on the part of the Government. I do not know as to why this callous attitude is there. So, the callous attitude of the Central Government and of other intelligence agencies is causing a lot of danger to our country. I think, the time has come for a serious review of the whole thing. The time has come for a fresh look on this issue. I think, no democratic and developing country can allow these types of activities to grow in our country.

[Translation]

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a resolution pertaining to criminalization of politics. Please allow me to move my resolution and take up this resolution for discussion later.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It can not be allowed during the debate.

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL: Now a days criminalisation of politics is increasing ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL: Your resolution is very important but please allow us to conclude discussion on this resolution first you are empowered to do so. Please allow me to move it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will look into the possibility of allowing it before six o'clock.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (MUMBAI NORTH-WEST): Sir, you can have the discussion on this resolution next time. In between whatever Bills or resolutions are to be brought before the House, that can be done. They are only introducing. They are not participating in any debate. If the House can afford it, it can be done.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (PANSKURA): I think this will come in the way of this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We cannot take it up unless this is concluded.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Sir, I have one request to make. The discussion has taken for more than one hour now. But from this side not a single speaker has been given an opportunity to speak. I would request the Chair to recognise this side.

MR. CHAIRMAN: After Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee I will call two Members from your side.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Thank you for giving me the chance. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have read the resolution very seriously. I will tell you about one of the meetings that I attended in Delhi itself. At that time there was a drive for forcing out the so-called illegal migrants. As soon as I went there, a number of people, whom I myself know, have come to meet me. They are from Midnapore district. I even knew their fathers and their relatives. They came and said: '*Didi*, they are calling illegal migrants!' Naturally this is a sad situation. Obviously, they are very much Indians. The difficulty is that India was divided in an artificial manner by the British. That is why the problem has to be taken differently from that of the other migrants in other countries of our sub-continent.

What did Rabindranath Tagore writes about our sub-continent?

*Oh! my heart, awake on the shore of the great men of the holy land of Bharat. Here, we had the Aryans, non-Aryans, Dravidians, Chinese, Shakyas, Hoons, Pathans, Moghuls who got mingled in one soul. The West has opened its doors today. All bring gifts from there and there is give and take. We will all mix together. Nobody will go back. from here—the great land of Bharat.

All these were in one body. This is India. This is what he said. He further said:

*This is the real picture of our mother India. It is an integration of so many cultures, so many religions and he said none will go back. That does not mean that they can live here in peace. This is the spirit in which we should really judge this matter.

I am not saying that there are no foreign agents here. No. There are some foreign agents. But then if we take every Muslim as an ISI agent, that will not help.

About the riots Shri Sarpotdar said that it was the Muslims who mainly went in for riots in Bombay and other areas. So far as I am concerned, after the demolition of the Babri Masjid, during the riots in Calcutta, for three days and three nights I was all the time on the streets with curfew pass. I had gone to the Hindu areas and also to the Muslim areas. I found both kinds of people. In certain

*Translation of speech originally delivered in Bengali.

areas the Muslims were trying to protect all and in certain other areas the Hindus were trying to protect all. This is our culture. It has to be maintained at any cost.

Therefore, I feel that some of the problems that have been raised by Shri Ramesh Chennithala are very important, like the citizenship etc. I think we should take it pretty seriously. I would like to say one thing. This is a problem in which surely the Government has a role.

But Government alone cannot solve this problem. We must create an atmosphere where we can live in peace with our all neighbours. Therefore, I say particularly in Bangladesh, after the water treaty, a new situation has been created. We must take full advantage of the new situation created in Bangladesh and should not try to pass any resolution which will give a wrong message. Therefore, if there are foreign agents, they should surely be found out from whichever country they might have come. At the same time, we should try to be friendly with one another and through that process protect our country from all harm that may come from other quarters.

[Translation]

PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' (JALESAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the resolution brought by Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona regarding extradition of illegal immigrants and infiltrators. I would like to be very brief. I did not listen to speeches delivered on the first day but I was fortunate enough to listen to my senior leaders. The infiltration has multidimensional impact. But unfortunately, it has been linked with religion somewhere, and somewhere with the country or emotions. Before going ahead, I would like to tell you a story. Two friends went to jungle. One of the friends asked the other if perchance he come across a lion, what he would do. The second friend replied that he would just take to his heels. The Second friend asked if the lion chased him, then what would he do. He replied that he would jump into the river. The first friend asked if the lion also jumped into the river, what would he do. He replied that he would swim across the river. The first friend asked what would he do if the lion also swam across the river. His friend replied that he would climb up the tree. Then again he was asked as to what he would do if the lion also climbed up the tree. At this point the later retorted asking his friend whether he was with him or the lion. Likewise, I would like to ask those who are opposing this Bill whether they are with the country or infiltrators? Those who are guided by their emotions while supporting the infiltrators, would they have the same emotions incase robbers broke into their houses and pleaded for asylum? On the one side, we unitedly went to throw them out of the country and on the other, the persons who voted in favour of the diversion of the country and against the unity of the country and also snatched away a portions of important district like Silhat from us during 1947, now say that they should be allowed to stay in India on any ground, be it social values, cultural or human grounds. I fail to understand this double standard. Perhaps, I have said it earlier also that we have a tendency that we do not care

for a member of our family suffering from cancer but we feel concerned if our neighbour suffers from influenza; and we try to call the renowned doctors. It is something very strange. This important question is related to illegal migrants. This is no question of social, religious or cultural relations. Those who had been anti-India so far, they should be apposed if now they want to settle in India and they should be ousted at any cost. India, Pakistan and Bangladesh have almost the same culture. If these persons opposing motion are affectionate to the infiltrators, then they should go and live with them in their country. But if the hon. Home Minister has told a lie,—though I have heard that the word 'lie' "Jhooth" is unparliamentary—with regard to the number of infiltrators, who have caused lot of difficulties to the people, then what is need of extending the support to them? The House is misled. There would not be a bigger lie if there are not more than 25-30 lakh infiltrators in the country and the hon. Home Minister tells this number to be come crore. What is compulsion in accepting the untruth, getting annoyed and still supporting it? I fail to understand this situation. There should be a limit, at least in the matters concerning the country.

I would like to say, one more thing in very brief. I would like to recite a couplet, specially for Banatwalla ji—

Watan ki jo haat sunane lagengen,
To pathar bhi ansu bahane lagenge,
Kahin bhid mein kho gai admiyat,
Use dhoondhne mein jamane lagenge."

Leave aside all other complexities created by these illegal migrants, the most important point is that they are migrate when Bangladesh was formed in 1971, 40,000 youth of the country sacrificed their lives. But at that time nobody demanded that Bangladesh should not be formed as it was a part of our country and it was parted by chance, there should be no difficulty in reuniting it with India. But at that time, the ideal of Rama was recited and it was said that we are handing over Bangladesh in someone else's hand just as Rama had handed over the reigns of Lanka in the hands of Vibhishana after killing Ravana but how are the people of Bangladesh are behaving today? The question should be pondered over whether they are coming here with good intentions? This should also be looked into whether this is not posing a threat to our integrity? Whenever they form a majority, they would start demanding a separate nation posing threat to the sovereignty of the country. Please tell me whether the sovereignty of the country is safe in the face of infiltration? Why so much protection is being provided to infiltrator in our country? Previously only people use to infiltrate in the country but now, even aeroplanes infiltrate and they drop goods too. I fail to understand as to why we are doing like this? It has an adverse impact on our economy.

If the statement of the hon. Home Minister is to be taken as true though my colleague is talking of two crore fifty lakh illegal migrants while the number of illegal migrants

[Prof. Ompal Singh 'NIDAR']

as stated by the hon. Home Minister is one crore—there is a great difference between the two figures—but Rs. 25 are being spent per day per person, it means an expenditure of Rs. 25 crore is being incurred by India per day on one crore migrants. This is the expenditure being incurred on their sustenance but the expenditure which is incurred on their treatment, education, transport etc. should also be reckoned. The illegal migration is not only adversely affecting our economy but our social equilibrium also being disturbed the repercussions of which we are witnessing from time to time.

I would like to beg pardon from Mamataji but Congress has been doing this work for the last fifty years in the country. It has been treating the infiltrators as its vote bank and in their protection infiltration has increased during the last 49 years. I cannot understand as to how the U.F. Government will be able to wipe out that stigma of one year? They are not much to be blamed in this regard but I do agree that when we are blamed for underlying religion based politics then Congress party can also be blamed for being instrumental in creating all these problems. That need not to be proved. They will soon be penalised for their wrong doing...*(Interruptions)*

One thing more.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Whatever you want to speak, you can but please do not discard us ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR': I am not discarding you. I have never said such a thing. I have been giving a patient hearing to your speech and tolerating it but it seems that some of our friends can tolerate the Outsiders but not us while we are also the people's representatives like them ...*(Interruptions)* I fail to understand that you are tolerating the outsiders. The migrants have become so much affectionate that all their acts become tolerable while we sit beside you and have not done any sin still we are not liked by you. What can this humanity, culture or 'Samskara' be termed? This should be made clear that this country is not a Dharmshala where anybody can come and stay with or without paying rent. This is a Country, a nation and it has certain ethos. When a family is divided, people separate their sons and do not go to ask even their well being. Still such people talk of a all embracing culture and that too in the name of migration and protection. In fact they play the politics based on the concept of building vote banks. They have seen people so far with a view point of vote, not with a view point of nation. I would like to add two-three points in this regard. I, through you, heard Shri Banatwala with raptness. He said that it had become a political issue but it is not a political issue. It is a question of pride of the country and if the infiltration went on increasing like this, be it in crores, lakhs or in thousands, the likely results are not good. He stated that 48 thousand votes in Mandaldoi and 35 thousand votes in Barpeta were increased during 1978. This number may seem less but if it is even one per thousand, still it is much since even a little number of people can destroy the whole nation while

it is a matter of 48 thousand and 35 thousand besides there are some more people with every voter. It is neither a propaganda nor Shri Dronaji has put allegation on any religion but has mentioned the name of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Alright. Now please conclude.

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR': Mr. Chairman, Sir, I shall conclude very soon though I am not in the habit of making hurry. One more point was raised here that how would you oust the people whose fathers and grand fathers have been residing here. I have a question in this regard that when a disease turns into an epidemic, will it be eradicated or encouraged? If that question is important then this question is also important. Let the disease not develop into cancer and cancer into an epidemic. This should be considered.

One more point was raised here that when Muslims come here, they are termed infiltrators but when Hindus come they are said to be migrants. Only therefore, I said that this feeling should also be seen as to who supported the division of the country and who opposed it. If a Hindu supported the bid of division and he comes here, he should not be accepted. Likewise, if a Muslim has supported this act and he happens to come here, he should also not be accepted. Here their feeling of patriotism for our Country in the major consideration. One who supports us is ours but one who opposes us, how can he become ours?

Sir, respected Munshiji had stated that the people of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh are emotionally one community, wherever they live be it West Bengal or Bangladesh. Likewise, the Muslims living in Bangladesh or Pakistan have similar feelings. I would like to quote only one example that had they been one, such a large number of rape and murder cases would not have taken place during 1971 in Bangladesh. Around 52 lakh murders took place in Bangladesh during 1971. These points are easy to be stated and seeming very good but these are not ground realities and practical. Therefore, we will have to think over it.

Sir, One more point was raised here that Hindus migrated from Uganda were settled here. Like wise where they migrated from Uganda were settled here. Like wise when they migrated from Kenya, they were settled here. I would like to state that not only Hindus but all the people of Indian origin, be they Hindu or Muslim, migrated here. Shri Chennithala stated two-three good things and he was also supported by Mamataji but I would like to say that the Govt. will have to take a strict action and chalk out a plan to oust the infiltrators, be they from Bangladesh or any other country, otherwise this problem will surface again and again and the problem will not be solved and this country will be over powered by the infiltrators and the remaining people will have no right to speak for their identity. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA (TEZPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the subject-matter of this Resolution is a

matter of utmost concern to the people of Assam and indeed to the entire people of the North-Eastern States of India. That is why perhaps a lot of references have been made in this debate to the problems in the State of Assam. Today, Assam has been turned into a veritable inferno. There have been killings, kidnappings, extortions, encounters and you have galore. Every day, such incidents are increasing in the recent weeks, especially after the installation of, what is known as the unified command structure.

Under the unified command structure, which has been operating today in Army, the responsibility for combatting insurgency, that is, responsibility for country-insurgency operations, has been entrusted entirely to the Assamese, and the State Government, in a way, has totally abdicated its responsibility. Now, the borderline between insurgency and law and order is very very thin. Therefore, today, almost the entire law and order responsibility has been entrusted to the Army. This is unprecedented. This is something unique and never heard of. There is a democratically elected Government and the primary responsibility of the State Government is maintenance of the law and order. But today, this responsibility has been given away to the Army with disastrous consequences. There has been no cooperation from the police forces with the Army. There has been inadequate cooperation from the civil administration. Therefore Army is fending for itself and in that process, committing a lot of mistakes and errors. Newspapers in Assam today are replete with stories of rapes and murders. The human right activists are up in arms against the Army.

The Army is not trained for this kind of anti-insurgency operations. Army is not trained to fight the citizens of its own country. Therefore, there are bound to be mistakes and there are black sheep everywhere and certain percentage of the Army personnel must be indulging in certain undesirable activities. But that is being blown up by the human rights activists and by the Press. As a result, the good name of the Indian Army is being tarnished in the State of Assam.

Why has all this been happening? The genesis of all these problems in Assam lies in the phenomenon of illegal immigration. No there has been this partition of the country putting it asunder and creating almost four parts within one united country. We have seen the Berlin Wall—Brendenberg Gate. The things there used to be controlled very strictly. I have seen the 38th Parallel the Panmunjong Gate—in Korea where even birds are not allowed to fly from North Korea to South Korea. They are killed. But that is the kind of strict control that is being exercised for movement of population between the borders. But what is happening in India. In Farraka and in Murshidabad, I have personally seen cases where the wedding procession is moving from India into Bangladesh because the bride's house is in Bangladesh whereas the bridegroom's house is in India, that is, in Bengal. And with drums, pipes and all that, the wedding procession is merrily going across the border and solemnising the marriage on the other side of the border. This is happening because the partition itself was artificial.

On top of that, there has been a huge porous border. It is not possible to control the border physically at all the points. Since the people have identical culture and religion the movement is only natural and no amount of military or administrative control can stop this kind of movement.

The Foreigners Act, 1946, provided that a police officer could detect the foreigner who enters illegally without a visa and he had the power to deport him. But it was found that because of identical culture, language, features, religion, etc., if illegal immigrants from Bangladesh comes into Assam and were to be treated under the same Act of 1946, then it is bound to result in gross injustice to some of the genuinely indigenous people. That is why, the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunal) Act was promulgated in 1982 under which the onus of providing that an entrant into our country is illegal has been placed on the complainant.

Sir, you are ringing the bell, but this is a matter that concerns Assam and a lot of references were made to Assam, so, I thought you would give me a little more time.

What are the causes of this immigration? We talked about the IMDT Act and other Acts. I will not go into those details.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hazarika, we shall have to extend the time because we have already exhausted the time.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA: I would only refer to one major point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall be extend the time by half-an-hour?

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (KANPUR): There are two more speakers. The Minister has to intervene then. And I have also a right to speak in the end.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think 20 minutes are enough.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA: Is there any more speaker after me, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are two more speakers, one is from this side and the other is Mr. Namgyal. The Minister's intervention is there after which we will have the reply. We also wanted to take up another important Resolution. So, you may please conclude.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA: If I have to conclude then at least I would not like to ignore mentioning one major point and that is the economic angle that is involved in illegal immigration. Bangladesh has a population density of 749 square kilometers as against the population density of Assam which is 284. It is claimed by the Home Minister that there are about ten million refugees in India. I presume that most of them would be in the State of Assam. This is happening because of the common border, because of the identical language, culture and all that, and most of all it is due to the economic factor. Bangladesh is one of the most impoverished countries in the world. Due to the low population density in Assam, the economic

[Shri Iswar Prasanna Hazarika]

condition in that State is somewhat better than theirs and therefore, they are moving into Assam. Therefore, there is a need for us to think about things which would help in the kind of an economic integration of the entire north-eastern region so that Bangladesh could also come up economically because physical and artificial control is not a solution. So, I would like to urge upon the Government that some kind of a sub-regional groupings under the SAARC should be formed covering the countries of Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, North-eastern India and Myanmar. This could be an economic zone with a lot of economic activities integrated into it so that the States in this part of the country could integrate with the neighbouring countries and achieve a kind of progress which would bring them at par with each other. If that happens then, I am sure, the immigration and influx of people from Bangladesh would be reduced.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a good suggestion.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA: Sir, finally I would like to submit that the State of Assam had to bear the brunt of this so-called immigration. I would like to submit that it is also the responsibility of the Government to share the burden of the Government of Assam not only in fighting insurgency but also in accelerating the process of economic development in the State. Our hon. Prime Minister in Punjab had announced that the nation would share the debt burden of Rs. 8,000 crore of the State of Punjab. The circumstances being the same a similar dispensation also needs to be given to the State of Assam.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you please take your seat.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA: Therefore, I would once again urge upon the Government that a similar dispensation, as has been proposed for the State of Punjab, should be given to Assam as well.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (UDHAMPUR): Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by Shri Drona ji. In a way Kashmir has become a laboratory for intruders. Pakistan had tried to restore the infiltration activities in 1947, 1965 and 1971. Then, since 1989 till date the atmosphere of insurgency is prevailing in Kashmir. Shri Makbool Dar is sitting here, who himself is a sufferer of the outcome of infiltration. If the hon. Home Minister is to visit his house, at least 100 security personnel accompany him, only then he can enter his house. Thousands of youths have been killed in Kashmir. Four thousand people have been forced to become homeless. We very well know the meaning of infiltrators. A country infiltrates its citizens to another country with a particular aim and today the situation in our country has cropped up as a result of infiltrators. Some people have settled there, followed by the arms and ammunitions and after it the entire Kashmir is burning today.

Mr. Chairman Sir, today it has been discussed here. Unfortunately the question of Hindu and Muslim is being

raised. None has said that the Muslims should be thrown out. But I would like to submit this much that Banatwala Sahib is present here and I have a news paper clipping of 1995. There were 1900 Indian Muslims in Saudi Arabia. The authority there had thrown them outside within a single night. Later on 20,000 Bangladeshi Muslims were sent back by an aeroplane. At that time none had spoken against it and when we discuss it that the illegal migrants in our country should be thrown out, then there is much hue and cry. Yes, it is alright that if the people come legally from outside, they may come, stay here for some time and go back. But the one who comes with a motive to change the structure of this country demographically then I would like to submit that we have seen the results of it in Assam and North East. What is going on there? Where there is infiltration, why problems crop up there? We know that the motive of the infiltrators is very clear. Therefore, my submission to you is that we should look towards it and the question of Hindu or Muslim should not be linked with it. We should clearly say that a foreigner is a foreigner. My submission is that today nobody from our country can illegally enter America or Canada.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (COOCHBEHAR): The Muslim is called an infiltrator but a Hindu is called a refugee.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: You are adding it yourself. I would not like to discuss it but I am speaking from the point of view of my party. It should not be associated with Hindu or Muslim. The foreigner will have to be called a foreigner. The one who has come with a particular motive to our country can not be our guest. There should be a clear view regarding it.

Mr. Banatwala has said that they should be issued identity card and registration card from today onwards. It is surprising. The people in Assam have been crying for the last 20 years. Mamata ji has challenged the statement of the Hon. Home Minister. She comes from Bengal. He must be knowing that it is the report of his own Government that in 1991, 50 lakh such persons were identified, which were called foreigners. Today 1997 has been passing. More than one lakh people have come to West Bengal to settle down. I would like to submit this much only. In this regard that we will have to seal our border. Till date efforts are being made to see that the people may not enter but a determined efforts has not been made in this regard. We have seen that the Pakistan border from the side of Punjab has been sealed. The issue of sealing the border of Jammu and Kashmir has been raised. You will be surprised to know that as we started sealing the border we have spend three crore rupees during the last year, all the material was put there but Pakistan started firing. When the Centre Government asked, about it, they said that it should be stopped and fixed backwards. The firing started again. The Centre Government ordered to stop it again. The expenditure of Rupees seven crore had been wasted. The whole of the material, which we had put at the border was taken away by the Pakistanis. The foreigners, which have been identified here should be considered seriously. The foreigners should not live here. Efforts were made that our border. ...*(Interruptions)*

Specially, my submission to the Hon. Home Minister who is present here is that many times in the meeting it has been discussed that vested interests of the people deputed on the border are created. The issue has been raised with regard to the B.S.F. How, such infiltration takes place? The army personnel seized 40 thousand A.K. 7 rifles in Kashmir. How is it going on? The vested interests are created in those who are deputed on border. That is to be broken. Their vested interest should not be created. There should be security in every respect on the border. The infiltrators came to our country should be repatriated forcefully. I want to submit this much only. I fully support this proposal.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): The Hon. Member has said that he would like to know from Banatwalla ji. If you permit me, I put forth the reply for his information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please give him in writing.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do you want to know from Banatwalla ji?

AN. HON. MEMBER: He is a senior leader.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You meet him and know the facts from him.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (LADAKH): Mr. Chairman Sir, the issue of immigration is very serious, and all of us should be detected and what should be the future plan.

Our colleagues from Assam have raised the issue regarding their state. It is really a serious issue. I had a chance to visit Assam in 1983 during election. Wherever we went, we were told by the people that this issue of immigration is taking a serious turn and a solution to this should be found. The terrorists have been spreading terror in the state for last seven years. I would not like to point out the way they reached there but even now the infiltration is going on and I think that Nepal is being used as a conduit for this purpose. They board the flight from Pakistan to reach Nepal and there is the soft border between Nepal and our country. The language and culture of Pakistan, Bangladesh and ours is identical. It becomes difficult to detect there people. You might have seen that the terrorists who came to Punjab, in that case also Nepal was used as conduit and even in Kashmir they are coming via Nepal. We have old treaties with Nepal since the Britishers time. I am not against it that the Nepalese come here or we may go there but a proper way out of it should be found. There should be some identity system through which it can be detected. The Nepalese come here to settle down. What has happened in Sikkim? There are 70 percent Nepalese and the bonafide citizens of Sikkim are less than 30 percent. Why the Bhutanese are crying? Though we are not concerned with it. It is an independent country but the issue of migrating of Nepalese through our country there has become a big political issue and has taken an ethnic shape. We will have to ponder over all these issues. I think that there should be some identity card system. The identity card which we are preparing for the voters should be a

all purpose identity cards as the 100 percent population of Pakistan has identity cards. Ours is a big country. God knows if it will be possible or not. If identity card can be made for electoral use in our country then there should be problem with regard to it also. There should be the provision in it that the identity of voting does remain alongwith the issuing of age certificate, giving special ration or if someone wants to purchase items at controlled price then he can make use of it. We strongly feel that it has become impertinent in our country. We live in the border areas. The people live upto the actual line of control in the border areas but some times we as well as the workers find it difficult to reach there since the identity card is not there. Therefore, I propose that if this provision can be incorporated and implemented in the entire country then there is no harm in it. It is also not impossible. It has become a big issue for our country. We must have a check on it and the illegal migrants should be sent back and those who are entitled to live here be that a Muslim, Christian or a Budhist should live here. I think that there is no other way. With these words, I conclude my speech and the Government should ponder over this issue seriously.

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me the chance. The Resolution moved by my friend, Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona generally seems to be very innocent Resolution because it is the question of illegal immigrants. Nobody prefers that some illegal persons should enter in our country and we shall have to bear the economic and political burdens.

But I have gone through the political version of the Mover that he has made here and of the other Members sitting opposite, my BJP friends and Shiv Sena friends. From this, it is very clear to me that through this Resolution, they would like to hit somewhere else. It is not illegal immigrants of general nature, not of Nepalis, not of Bhutanese, not of Hindus but they would like to mention particularly the Muslims who have come to this place. Mr. Chaman Lalji, I think you have heard the name of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. That is a good occasion for me to speak here about him.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: I had gone with him from Ravi to Kashmir jail.

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: They may be Bihar Muslims, Bengali Muslims, those who are coming to India and for that purpose, they are not illegal. They might have had legal passports; They may be Indian Muslims. Even then, you are claiming that they are Bangladeshis. What has happened in Maharashtra; what has happened in Bombay, now Mumbai? What has happened in Nagpur? What has happened in UP in your regime? You branded them as illegal immigrants.

Let us go back to the 1950s. Here, in this august House,

[Shri Amar Roy Pradhan]

Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee asked Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister: What will happen to those people who stay in Pakistan; whether they will lose everything though we have got kith and kin relations with them? The question was asked by Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. After all this, what is the reply of the then Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru? He said, due to the partition, those who are in the other side of the country, in Pakistan, are our brothers and sisters; they are our kith and kin. They have got the right to come over to India. Do you like to forget all these things? You have forgotten all these things. Now you would like to proceed only with the communal slogan. Do not forget that today you are in BJP; before that you were in Jan Sangh.

Before that they were Hindu Mahasabhai. They were the people who were responsible for India's partition. It is not only Muslim League but also Hindu Mahasabha which was responsible for India's partition. It is Shri Ata! Bihari Vajpayee and Shri Advani. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Sir, I have a point of order. He has taken the name of a person who is not a Member of this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pradhan, you should not refer to a person who is not a Member of this House.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: I was just referring to them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you cannot do that.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: All right, Sir, I withdraw that.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Mr. Chairman Sir, remind him of 1942 and 1962. What have they done at that time. Was it in the interest of the nation ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Sir, they cannot deny it that they were responsible for the partition of India. At the time of partition of India, they should think, what had happened in the country. The country had been divided.

[Translation]

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL: Is it not a fact that you had supported the Britishers in 1942? Can you deny it? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Jaiswal ji, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: I too fought for the country. I was in jail at that time because of the fact that I did not support partition of India.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: We would like to know only this much from you as to why Shyama Prasad Mukherjee had resigned from the cabinet of Pandit Nehru? What were the reasons, please tell ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

What was the reason?

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Sir, I am not going to deal with all these things. If the hon. Member likes to talk to me, I am prepared to do that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pradhan, please confine to the Resolution.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Right Sir. ...*(Interruptions)* That is quite different ...*(Interruptions)* Definitely, I shall have to explain the position to the Members of this House ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL: Please tell, why have you been so much eager to support the English.

You have got made the ration cards of the Bangladeshi citizens in your constituency ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Sir, with your permission I would like to say that Geetaji was right in saying that we have forgotten Rabindra Nath Tagore ...*(Interruptions)* We have a rich cultural heritage and we have a history but we have forgotten all these things. It is the culture of India. It is the Hindus, it is the Muslims, it is the Sikhs, it is the Chinese, it is the Parsis, who have mingled up here in India and that is the culture of India. We believe in Swami Vivekananda

I would like to state what Swami Vivekananda said. He said:

"Jibe daya kare jai jan

Sai jan sabeche iswar"

[Translation]

One who takes pity on animals, who is he? Is it the pupil? He is God only. The one who serves the poor is God. He is all in all.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: The Muslim League and the Hindu Mahasabha, both were responsible for the partition, they know it.

Regarding the illegal migrants, what is the position? In this connection I would like to say that we have become enemies to each other. The fundamentalism is going up

because of the activities of the Muslim League and the Hindu fanatics.

18.00 hrs.

So, Sir, my earnest request is that ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, Now the time is 6 p.m. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, he can continue his speech next time. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Amar Roy Pradhan, are you concluding your speech now?

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: No, Sir. Please give me ten more minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Amar Roy Pradhan, you can continue your speech next time.

Now the House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 12, 1997.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, May 12, 1997/Vaisakha '22, 1919 (Saka).
