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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, July 12, 1996/Asadha 21, 1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Length of National Highways in the Country

*41. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA
DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the length of National Highways constructed in the country and the expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years;

(b) whether the National Highways in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Bihar are far low as compared to the other States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(d) the details of steps taken to construct more National Highways in these States?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) During the last three years, a length of only 240 kms. has been added to the National Highway network by declaring State Highways as National Highways, in January, 1996. As the road was an existing State Highway no expenditure has been incurred since its declaration as National Highways

(b) No, Sir

(c) and (d) Do not arise

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Sir, I am drawing the attention of the Chair to the answer. Please read the Question and the answer

MR. SPEAKER : It is the right of the Member who has asked the Question

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker Sir. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am totally unsatisfied with the reply of the hon. Minister. The total length of National Highways in Rajasthan is more than other states. The Rajasthan

* Not Recorded.

Government is allocated half the amount requested by it for their maintainence, whereas more money is allocated to smaller states. In 1994-95, the State Government had sought Rs. 47.26 crores. Against this you gave only Rs. 22 crores. With this amount, we cannot maintain the National Highways, and not a single paise can be spent on ten new projects which have been approved by the Indian Government. I want to know from the hon. Minister, whether the total length of National Highway, passing through Rajasthan is higher as compared to other States? My second question is, whether it is a fact that the allocated amount includes the cost of construction of four lane Jaipur-Delhi Highway?

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, the Learned Member has asked about the length and all that. In Rajasthan, the length is 2931 kilometers; in Madhya Pradesh, it is 2946 kilometers; in Tamil Nadu, it is 1896 kilometers; and in Bihar, it is 2237 kilometers. Therefore, there is no question of comparison among the States. With regard to the non-workability of the programmes sanctioned, the Finance Department has given a very low budget and, therefore, we could not work them out.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has not given a reply to my question. I am asking about Rajasthan of the total amount sought by the Rajasthan Government for the maintenance of the National Highways, not even half is given by the Centre. While travelling from Delhi to Jaipur, as soon as one enters Rajasthan, the vehicles start making noise. This gives a bad name to the Rajasthan Government. Hence, my request is that the amount sought by the Rajasthan Government, should be given in toto by the Centre. This is not being done. Therefore, you should reprimand them. However, I am going to praise you in my State. Mr. Speaker, Sir, help me.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do you have specific information about Rajasthan?

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : It is not a question of our spending. The Government require some amount. The Finance Department is awarding some amount. Whatever amount is acceded to by the Finance Department only we are expending. Therefore, we will ask for some more funds as the learned Member says.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second question is whether the Rajasthan Government has sent a proposal to the Centre for declaring five routes in the state as National Highways? The time by which it is likely to be

approved. Another thing is that buses and trucks involved in accidents, are seen overturned on the National Highways. We have been hearing for the last so many years that after every twenty kilometres a traffic police post, an ambulance and a crane for towing away the vehicles involved in accidents would be provided to prevent traffic congestion. What arrangements are you going to make regarding this? Along with this telephone facility like PCO should also be provided. This is a good suggestion. If you accept this suggestion, then this short term Government would be praised sky high. Else, the Government would go, you would not be able to do this and I will also keep on cursing you.

[English]

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, the hon. Member may put a separate question. He is putting questions on a different plane. I want a separate question to be put in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is no reply. Hon. Minister, mine was a good question regarding policy matter...*(Interruptions)* No sums are being allocated to us whereas small states are being given funds.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Centre is not bothered about roads. And the Centre give absolutely no attention on their maintenance. Due to this, each year Rs. 900 crore is spent on the roads, including their maintenance. This has to be borne by the country. This burden is reflected in the form of price rise. You are yet to construct any new road. You have said that an announcement was made regarding construction of 240 Km of roads. But no new road construction work was taken up. The State Governments have to look after the road maintenance. And when they seek funds, you do not give. Under such circumstances, if the Centre do not provide funds for the maintenance of roads, then this problem will not be solved. Therefore, Sir, I want to know through you, whether Government have given Rs. 30 crore, as sought by the Madhya Pradesh Government for maintenance of roads? If not, then what will happen to the roads? Have you formulated any comprehensive policy in this regard?

[English]

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, as a comprehensive answer to the questions raised by my friend I think I can enlighten him by the answers I am going to give him.

Keeping in view the crying need for the development of the National Highways in the country, the overall deficiencies including the funds needed for augmenting the infrastructural facilities, the

immediate requirement for National Highways has worked out to or amounted to Rs. 7,730 crore. But the Planning Commission has drastically pruned down the requirement and a meagre amount of Rs. 2,260 crore was allotted, and enhanced to Rs. 3,100 crore only to take care of the inflation in the meantime - and was earmarked for the development of the National Highways. The allocation made by the Planning Commission is hardly sufficient to take care of the requirement of the ongoing works on the existing National Highways.

Now I will read out the allotment per year. In 1992-93 funds to the tune of Rs. 677 crore were demanded but only Rs. 433 crore was the allocation. In 1993-94 Rs. 655 crore was demanded but Rs. 565 crore was the allocation, in 1994-95 Rs. 1120 crore was the demand and Rs. 633 crore was allocated and in 1995-96 Rs. 1358 crore was demanded but only Rs. 1138 crore was allotted...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : How are we concerned about it?

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Please hear me...*(Interruptions)* We have been asking for the necessary amount. But the allotment is meagre. I cannot help it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to the Minister

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to him. You want an answer and you are not allowing him to answer. What is this?

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, I have already read out the year-wise details because we require certain amount but the amount allotted is only meagre. I will ask for more amount. That is all I can do.

MR. SPEAKER : He is going to ask for more funds. What can the Minister do? The Minister of Finance is smiling approvingly.

(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, as we all know, Andhra Pradesh is one of the largest States in the country which is dreaming to achieve more prosperity through industrialisation, and for achieving industrial progress we need the best road system. But, unfortunately, the road position is very bad. In fact, in 1992, our State Government had sent a proposal for taking up 4,800 kilometres of National Highways, but till now only 3,062 kms. have been approved...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Sir, the Member concerned is asking a Supplementary question in relation to Andhra Pradesh. The name of Andhra Pradesh does not appear in the main question. So,

he should not be allowed to ask a Supplementary in relation to Andhra Pradesh State.

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, nothing has been given to Bihar for the last several year.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, I want to know about State Highways converted into National Highways on the basis of the yardsticks specified on the basis of the size of the State. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The question relates specifically to Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Bihar. If the hon. Minister has the information, I have no objection.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is not on Andhra Pradesh

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : The first question relates to the length of National Highways in the country. So, it is relating to the country.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, the question relates to the length of National Highways in the country. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If the hon. Minister has the information, I have no objection.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There should be order in the House.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVIN CHANDRA MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, look here also.

MR. SPEAKER : I will defer look.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you. Why are you in a hurry like this? You are wasting the time of the House. If you want to ask Supplementaries, you keep quiet. I will not allow anybody standing like this. The criterion of allowing Supplementaries is to raise hands and I notice it. If you stand up, you will not get it.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, I would request the hon. Minister of Finance to give top priority in allocating funds for constructing National Highways all over the country. If we want to remove poverty, then we have to achieve massive industrialisation. Unless we have the best transport system through

express roads, we cannot dream this achievement. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is your question? You are only suggesting.

(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, I understand that the hon. Minister is not getting sufficient funds from the Finance Ministry to give the matching grants even for getting loans from A.D.B. and also World Bank. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you understand, then why have you to ask questions? Please ask a question now.

(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps he is taking. The hon. Minister is saying that money is not available. We have got a very dynamic Finance Minister who can always manage to give the matching funds for the construction of the National Highways in the country. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have asked your question. Enough is enough.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN : The question does not pertain to Andhra Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER : If you have information, you can provide him. Otherwise you can give him the information later on.

SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN : As the main question relates to only three States, I have gathered answer only for that. I want a notice for this question.

MR. SPEAKER : Please supply him the answer.

SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN : Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, nothing has been said in reply to the question which also referred to Bihar. Bihar is the most backward state and the roads have not been repaired by making special allocation for their maintenance. Bihar has been ignored. As far as part (a) of my question is concerned, I want to say that hon. Minister should reply as to whether Bihar has recommended 5-7 roads for giving the status of National Highway during the last Five Year Plan, and Patna, Muzaffarpur, Sonwarsha and Bhitamore roads as the third number. Whether you are to take immediate decision on these proposals and whether those roads will be declared as National Highway? With regard to part (b) of my question I want to know as to whether you want to get all the National Highways of Bihar reconstructed by making additional allocation. I want your directive in regard to Bihar.

being ignored. Hon. Minister should admit that Bihar is being neglected.

[English]

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, there is no question of neglect by the Government. Bihar has got 2,237 kilometres of National Highways ... (Interruptions) The funds for development of National Highways have progressively reduced from 1.6 per cent of the total in the First Plan to 0.6 per cent in the Eighth Plan. Therefore, every year it is being reduced. In the circumstances, there is financial crisis. I will plead for Bihar also.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Bihar Government has sent some proposals for roads to the Central Government. No reply has been sent by hon. Minister in this regard. I want your protection. Hon. Minister should spell out as to whether new Highways are going to be constructed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister will look into it.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Yes Sir.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, the basic problem with the National Highways is the resource crunch. The demand from different States is high and the money supplied to the Ministry of Surface Transport is too low. I would like to remind one sentence of John. F. Kennedy and then I will ask a very brief question. Once he said : 'America has good roads not because it is rich; it is rich because it has good roads'.

This is the most neglected Ministry I would like to draw your attention to a unanimous Resolution passed by this Parliament on May 13, 1988. On May 13, 1988 our Parliament passed a unanimous Resolution earmarking a cess on sale of petrol and diesel at five per cent to the Central Road Fund. In the last six years we have seen five Governments and none of these Governments honoured this Resolution (Interruptions)

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : That includes yours also.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mine was only for 13 days... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : You took decisions in lunch time (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : We took one decision in lunch time and you always remind me every day

[Translation]

I did it empty stomach whereas you have done it with your belly full.

[English]

Sir, it is the contempt of the Indian Parliament that this Lok Sabha has passed a unanimous

Resolution eight years back asking five per cent on the sale of petrol and diesel to the Surface Transport Ministry and it is not given. Unless we give this amount, all States may quarrel here; but no Government or no Minister will be able to give even 500 kilometres per year as National Highway.

So, I am requesting the Finance Minister and the entire Government. He cannot say : 'I am Surface Transport Minister and I have nothing to do with the Finance Minister'.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : I am pleading with them.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, as a Government I am asking them to know as to when are they going to implement this Resolution of Parliament giving adequate funds to the Central Road Fund ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen. This is a very very important question.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, I quite agree with the suggestion made by my learned friend on the other side. I have also been pleading for that, but I am not getting a positive answer. I will make the Finance Minister agree to that ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, this is a very important Resolution passed by Parliament. If such is the reply, then, all the questions raised would become irrelevant. You only say that you cannot help it, but somebody has to help out the situation.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, Mr. Pramod Mahajan has raised a very very important issue. I also remember the passing of this Resolution unanimously on the floor of this House which has been referred to by the hon. Member. I would also like to know what has happened to that Resolution. The Government should come out stating why action could not be taken on it. What are they going to do with the Resolution? Then, I will allow half-an-hour discussion on this question because it is very important.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : You have to ask all the former Finance Ministers to get the answer.

Revival of Sick PSUs

+
*42 SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA
SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the details of the sick Public Sector Undertakings declared sick as on date, location-wise,

(b) whether the Government have started the process for revival of these units;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far in regard thereto;

(d) whether any memorandum from some MPs have also been received in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) . (a) to (e). A *Statement* is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT

(a) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that as on 30.06.1996, 60 sick Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) were registered with it. The status of these CPSUs is given in *Annexure-I*. The location of these CPSUs State-wise is shown in *Annexure-II*.

(b) and (c). The action in regard to individual CPSU is to be taken by the respective CPSU in consultation with the Administrative Ministry concerned. The Government have constituted a Group of Ministers (GOM) which is serviced by the Cabinet Secretariat for finalising the stand of the Government before the BIFR on revival packages.

(d) No memorandum has been received from Members of Parliament in record to consolidated revival packages for the sick CPSUs covered by the BIFR.

(e) Does not arise

ANNEXURE-I

Status of sick Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) registered with BIFR as on 30.06.1996

	Central Public Sector Undertakings
1. References registered	60
2. Dismissed as non-maintainable	3
3. Revival Schemes sanctioned	13
4. Winding up recommended to the concerned High Courts	6
5. Draft Revival Schemes circulated	11
6. Winding up notice issued	6
7. Under inquiry	13
8. Schemes failed and reopened	1
9. Cases remanded by Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR)	1
10. Stay ordered by Courts	5
11. Declared No Longer Sick	1

ANNEXURE-II

State-wise details of sick Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) registered with BIFR as on 30.06.1996

State	No. of Central Public Sector Undertakings
Andhra Pradesh	2
Assam	1
Bihar	7
Gujarat	1
Haryana	1
Karnataka	4
Madhya Pradesh	3
Maharashtra	5
National Capital Territory of Delhi	1
Nagaland	1
Orissa	1
Rajasthan	1
Tamil Nadu	1
Uttar Pradesh	11
West Bengal	20
Total	60

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA . Out of 60 cases registered with the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, only in 13 cases, BIFR has sanctioned the revival scheme. Out of these 13 cases, there are a number of cases where the BIFR has approved the revival scheme, and in spite of that, the Group of Ministers, which is to finally approve the revival package to sick public sector undertakings, has rejected it. Moreover the financial institutions have also failed to comply with the directives of BIFR.

May I know from the Finance Minister whether a mechanism would be evolved so that the revival packages approved by the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction are implemented without any delay?

I would also like to know in cases of companies, like MAMC, Cycle Corporation of India, National Textile Corporation, Raroll Burn, BPMEL etc. where show cause notices of winding up have been served by BIFR because of reluctance on the part of the Government to act as promoter, whether the Government would assure that case to case review will be done again in consultation with the trade unions and the concerned State Governments to finalise the means for revival of these companies.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM . Sir, of 60 cases of Central Public Sector Undertakings where reference has been registered by BIFR, it is true that revival

schemes have been approved and sanctioned in 13 cases. But there are other cases among these 60 which have progressed to another stage under BIFR Act that is SICA.

I would not agree with the hon. Member, with great respect, when he says that we have not taken decisions about capital restructuring. In fact, I have with me a list of 27 companies for which the Government, through the Group of Ministers, has approved the capital restructuring proposals.

These 27 proposals involve a write off to the extent of Rs. 5,809.94 crore, conversion of debt into equity of Rs. 6,662.19 crore and cash infusion of Rs. 2,895.95 crore. Therefore, there are 27 capital restructuring proposals which have been approved by the Government and it is for the administrative Ministry concerned to take steps to carry through the capital restructuring.

Sir, my learned friend, hon. Member has referred to one or two companies by name. Now I can go through the list to find out whether the two names that he mentioned are among the 27 and furnish him the information, but I would urge him to address a separate question to the administrative Ministry concerned to see the progress of the capital restructuring proposals. We have approved 27 capital restructuring proposals.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, another problem which is faced by the workers and the employees of the sick public sector undertakings which have been referred to the B.I.F.R. is that they are not being paid their post-retirement benefits. Since some undertakings have been referred to the B.I.F.R., the workers and the employees have to wait for two to four years to get their statutory post-retirement dues like Provident Fund and Gratuity. I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether he would assure the House that the statutory post-retirement dues like Provident Fund and Gratuity would be released to the workers and the employees immediately and also allocate special funds for this purpose, if necessary.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I am aware that in one or two companies, or may be more, the post-retirement benefits of the workers have not been given. This is because the companies are sick. This is because they have not contributed to the Provident Fund when they should have contributed. In fact, the hon. Member Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee just brought to my notice the case of one such company. I sympathize with the plight of the workers and I shall try to find ways and means through the administrative Ministry through which at least the post-retirement benefits will be given to the workers. We are, today, giving Non-Plan support for paying current wages to the workers in some companies which are sick and I am not in a position to say now

whether this Non-Plan support includes the post-retirement benefits. But I shall verify the matter and I shall do my best to see that these workers, whose life is extremely difficult, will be taken care of, at least to some extent.

SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister's reply, on the face of it, looks very impressive. Out of 60 cases of sick units, he has already sanctioned 13 cases where revival packages have been cleared and the Minister just now informed the House that 14 more cases are in the pipeline which makes a total of 27. It is a good strike rate. But at the same time, one has to know the age of each case as on 30th June, 1996. Shri Acharia's concern and the Minister's sympathy is well taken. But if each case takes four to five years to materialise, it is as good as not taking it at all. I would like to know what is the age of each of these 13 cases that the Government has sanctioned for revival. How long has it taken for the BIFR to come to a conclusion that these units should be revived? It is equally alarming to know that winding up of 12 units have been recommended. When they are taking pride in reviving 13 units, they should also equally take the blame for not being able to revive these 12 units. What will happen to those workers who work in the companies which are being wound up when we are not able to pay even the current provident fund dues and other things? After making recommendation for winding up, nobody thinks about them and they forget them. So, age of each case needs to be known.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I can give the break up of the 60 cases. Three references were dismissed as non-maintainable; revival schemes were sanctioned in 13 cases; winding up recommended to the concerned High Courts in six cases; draft revival schemes circulated in 11 cases; winding up notices issued in six cases; enquiry in progress in 13 cases; schemes failed and reopened in one case; one case has been remanded by AAIFR is lying with BIFR; stay orders issued by Courts in five cases; and one case has been declared no longer sick.

Sir, it will be difficult for me to give date-wise pendency of each of these cases. I would have to collect the information on that.

Sir, as regards what shall we do about delay, my position and this Government's position is that we are not happy with the way the BIFR is structured today. That is why the U.F. Government's Common Minimum Programme declares that we will introduce a new Bill on industrial sickness and we will review and restructure the BIFR. But in defence of BIFR I am duty bound to report to this House that they have brought to my notice that the total number of hearings has progressively increased from 200 in 1987 to 887 in 1991. In the year 1995, the total number of

hearings held was 1552. The average time taken for disposal of cases, according to the BIFR, has come down. The gross disposal of cases as on 30th June, 1996 was 1413. I share the hon. Member's concern about the delay in disposal of cases and I hope that the new Bill that we will introduce will address these concerns substantially.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, several sick industries have been merged into profit making industries. The Kota based Instrumentation Limited which was among the safe industries upto five years, unfortunately has fallen into the category of sick industries. I want to know whether the Government propose to merge this industry with profit making Palaghat Industries so that it could be revived. If so, whether it is true that the Chief Minister of the state has made some remarks from this point of view that the Instrumentation Limited should be merged with Palaghat Industry whereby both industries could run properly. Hon. Minister Sir please give all details in this regard.

[English]

SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I hope I have understood the question as there is a lot of noise on this microphone. Is the hon. Member referring to M/s Instrumentation Limited in Rajasthan? That is being enquired by the BIFR according to the reports that I have received. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : I want to know whether the Government propose to merge the Instrumentation Limited which is a sick industry with the Palaghat Industries.

[English]

SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, according to the information available this company-Instrumentation Limited was declared sick and IDBI was appointed as the operating agency.

In August 1994 the operating agency was directed to look for a new management. They were given three months' time to firm up their stand. The operating agency was appointed to analyse the proposal and to examine the takeover by someone. I do not know whether the proposal is for merger with BHEL. It is really the Industry Ministry which will be able to address this question. But I shall find out the stage of this enquiry today and furnish the answer to the hon. Member.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the Common Minimum Programme the United Front Government defines the recipe for reviving sick public sector undertakings and combating the sickness in the public sector or dealing with

chronically sick units. It says, 'sick or potentially sick public sector companies will be rehabilitated through a menu of options that may include handing over the management to professional groups or workers' cooperatives'. In the statement of the hon. Minister, there is no mention of this menu of options. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he will apply his own menu of options to revive these sick public sector units or let this menu of options remain a pious wish or a mere rhetoric?

SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM : I am glad, Sir, there is support for a menu of options. The Common Minimum Programme refers to two options among the menu of options. Now, which option would be the best option for a particular industry would have to be decided by the BIFR and the PSU concerned as well as the Administrative Ministry. They will have to take a view. I strongly endorse and I know that this Government strongly endorses the approach where we will have to examine the menu of options and not get bogged down with one option or the other. We will examine the menu of options and which option. (Interruptions)

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : You have given the menu of options.

SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM : That is not correct. Only two among the menu of options have been mentioned in the Common Minimum Programme.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : It was mentioned in your statement.

SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM : I know that; I wrote it, so I should know about it. Only two options among the menu of options have been mentioned. (Interruptions) Kindly listen to my answer. A menu of options means a range of options, a number of options can be considered. We had picked out two options and said 'hand it over to the professional groups or workers' cooperatives' in order to highlight that these two options must be examined in every case where revival is being considered.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a Public undertaking under the Textile Ministry, this is Kanpur Sugar Works. It is running five Sugar Mills, which are located in Bihar and U.P. They come under the Textile Ministry. They have been issued winding up notices. These Mills owe more than Rs. 100 crore to these farmers. The United Front Govt. is a Government of farmers. Those public undertakings which come under the Textile Ministry, like Mahora Sugar Mill which comes under the Chhapra Parliamentary Constituency, have been served winding up notice. Employees of the sugar mill will be affected by it, but what will happen to the outstanding amount of Rs. 100 crore of farmers?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Chhapra is in which State?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Chhapra is not a State, it is a constituency in Bihar.

There are about 10 sugar units under the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. Now, they are under closer proposals. I am asking the Government and the Minister, what is the proposal for rehabilitating these units. It is not simply concerning the factories; it is concerning the sugar industries and the cash money of the cane growers. This is a very important issue concerning the entire State of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

MR. SPEAKER : I think you have made your point. Mr. Minister, do you have any information on textiles?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I have a number of textile mills which are among the 60 belonging to various States.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I am asking about sugar undertakings under the Ministry of Textiles.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The hon. Speaker is asking about textiles.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : No, no.

MR. SPEAKER : Let the hon. Minister reply about sugar mills.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The microphone has heavy static. It is extremely difficult to follow the translation when you put in the question.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I can put it in English.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : If you allow me to answer the question, that will be helpful to me. The hon. Speaker said that the question is on textiles. So, I started with textiles. Now I understand your question. Under Bihar, of these 60, I have got only seven. These are Heavy Engineering Corporation, Fertiliser Corporation, Project Development India Ltd., Bharat Refractories, India Firebricks and Insulation, Mica Trading Corporation and Bharat Coking Coal. The Company which the hon. Member appears to have in mind does not figure in my list of 60. If you will kindly give the name, I will find out and furnish the information.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I challenge the position.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I do not have it in my list.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : I want to put a question to the hon. Minister. Even after an agreement has been reached between the promoters, the Central Government and others, why does it take so

long to open the factory gate? For example, in my Constituency, there is a Metal Box Company which I visited. Everything has been done there. But I am told that it might take about eight months before the gate can be opened. Can this be accepted? You can advance this a little bit.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has already answered your question before you have put it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Are you referring to West Bengal?...*(Interruptions)* This question refers to Central Government public sector undertakings. Metal Box is a private company. It does not figure in my reply here...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : BIFR is a white elephant. Non-technical people are there. Dismissal of this Organisation is essential. I request the hon. Speaker to allow a special discussion on this matter.

MR. SPEAKER : I agree to another Half-an-hour Discussion on this matter.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Half-an-Hour discussion. You can ask all this in that. Please sit down now.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We will have Half-an-Hour Discussion on this.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my request is that the hon. Minister should give information regarding total sick units and not the sick units of Public Undertaking only.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Half-an-Hour Discussion will be there on sickness in industry.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you gave me indication to speak but you have not given me permission.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not remember as to whom I gave permission. I do not recollect whether I had given you any such indication.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You will get the opportunity in Half-an-Hour Discussion.

[English]

SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday you allowed about thirty-five minutes for

the question relating to Prasar Bharati. This question is linked with the bread of millions of workers. Many MPs have come from such constituencies where these units are there. They are not getting any opportunity to put forth their viewpoint. It is very unfortunate.

MR. SPEAKER : Because we spent thirty-five minutes yesterday on Prasar Bharati, I did not think of an Half-an-Hour discussion. I realise the importance of this question. I had been the Labour Minister myself. I know how the workers are suffering in this country. I had been the Labour Minister for nine years. Nobody need tell me what is the condition of the working class in this country today. That is why I have said that there will be an Half-an-Hour discussion on this question. You will all get the opportunity to speak.

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Sir, will you be kind enough to increase the time.

MR. SPEAKER : No. Sit down, please.

Financing of Private Sector Banks

*43 SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Private Sector Banks to finance the welfare schemes,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT

(a) to (c) Welfare schemes of Private Sector Banks are not financed by the Government. It is for Private Sector Banks to finance their welfare schemes out of their own resources.

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Mr Speaker, Sir I want to know from hon. Minister as to how much profit was earned by the Private Sector Banks in comparison to the Nationalised Banks? Second, how much of the total loan given by Private Sector Banks goes into primary sector like agriculture. Please give comparative figures in comparison to the nationalised banks.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : With respect, I submit that I will be very happy to answer your question and give the information. But this supplementary is not within the ambit of this question. This question is about Private Sector Banks financing their welfare

schemes. We have said that we do not finance their welfare schemes and they have to finance their schemes with their own resources... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The direction of the question is not welfare schemes concerning their employees. But the government of India has got various welfare schemes... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow your supplementary later.

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Mr Speaker, I want to know that like the Public Sector Banks which invariably give some percent of their loan to agriculture sector, whether the Government would issue guidelines to the Private Sector to make it obligatory for them to make available loans to the agriculture sector.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The Private Sector Banks are also involved in implementing a large number of Government schemes. I will give the figures on each of these schemes. Firstly on the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, the Private Sector Banks have received - I am giving the figure as on 31.3.1994 which figures are available - 2594 applications. Total number of applications sanctioned was 862. The amount sanctioned was Rs. 499.35 lakh. The total loans disbursed amount to Rs. 207.94 lakh. Then, about the Prime Minister's Yojana for Unemployed Youth (PMRY) for the year 1994-95 the Private Sector Banks received 20,705 applications. The applications sanctioned were 8398. The amount sanctioned was Rs. 1585 lakh. The amount disbursed is about 57 per cent of that.

On PMRY as on 31.3.96 the Private Sector Banks received 14887 applications. Applications sanctioned were 6796. The amount sanctioned was Rs. 3819 lakh. The amount disbursed was Rs. 2024 lakh. These are the programmes which the Private Sector Banks are participating in. And if the hon. Members want to know about any other particular programme, I will answer that.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Would you also give us the information as to how many of the foreign private sector banks are involved in implementing this scheme?

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : My next supplementary is still left. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have asked third supplementary.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : The third has not been done. He has said that he does not reply to the first question. He did not give reply to the second question. I had asked what guidelines you have issued for agricultural sector? He has not replied to this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Okay, now you ask.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : I want to know whether you would issue guidelines to the private banks to make it obligatory for them to give some percentage of their loans to agricultural sector just as it is compulsory for public sector Banks?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : All the guidelines of the RBI apply to the private sector banks also.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : There is a very small question...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Joshi, I will allow you to frame the question in a better way.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I want to ask what Dr. Joshi was asking. My question is, there are these stipulations...*(Interruptions)* I think, I have to seek his permission now...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is a country of villages. Private sector banks have earned higher income as per the figures available. Whether Finance Minister would give guidelines to each and every bank to adopt at least one village every year and make it an ideal village

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Do you permit these sort of questions?

MR. SPEAKER : Do you have the information?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : As I said, private sector banks are also governed by the same guidelines as the public sector banks. Forty per cent of the net bank credit has to be given to the priority sector. Out of this 40 per cent, 18 per cent has to be given to agriculture. There is a separate set of ten per cent for weaker sections which is ten per cent of the net banking credit. The same guidelines apply to Indian private sector banks

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have second supplementary also...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No

[English]

It is not like that. You cannot go on asking questions like this. What is this? Please sit down.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I will not ask about the guidelines. The guidelines are that forty per cent is for priority sector and there is another small bit of one per cent with the differential rate of interest to the loanees. What I want to know is not the guidelines. I want a comparison among the three sectors - foreign banks functioning in India, private sector banks functioning in India apart from the foreign banks and the public sector banks. All these have been failing to fulfil the guidelines over the last four or five years under the benign dispensation of the former Government. Has the situation started changing? How do they compare - the private sector 40 per cent, foreign banks 40 per cent and public sector 40 per cent? And in the answer that is given, with the differential of four per cent rate of interest, where do they stand?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Foreign banks are not governed by these guidelines. Foreign banks have separate guidelines...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : What is the difference between foreign banks and Indian banks?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Joshi, you are getting your chance immediately after that.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I am asking the same question.

MR. SPEAKER : Let him answer to Shri Chatterjee now. You can ask the same question later on. There is no provision for a joint question. What can I do?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : That will be a good day when the CPM and the BJP can joint hands.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : One day they may join, then you will not be there.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Foreign banks are not governed by those guidelines. Foreign banks are required to lend 32 per cent to the priority sector and not 40 per cent. Of this 32 per cent, there is a subset of 10 per cent to the export sectors and 10 per cent for SSI sector. The remaining 12 per cent is virtually free as long as it falls within the priority sector. There is no separate subset for agriculture for the foreign banks. It is the public sector banks and the Indian private sector banks which are obliged to have a separate subset of 18 per cent to agriculture in their priority sector lending. There are different guidelines.

Now, the hon. Member is asking me to do an elaborate exercise about comparing the lending proportions. Frankly, Sir, I do not have any figures of foreign banks because this question does not relate to foreign banks. So, I would not be able to do that.

For the public sector banks, against the 40 per cent lending they have achieved in March, 1996

37.75 per cent - all the public sectors taken together. Some banks have performed better than 40 per cent, some have performed not as good as 40 per cent. But that is why we say that when you have failed to perform regarding priority sector you will have to give it to NABARD not exceeding 1.5 per cent of your net bank credit. That 1.5 per cent is transferred by the public sector banks to NABARD and NABARD lends it for various programmes. Sir, for foreign banks, I do not have the figures. If a separate question is put - Mr. Joshi - I will be very happy to furnish the information about foreign banks.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, the hon. Minister has said that foreign banks have a different guideline and they are not under any compulsion to give loan for the agriculture section or even to the weaker sections. Now, he has only given them some guidelines that 10 per cent of their loan should go to the export sector. But what about this 22 per cent? Why are these foreign banks not being given a guideline to help the poorer sections, the weaker sections and the agricultural sections? What is the reason for this? Why have they been spared for it? You know, they are collecting money from the Indian population. The deposits are from us. It is the Indian money. Why are they not being asked to discharge their duties towards weaker sections and create a market also? They are interested in having a market also. So, why should they be not allowed or not forced to help the Indian market to grow? Why is there a different guideline?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I am sure, Dr. Joshi knows the answer and Mr. Chatterjee has already suggested the answer. Foreign banks are not engaging in mass banking in this country. Foreign banks have a very few branches, mostly located in urban areas and cater mostly to export trade and foreign trade. That is a different question. Dr. Joshi, if it is desirable to have them conform to separate guidelines, that is a different question. We will examine that whether it is desirable to ask them to conform to certain guidelines. But the answer is something very well known. Foreign banks are urban-based with limited branches and they do not do mass banking and that is perhaps why these guidelines are separate for foreign banks. But I will certainly examine Dr. Joshi's suggestion that, is it desirable to ask them to do so. That I will examine. (Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, I would like to know on three counts

Firstly, how many private sector banks had not reached the target which was prescribed, that is, 40 per cent of the priorities? If they have not reached the target, what was the penalty that was imposed on them?

Secondly, the foreign banks, if they have not reached the target, could keep the money with SIDBI. If the same facility is likely to be given to other sectors, why the foreign banks are allowed to keep the money with SIDBI and not give money to the small-scale sector, which is supposed to be catered to?

Thirdly, the Narasimhan Committee recommended abolition of priority sector. What is the Government's view on that?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I will be happy to answer my friend's question. But this supplementary travels far beyond the scope of this question. Please look at the Question. This is about the financing welfare scheme of private sector banks.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : I am talking 'priority sector'

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Just a moment. About financing the welfare schemes of private sector banks, I have taken the suggestions of Mr. Chatterjee in a good spirit and I have tried to give as much information as I have here. But if you are asking me now whether each bank has achieved a priority sector target, I will have to collect the information. This question does not relate to priority sector.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : But what is the penalty or not reaching the target? (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Figures which have been given by you in regard to the welfare scheme and Pant Pradhan Rozgar Yojana and unemployed scheme of the Union Government are very less. Thousands of people who go to get forms do not get the same.

Whether the new Government is going to launch Pant Pradhan Rozgar scheme and whether you are going to give instructions to Banks whereby more and more unemployed youths could get loans? Thousand of people give applications for loan but only five to ten people get loan. Some Banks do not accept more applications. Therefore, whether the hon.ble Minister would give priority to the employment schemes for unemployed youths.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : What your Government had done?

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : That is what I am telling.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : It is true that private sector banks, both the old private sector banks and the new private sector banks, have not reached the target which has been fixed under priority lending. In fact, the old banks, as a percentage of NBC, lent only 32.97 as against 40 and agricultural advances are only 6.17 as against a sub-set of 18. The new banks' percentage to NBC is 26.19 for priority sector.

lending and agricultural advances - only 2.20. They are also required to transfer 1.5 per cent of their NBC to NABARD. The private sector banks - both old and new - are falling behind target. But we will look into the matter to see how to make them achieve the target.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Disinvestment in PSUs

*44. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Commission to look in the affairs relating to disinvestment of capital of Public Sector Undertakings,

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of the PSUs whose shares are likely to be disinvested,

(c) whether the Government also propose to increase the investment limit for small scale industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Setting up of a Commission to advise the Government about disinvestment of PSU shares is under active consideration of the Government. The details are being worked out

(c) and (d). A proposal to raise the investment limit for Small Scale Industry is under consideration of the Government.

Fiscal Deficit

*45 SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH
DR RAMESH CHAND TOMAR .

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the fiscal deficit has been increasing every year,

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to minimise the deficit?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) (a) and (b). The position regarding the fiscal deficit which is defined as the total net borrowing

requirement of the Government from all sources, is given below for three years from 1993-94 :

	Rs. crores	Fiscal Deficit As % of GDP
1993-94	60,257	7.5
1994-95	57,704	6.1
1995-96 (Revised Estimates)	64,010	5.9

(c) Government would endeavour to control the fiscal deficit by increasing receipts and restricting expenditure.

Relaxation in Lending Norms

*46. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether with a view to obviating the cash-crunch in the market, the financial institutions (FIs) have requested the Government for relaxation in lending norms,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) No, Sir. The lending norms are decided by the Financial Institutions on their own without reference to Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Payment of Wages to Workers

*47 SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether complaints of delaying or defaulting the payment of wages to the workers of certain Public Sector Units has been received;

(b) if so, the names of such units and the details of the defaulted/delayed payments of wages; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken against the authorities of such units?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) (a) to (c). Some delays have taken place in timely payment of wages to the workers of some PSUs. As and when such instances are brought to the notice of the Govt., urgent remedial measures are suggested to the public sector units by the administrative Ministry concerned. Some public sector units under Department of Heavy Industry which defaulted in timely payment of wages are

Instrumentation Ltd., Jessop & Company Ltd., Reyrolle Burn Ltd., Heavy Engineering Corporation, Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation, Weighbird India Ltd., Praga Tools Ltd.

[Translation]

Competitiveness Between Nationalised Banks and Foreign Banks

*48. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to issue directives to the nationalised banks to compete with the private and foreign banking institutions at par with their rules, regulations and term and conditions.

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) whether the Government have received any memorandum from the major bankers and trade unions in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) While suggestions relating to different aspects of the working of Public Sector Banks, Private Sector Banks and Foreign Banks have been received from different sources from time to time, it appears that no memorandum in this regard from Bankers and trade unions appears to have been received in the recent past

(d) Does not arise

[English]

Fifth Pay Commission

*49 DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Fifth Pay Commission has since submitted its interim report to Government.

(b) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor.

(c) the date by which the Pay Commission is likely to submit its final report; and

(d) the reason for delay in granting Interim Relief to the Union Government employees in view of the unexpected delays in the submission of the report by the Pay Commission?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Fifth Pay Commission suo-motu submitted its First Interim Report in October, 1994 recommending Interim Relief to the Central Government Pensioners/family pensioners @ Rs. 50 per month. In their Second Interim Report submitted in May, 1995, the Commission recommended (i) Interim Relief @ 10% of basic pay subject to minimum of Rs. 100 per month to Central Government employees, (ii) Interim Relief @ 10% of basic pension subject to minimum of Rs. 50 per month to Central Government pensioners/family pensioners, (iii) Dearness Allowance linked to the average All India Consumer Price Index 1201 66 be treated as dearness pay for the purpose of gratuity and ceiling on gratuity be enhanced from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2.50 lakhs. These recommendations were accepted by the Government and necessary orders for implementation were issued on 14th July, 1995.

(c) and (d) The Commission was set up on 9th April, 1994. Based on the terms of reference, the Commission is required to submit its Report as soon as feasible. It is expected that the final Report of the Commission will be available by the end of September 1996.

Foreign Investment

*50 SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have made any Plan to bring in foreign investment to the tune of 10 million dollars every year.

(b) if so, the specific areas where the investment is likely to be encouraged, and

(c) the likely share in the field of basic infrastructure and development?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) (a) to (c) Although there is no formal plan to bring in any specified amount of foreign investment, the Government policy on foreign investment is being constantly reviewed to make it more dynamic with the objective of increasing foreign direct investment into the country, particularly, in the priority/core sectors including infrastructure.

Losses in DTC

*51 SHRI VIJAY GOEL Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) the total losses suffered by DTC so far.

(b) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to improve its profitability.

(c) whether the Union Government propose to transfer DTC to the Delhi Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) The total loss suffered by DTC as on 31.3.1996 is as under :

(Rs. in crores) (Provisional)

Working loss (excluding interest & depreciation)	Net Loss (including interest & depreciation)
Rs. 670.50	Rs. 2060.55

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) A decision on the transfer and modalities thereof is yet to be taken

[Translation]

Investment of Multinational Companies

*52. KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is preparing any list of such consumer goods of less priority in which investment of multinational companies would be discouraged

(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 FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) The Common Minimum Programme of the Government seeks to discourage entry of Multinationals into low priority areas through suitable fiscal and other measures. However, a list of low priority areas has not yet been decided upon.

[English]

Shares of Reliance-Industries

*53. SHRI R L P VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2983 on December 15, 1995 regarding Shares of Reliance Industries and state :

(a) whether Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has since completed the inspection of Reliance Consultancy Services Ltd (RCS) regarding issue of duplicate shares

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon, and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Inspection reports of SEBI contain, inter alia, the following main findings :

(i) A total number of 4.89 lakh duplicate shares were issued by Reliance Consultancy Services Ltd. (RCS) during the period April 1990 to October, 1995;

(ii) Some duplicate share certificates had been issued while the original share certificates were in existence, which fact was very much in the knowledge of RCS

(iii) RCS by not transferring and delivering the shares lodged by some investors before April 1, 1994, within two months has violated provisions of section 113 of Companies Act, 1956;

(iv) RCS while acting as Registrars to the Issue and Share Transfer Agents to Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) had violated the SEBI (Registrars to an Issue and Share Transfer Agents) Regulations

Based upon an examination of the findings in the Inspection Reports, the Registrar of Companies (ROC), Mumbai, in the Department of Company Affairs (DCA), has on 7th June, 1995/6 issued show cause notices to RIL, RCS and its other officers in default for contraventions of Sections 84 (2), 84 (3), 84 (4) and 113 of the Companies Act, 1956. After considering the replies to the show cause notices, DCA has asked ROC, Mumbai on 5th July, 1996 to take action to file prosecution in an appropriate Court against RIL, and all the officers in default including RCS for contraventions of Sections 84 (2), 84 (3), 84 (4) and 113 (1) of the Companies Act, 1956 in regard to the matter relating to issue of duplicate shares.

The Enquiry Officer, who was appointed by SEBI under SEBI (Registrars to an Issue and Share Transfer Agents) Regulations, 1993, for enquiring into the alleged lapses of RCS has since completed the enquiry. Depending upon the findings of the Enquiry Officer, SEBI would take necessary action in the matter.

(c) Question does not arise

[Translation]

Rural Banks

*54. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of branches of rural banks are higher than the branches of other banks in the country,

(b) whether the Government propose to merge these banks for improving their functioning;

(c) whether rural banks are incurring losses in the absence of such a merger;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) whether the pay-scales revised in 1995 are not being given to the employees of rural banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) No, Sir.

(b) In the past, various alternatives including merger were considered for revamping the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), and a decision has been taken to revitalise them on a "stand alone" basis

(c) and (d). No, Sir While most of the RRBs are incurring losses, the losses are mainly attributable to high establishment costs, low margins, low business volumes relative to branch network and poor recoveries

(e) Does not arise since no pay revision has been effected in the RRBs in 1995-96

[English]

Duty Evasion by Manufacturers of Polyester Staple Fibre

*55 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the anti-evasion Directorate of the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has initiated investigations to recover over Rs 1000 crore of Central Excise duty allegedly evaded by manufacturers of polyester staple fibre (PSF) and its users

(b) if so, the technique followed in such polyester staple fibre duty evasion.

(c) the outcome of the investigations made and

(d) the measures taken to prevent such evasion of Central excise duty by these polyester staple fibre manufacturers and its users?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) to (d) The Directorate General of Anti Evasion of the Central Board of Excise & Customs have initiated investigations on receipt of information against some manufacturers of Polyester Staple Fibres and spinners of yarn. The investigations conducted so far have revealed, prima facie, evasion of Central Excise duty of the order of Rs. 15 crores

Investigations conducted show that the said manufacturers were clearing sub-standard quality of fibre or tow as 'waste', attracting lower rate of Central Excise Duty. Some users of such fibres/tow had

claimed that the yarn manufactured by them was not excisable as it contained more than 50% 'waste' in combination with viscose.

Based on investigations conducted so far a show cause notice demanding central excise duty of Rs.24.79 lakhs has been issued to one of the fibre manufacturers. Investigations in respect of others are in progress.

In order to prevent such evasion, steps were taken in the Budget of 1995-96 to amend the duty structure of 'waste' of PSF and all other man-made fibres by placing them under a common sub-head. A minimum excise duty of Rs.10/- per kg. was also prescribed for all such 'wastes'. A further change was made to the effect that the expression 'staple fibre' shall include 'waste' of synthetic staple fibre of filament and waste of artificial staple fibre or filament, so that yarn manufactured even by use of waste fibres pays duty

Tram System in Delhi

*56 SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision for provision of High Speed Tram System in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the purpose, and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) The proposal for the introduction of High Speed Tram System in the National Capital Territory of Delhi on Build, Operate Transfer (BOT) basis is under consideration of the Government

(b) and (c) Do not arise

[Translation]

Income Tax Payers

*57 SHRI ANANTH KUMAR Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the total number of income-tax payers during the year 1994-95.

(b) whether the number of income tax payers have increased during 1995-96 over the corresponding year 1994-95.

(c) whether any action has been taken to simplify the income tax process so that revenue earned from income can be increased, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Number of income assesses as on 31.3.95 was 1.03 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The simplification of income-tax law and procedure is a continuous process. However, in the recent past following major steps were taken to simplify the income tax process so that the revenue earned from income is increased :

- (1) A Presumptive Tax Scheme in respect of persons carrying on retails trade in goods, operating or hiring of taxis or other motor vehicles or engaged in any vocation has been introduced with effect from Assessment Year 1993-94.
- (2) Special provisions for computing the income in the case of persons engaged in civil construction or plying goods, carriages have been introduced providing for an estimated method of assessment of income.
- (3) A new assessment procedure for search and seizure cases has been introduced so as to bring the event of search to its logical conclusion within one year from the end of the month in which warrant relating to the search is executed.
- (4) The law governing taxation of firms has been rationalised and the distinction between registered and unregistered firms has been removed.
- (5) The tax deduction at source provisions have been widened to include TDS on fees for professional and technical services, income in respect of units and rent. Further existing TDS provisions have been extended to cover persons engaged in advertising, broadcasting, telecasting, catering, etc.
- (6) An authority for advance rulings has been constituted to give ruling on a question of law or fact in relation to a transaction undertaken or proposed to be undertaken by a Non-Resident.
- (7) A simplified form filing return of income as introduced in the case of specified categories consisting of small income groups.
- (8) As a measure to encourage voluntary disclosure of income instructions have been issued that in cases where more than 30% increase in income is shown over the returned income of preceding year, the case should not be taken up for scrutiny.
- (9) Computerisation process has been initiated and serious efforts are being

made to issue Permanent Account Number and Tax Deduction Number through this process.

- (10) Committees were constituted to examine provisions relating to charitable, trusts, exemptions capital gains, etc. The reports submitted by these Committees are under consideration.

Bad Debt Accounts

*58. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has issued any directions to banks some time back regarding bad debt accounts and agreement related proposals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any bank has violated the above directions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued guidelines, in July, 1995. In terms of these guidelines, RBI has advised commercial banks to ensure recovery of dues to the maximum extent, make a distinction between wilful and non-wilful defaulters, evaluate the realisability of the security, take into account the benefits that will accrue on recycling of funds locked up, fix accountability where staff lapses are noticed, etc. RBI also urged banks' top management to ensure that there should not be any significant deviations from the general principles of compromises/write offs and that write-off decisions should be judicious and in the best interest of the bank.

(c) and (d). RBI has reported that during the course of annual financial inspection of public sector banks with reference to their position as on 31-3-1994 and 31-3-1995, a scrutiny of top ten compromise settlements/write-offs and compromise settlements/write-offs involving a sacrifice of Rs.1 crore and above respectively was conducted by RBI's inspecting officers. The scrutiny reports did not indicate any malafide intention on the part of staff/executives of the banks. The compromise settlements/write-offs approved by banks were also generally in conformity with RBI's guidelines as also policy/procedure laid down by the respective banks. However, certain deficiencies, such as, non-examination of staff accountability aspect, non-compilation of up-to-date credit reports on the net-worth of borrowers/guarantors, not obtaining of latest independent value of securities available, inadequate follow-up for recovery as per the terms of

compromise settlements etc., were observed in some cases. The deficiencies observed are brought to the notice of the respective banks by RBI for compliance/rectification.

Foreign Debt

*59. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
PROF PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the burden of debt has been constantly increasing on the Government for the last few years;

(b) if so, the total amount thereof during the year 1991-92 and the estimated amount of such debt by the end of the year 1995-96;

(c) the year-wise amount of foreign debt out of it during the above period.

(d) the year-wise amount of interest paid by the Government on internal and external debt during the above period separately, and

(e) the concrete measures taken by the Government to remain out from the debt trap?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Year-wise amount of domestic and external debt of the Government and interest paid on domestic and external debt during 1991-92 to 1995-96 is given at the enclosed *statement*. Both the domestic and external debt of the Government have shown increases over the years. In regard to external debt, it may be noted that a large part of the debt is on concessional terms. To that extent, the burden of external debt of Government is moderated.

(e) The policies of the Government aim at reducing fiscal deficit by restricting expenditure, mobilising revenues through sound tax policies and increasing the efficiency of public sector enterprises. In regard to external debt, measures are being taken to mobilise non-debt creating capital inflows. Measures are also being taken to improve productivity and competitiveness of domestic industry and to maintain a realistic exchange rate in order to ensure sustained and strong growth of exports.

STATEMENT

Central Government Debt

(In Rupees Crores)

Year	Domestic Debt *	External Debt [⊗]		Total Debt		Invest Paid on		
		At book value	At year-end exchange rate	Ext debt at Book value	Ext debt at year-end exchange rate	Domestic debt	External debt	Total debt
1991-92	317414	36948	109677	354362	427091	23892	2704	26596
1992-93	359355	42269	1209798	401624	480334	27546	3529	31075
1993-94	430323	47345	127798	477668	558121	33017	3724	36741
1994-95	487383	50928	142514	538311	629887	40023	4026	44049
1995-96 (RE)	552744	522666	148387	605410	701131	47101	4899	52000

* Comprises "internal debt" and "other liabilities"

⊗ on government account

[English]

Development of Ports

*60 SHRI K P SINGH DEO Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) the main features of the development of Ports carried out during the last three years.

(b) the funds allocated/utilised in this regard during the Eighth Five Year Plan and

(c) the details of modernisation facilities of Ports and updated technology achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) During the last three years, a number of projects relating to construction of multi-purpose/general cargo berths, coal jetties and deepening of channel have been commissioned raising the total cargo handling capacity of the Major Ports from 171 million tonnes to 177 million tonnes. In addition, two virtual jetties for handling POL

products have also been put up by the oil companies at Kandla. During last three years 26 new schemes costing about Rs.2086 crores have been sanctioned for providing port facilities at Major Ports. These facilities, when commissioned during 9th Plan period, will yield an additional capacity of around 40 million tonnes.

(b) During 8th Five-Year Plan, an outlay of Rs.3216 crores has been provided for development in Port Sector. As against this, around Rs. 1369 crores have already been utilised so far.

(c) The modernisation of port facilities includes the modern container terminals developed at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Madras, Cochin and Calcutta Ports, modern bulk handling facilities for handling fertilizers provided at Jawaharlal Nehru Port, modern oil handling facilities developed at New Mangalore and Mumbai Ports, replacement of old submarine pipelines undertaken at Mumbai, new oil jetties taken up for construction at Kandla and Visakhapatnam, state of the art mechanised coal handling facilities under implementation at Paradip a brand new Major Port for handling mechanised coal handling facilities under implementation at Ennore near Madras, modern general cargo berths completed at Paradip and Visakhapatnam and new cargo handling cranes with current technology being provided at the ports of Madras and Kandla. Further introduction of modern vessel traffic management system (VTMS) is in progress at the ports of Mumbai and Calcutta. Modern facilitations system are also being increasingly introduced in Major Ports. Efforts are already on towards introduction of electronic data interchange (EDI) in the Port Sector.

Economic Reforms

307 SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the India Development Forum has recently cautioned India against slowing down economic reforms

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto, and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) and (b), Participants of the India Development Forum meeting held in June 1995 indicated their strong appreciation for the progress made by India with its reform programme but also noted the unfinished reform agenda that lies ahead

(c) and (d) Suggestions made by different groups and individuals are kept in view by the Government while formulating appropriate economic policies.

[Translation]

Bridges over National Highways

308. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the name of bridges built over the National Highways, State-wise, during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government have given high priority for completion of incomplete bridge projects in various States during the Eighth Plan; and

(c) if so, the achievements made in this regard during the said period, State-wise and project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) State-wise details are enclosed in statement-I.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) State-wise details are enclosed in Statement-II.

STATEMENT-I

S.No	State	No of bridge works completed
1	Andhra Pradesh	2
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3	Assam	11
4	Bihar	0
5	Delhi	0
6	Goa	0
7	Gujarat	16
8	Haryana	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	0
10	J & K	0
11	Karnataka	0
12	Kerala	0
13	Madhya Pradesh	0
14	Maharashtra	11
15	Manipur	0
16	Meghalaya	1
17	Nagaland	0
18	Orissa	1
19	Punjab	1
20	Rajasthan	7
21	Tamil Nadu	8
22	Uttar Pradesh	2
23	West Bengal	2
Total		62

STATEMENT-II

S. No.	State	Bridge works ongoing as on 1.4.92	Bridge works ongoing as on 30.9.95	Bridge works completed during 92-96
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	0	10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	0	5
3.	Assam	31	16	15
4.	Bihar	24	21	3
5.	Delhi	1	0	1
6.	Goa	5	5	0
7.	Gujarat	23	8	15
8.	Haryana	1	1	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	26	14	12
10.	J & K	0	0	0
11.	Karnataka	13	11	2
12.	Kerala	9	5	4
13.	Madhya Pradesh	42	15	27
14.	Maharashtra	45	5	40
15.	Manipur	3	3	0
16.	Meghalaya	9	2	7
17.	Nagaland	1	0	1
18.	Orissa	14	7	7
19.	Punjab	6	1	5
20.	Rajasthan	15	3	12
21.	Tamil Nadu	12	4	8
22.	Uttar Pradesh	16	11	5
23.	West Bengal	20	10	10
Total		331	142	189

[English]

Privatisation of PSUs.

310 SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise some of the public sector units.

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal with the Government to privatise any public sector enterprise at present.

Kanyakumari-Mysore
National Highway

311 SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether any proposal for construction of a National Highway from Kanyakumari to Mysore via Kerala is under consideration of the Union Government and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

Accidents by Red Line/Blue
line Buses

312 SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Youth died 32 injured as Blue Line bus overturns" appearing in the Times of India dated June 20, 1996.

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken in the matter.

(c) the number of persons killed/injured by Redline and Blueline buses in Delhi during each of the last three years

(d) the reasons identified for such accidents;

(e) whether the rate of accidents by the above buses has shown a higher trend as compared to DTC buses during the above period.

(f) if so, the details thereof, and

(g) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to minimise the accidents by private bus operators and also to ensure that these bus operators do not misbehave with passengers and do not over-charge for tickets?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) As per information received from Delhi Traffic Police, on 19.6.96 at about 10.45 p.m. an accident involving a Blueline bus took place at outer Mehrauli Road - Andheria Mod in which one person died and 31 injured. The driver responsible for the accident was arrested and an FIR was registered at Police Station Mehrauli. A show cause notice for suspension/cancellation of permit was also issued by the Government of N.C.T. of Delhi.

(c) The details of persons killed/injured by Redline and blue line buses are as under :

Year	Persons Killed		Persons injured	
	Redline	Blueline	Redline	Blueline
1993	260	30	830	56
1994	214	15	887	83
1995	298	14	931	33

(d) The reasons of such accidents are reckless driving, overspeeding, over crowding etc.

(e) and (f). Comparative figures of accidents involving Redline, Blueline and DTC buses are as under :

Year	No. of accidents		
	Redline	Blueline	DTC
1993	955	20	371
1994	920	62	242
1995	1029	43	169

(g) The steps being taken/proposed to be taken are given in the enclosed statement

STATEMENT

Steps being taken/proposed to be taken to minimise road accidents, misbehaviour and over-charging by private buses

1. Refresher courses/proficiency tests have been made mandatory for all drivers of public service vehicles.
2. Installation of speed governors in public transport buses
3. Action under Section 86 of M.V. Act against buses involved in accidents and/or violating permit conditions
4. Action against operators on complaints of misbehaviour and over-charging
5. Strict and rigid enforcement of traffic rules and regulations.
6. Regular special drive against rash and negligent driving, driving without driving licences, drunken driving, defective headlights, over-speeding, over-loading etc.
7. Regular protection of violators through issues of notices
8. Introduction of blinkers/signals at accident prone areas
9. More Police presence in accident prone areas
10. Special morning drives and night mobile patrolling
11. Painting of bus boxes, yellow boxes.
12. Special night checking on Highways
13. Special drive against buses, HTVs, TSR, Taxis, etc. against traffic violation

Central Assistance to Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council

313. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of Central (Special) assistance allocated to the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council and funds released during the last three years;

(b) whether the funds were released after receiving proper utilisation certificates; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Government of India does not allocate Special Central assistance to the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council directly. However, the allocation and releases of the funds under Hill Areas Development Programmes are made to the Government of West Bengal annually. The Hill Areas Development Programmes in West Bengal are implemented by the Government of West Bengal. Development works implemented by the activities and the others as non-transferred activities. The Government of West Bengal releases the funds received from Government of India under Hill Areas Development Programme to those implementing agencies separately. Details of allocation and releases under Hill Areas Development Programme (HADP) during the last three years are as under :

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Allocation	Release
1993-94	20.61	20.61
1994-95	20.61	20.61 *
1995-96	22.23	22.23 **

* This includes Rs. 10.31 crores released in 1995-96 as arrears

** Includes Rs. 11.12 crores released in 1996-97 as arrears

(b) and (c) Release from year to year under HADP are made on the basis of certificate from the Government of West Bengal that the amounts already released have been placed at the disposal of the implementing agencies

Central Excise on Cigarettes

314. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the quantum of Central Excise Duty collected from the cigarettes of below 60 mm length after the downward revision of Excise Duty, and

(b) the impacts thereof noticed on the growth of Beedi Industry?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) As per the reports received from the Central Excise Commission-rates, the central excise duty collected from cigarettes, other than filter cigarettes, of length not exceeding 60mm, for the period 1994-95 and 1995-96 (upto December) is as given below (provisional),

1994-95	Rs 44 crore
1995-96 (up to December)	Rs 67 crore

The revenue does not include excise duty collected on cut tobacco used for the manufacture of cigarettes.

(b) Excise duty on bisis falling under sub-heading No.2404.39 of the Central Excise Tariff continues to be at Rs 5 per thousand bisis (basic+additional excise duty) since 1993-94. The excise duties (Rs in crore) realised (which is an indicator of production trend) from bisis since 1993-94 is as given below

1993-94	207
1994-95	208
1995-96	208 (Provisional)

[Translation]

Foreign Exchange Reserves

316 PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the position of foreign exchange and gold reserve in the country presently.

(b) whether the Government have assessed the foreign and internal loan liability of the country and if so, the details thereof.

(c) the policy of the Government for decreasing the foreign loan and mobilisation of capital by promoting national sources; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government for making tax-collection more effective and strong?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) India's forex reserves comprising foreign currency assets, gold and SDRs as on July, 5, 1996 are given below

	(US \$ Million)
Foreign currency assets of the RBI	17,743
Gold holding of the RBI	4,437
SDRs, holding of the Govt. of India	11
Total	22,191

(b) The internal loan of the Government at the end of 1995-96 is estimated to be Rs 303359 crore. The external debt of the country is estimated at Rs 318319 crore at the end of September 1995.

(c) The Government lays considerable emphasis on mobilising internal resources to meet the investment requirements of the country. To facilitate higher levels of investment and growth in the economy it is necessary to supplement the domestic savings with external resources. The Government gives priority to mobilise non-debt creating flows by creating a favourable climate for Foreign Direct Investment.

(d) Over the past five years a number of structural reforms covering both direct and indirect taxes have been undertaken. Tax procedures have been simplified, rates have been lowered and greater buoyancy has been imparted into the tax structure. These measures have started bearing fruits. Also the share of direct taxes in the total tax collection is increasing because of these measures.

Fodder Machine

317 SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present condition of the fodder machines (FOMETA) imported sometime back;

(b) the number of machines working at present their locations and if not working, the reasons therefor.

(c) whether any irregularity in this regard has come to light and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d) 50 Fodder Machines and some spares had been imported free of duties, in terms of ad-hoc exemption Order No. 103/87 dated 30.3.1987 by Sanjeevani Fodder Production Pvt. Ltd. to be donated to Bharat Krishak Samaj for demonstration and training purposes. It was required that these machines will not be sold, transferred or disposed of for a period of 5 years.

The importers appeared to have failed to observe the conditions stipulated for duty free clearance of the said machines, as prescribed in the exemption order. These were later found to be either under the control of M/s Sanjeevani Fodder Production Pvt. Ltd. and their sister concern M/s Fometa India Machines Pvt. Ltd. or sold to Governments of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

The import of these machines has been adjudicated by the Commissioner of Customs, Madras who, vide his Adjudication Order dated

5.3.93, has asked the importers to pay duty of Rs. 3.37 crores and redemption fine of Rs. 3.80 crores. He has also imposed personal penalty on the concerned firms and also on the Directors of both firms.

Presently, all the machines, including those assembled from the use of spares, are lying at Gummidipondi (TN), Madak (AP), Bagru, Bikaner & Malpura (Rajasthan), Bulandshahar, Chamoli, Jhansi & Bareilly (UP). These machines are not in use.

Judicial and Administrative System

318. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY .

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to improve the judicial and administrative system of the country.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D KHALAP) : (a) to (c). The improvement of the Judicial and administrative systems in the Courts is a continuous process. To make an in-depth study of the problem of arrears and for improving Judicial and administrative system in Courts a committee of three Chief Justices of High Courts (Justice Malimath Committee) was constituted by the Government in 1989. The Committee has made several recommendation on various aspects covering jurisdictional and procedural modifications, the improvements in the judiciary, the setting up of specialised bodies such as tribunals/commissions to deal with specific types of cases, the fixation of Judges strength and appointment of Judges in High Courts, the creation of more posts in the subordinate judiciary and a number of other general recommendations relating to modernisation of office equipment in courts and allocation of more funds to the judiciary. These recommendations were forwarded inter-alia to all the concerned State Governments and the High Courts for necessary follow-up action.

Further, the problem of arrears of cases in Courts and their expeditious disposal was also considered in a meeting of the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held on 4th December, 1993 under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The Conference recommended several steps in a resolution it adopted for the speedy disposal of cases in the Courts/Tribunals. This

resolution has been commended to all the State Governments/UT Administrations and High Courts/Tribunals for necessary action. The implementation of December, 1993 resolution and the recommendations made by the Working Groups were reviewed by the Law Ministers at their plenary meeting held in Calcutta in November, 1995. The resolutions adopted in these meeting have also been commended to all the concerned authorities for necessary follow-up action.

[English]

Domestic Entrepreneurship

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

(a) whether the Government are making efforts to support and promote domestic entrepreneurship;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of success achieved therefrom so far?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Various measures have been taken to promote domestic entrepreneurship. Some of the measures taken by the Government, inter-alia, include reduction in excise duties, levy of countervailing duty wherever required, reduction in corporate tax, etc. So far, 25781 number of investment proposals in the delicensed sector, with proposed investment of Rs 504,782/-crores during the period 1.8.1991 to 31.5.96, have been filed.

Rural Credit System

320 DR ARUN KUMAR SARMA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the rural credit system through Regional Rural Banks throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the concrete steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) (a) and (b) Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are an important component of the rural credit delivery system. The following steps have, therefore, been taken to strengthen and streamline the functioning of the RRBs

(i) With a view to widening the range and scope of their services, the RRBs have been allowed, with effect from 1.1.1994, to finance non-target groups to the extent of 60% of their fresh lending. More discretionary powers have been given to them for purchase/discounting of cheques/

demand drafts. Further, for widening their range of services, RRBs have been inter alia allowed to issue guarantees on behalf of their customers, install lockers, issue drafts and effect mail transfers

- (ii) Seventy RRBs with disbursements of less than Rs. 2 crores during 1992-93 have been relieved from the service area obligations and have been allowed to extend loans throughout the area within their jurisdiction.
- (iii) RRBs have, subject to certain conditions, been allowed to relocate their loss-making branches to relatively better locations viz. commercial centres like market areas, village mandis, block and district headquarters etc. and to re-deploy concerned staff suitably.
- (iv) Equity support from Government of India to the extent of Rs 374 crores (approximately) has been provided to 102 RRBs and a budget provision of Rs 200 crores has been made in 1996-97 for this purpose
- (v) All RRBs have been advised to prepare bank specific development action plans to enable them to adopt a systematic approach for their turnaround
- (vi) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has provided the RRBs access to profitable avenues for investment of their non-SLR surplus funds in listed and other schemes of Unit Trust of India (UTI), fixed deposits in profit making financial institutions like the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Industrial Credit Investment Corporation of India (ICICI), Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI), Small Industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI), in bonds of nationalised banks and profit earning public sector institutions and in non-convertible debentures of reputed blue chip companies. Besides, the RRBs have been permitted by the RBI to deploy

a part of their surplus non-SLR funds in the credit portfolio of their sponsor banks through non-risk sharing participation certificates to be issued by the latter.

- (vii) Prudential accounting norms of income recognition and asset classification have been applied to RRBs in 1995-96. Provisioning norms would be applied in a phased manner from 1996-97 onwards.

[Translation]

Price Index

321 SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
 PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
 SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the inflation rate has been under control in the country during the last few months;

(b) whether the wholesale price index, consumer price index and agricultural labourer price index substantially differ in the country; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the details of commodities taken into account for ascertaining the price index?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes Sir

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) The difference in the three series of index numbers is largely due to the composition of their basket of commodities and their relative importance. The WPI reflects weekly movement of wholesale prices of 447 commodities of all traded goods. The CPI (IW) reflects monthly movement in retail prices of 260 commodities and services whereas the CPI (AL) with old base of 1960-61 covers retail prices of only 60 commodities. Commodity composition of each of the three index numbers is enclosed in the statement

STATEMENT

Commodity Groups under various Price Index Series

WPI	CPI	
	IW General	AL General
1	2	3
All commodities		
I Primary articles	I Food	I Food
(a) Food articles	II Pan, supari, tobacco and intoxicants	II Fuel and light
(b) Non-food articles		
(c) Minerals		

1	2	3
II. Fuel, Power, light and Lubricants (a) Coal mining (b) Mineral oils (c) Electricity	III. Fuel and Light IV. Housing (V) Clothing, bedding and footwear	III. Clothing and foot wear. IV. Miscellaneous and services.
III. Manufactured Products (a) Food products (b) Beverages, Tobacco and Tobacco products (c) Textiles (d) Wood and Wood products (e) Paper and paper products (f) Leather and leather products (g) Rubber and Plastic products (h) Chemical and Chemical products (i) Non-metallic mineral products (j) Basic metals, alloys and metal products. (k) Machinery and machine tools. (l) Transport equipment and products (m) Other miscellaneous manufacturing industries	IV. Miscellaneous	

Electoral Identity Cards

322 JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA .
 PROF PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state

(a) whether a scheme was launched at the national level to issue electoral identity cards in order to check the bogus voting;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the implementation of the said scheme.

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the State-wise percentage of voters to whom identity cards have been issued;

(e) whether any time limit has been fixed to complete the said schemes.

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the total amount spent on implementation of the said scheme upto March, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) In August 1993, the Election Commission of India directed the Chief Electoral

Officers of all States (except the State of Jammu & Kashmir) to arrange issue of Photo Identity Cards to all electors in order to check bogus voting. The entire expenditure on the scheme was to be first met by the State Governments and later to be shared equally between the Central Government and the State Governments.

(c) and (d). The Election Commission which is primarily concerned with the scheme has been reviewing its implementation on the basis of weekly progress reports submitted to it by the Chief Electoral Officers of various States. However, towards the end of February, 1996, the Commission temporarily suspended till the completion of general elections, submission of progress reports with regard to implementation of the scheme. A statement giving the State-wise percentage of voters to whom defect-free Photo Identity Cards were issued till 23.2.1996 is enclosed as *Statement*.

(e) and (f) The Commission had originally fixed 30.11.1994 as the deadline for completion of the scheme. This deadline was, however, extended from time to time and it was last extended upto 31.3.1996. The fresh deadline has not yet been fixed by the Commission.

(g) A sum of Rs.423.3 crores has been released by the Central Government on the implementation of the scheme upto March, 1996.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of State/ Union Territories	Approximate percentage of electors who have been supplied with defect free identity cards
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	57%
3.	Assam	Nil
4.	Bihar	12%
5.	Goa	51%
6.	Gujarat	66%
7.	Haryana	79%
8.	Himachal Pradesh	56%
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—
10.	Karnataka	13%
11.	Kerala	Nil
12.	Madhya Pradesh	22%
13.	Maharashtra	75%
14.	Manipur	74%
15.	Meghalaya	49%
16.	Mizoram	Nil
17.	Nagaland	Nil
18.	Orissa	62%
19.	Punjab	64%
20.	Rajasthan	39%
21.	Sikkim	69%
22.	Tamil Nadu	Nil
23.	Tripura	Nil
24.	Uttar Pradesh	15%
25.	West Bengal	59%

UNION TERRITORIES

1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	83%
2.	Chandigarh	62%
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	31%
4.	Daman & Diu	43%
5.	Delhi	61%
6.	Lakshadweep	89%
7.	Pondicherry	84%

* Scheme has not been extended to Jammu & Kashmir

[English]

Submission of B.E.F. Statements

323 SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is mandatory on the part of banks and other authorised forex dealers/agents to submit Bill of Entry Form statement to RBI periodically,

(b) if so, the details of such B.E.F statements during the last two years against the remittances of which goods have not been received within a period of three months, six months, and one year and the value thereof in terms of rupees; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the defaulting banks for not submitting the statements?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) RBI takes up the matter with defaulting importers and in case evidence of import is not submitted, the matter is reported to Enforcement Directorate in the case of importer other than public sector undertakings. In the case of PSUs/Government Departments the issue is pursued with Chief Executive of the concerned PSU/administrative Ministry concerned

[Translation]

Functioning of Imported Ships

324 SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have procured some foreign ships during the last three years,

(b) if so the companies from which these ships were procured and the total expenditure incurred thereon

(c) whether these ships are functioning satisfactorily

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

(e) whether the Government have detected any irregularities in procurement of these ships, and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) (a) to (f) According to the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, this Ministry is primarily concerned with sea-going Mercantile Ships exceeding 15 tons net. The Government of India have not procured any such ships during the last three years. However, the Shipping Corporation of India, a Public Sector Undertaking have acquired 11 such ships costing US \$491.50 million from abroad during the last three years as per enclosed Statement. These ships are reported to be functioning satisfactorily

STATEMENT

*Vessels Acquired by the SCI during
the last three years*

S.No.	Name of the Vessel	Seller	Price
			(US \$ in million)
1993			
1.	Rabindernath Tagore	M/s Daewoo Corporation, Korea	42.00
2.	Lal Bahadur Shastri	M/s Hyundai Heavy Industries, Korea	40.95
3.	Indira Gandhi	M/s Hyundai Heavy Industries, Korea	40.95
1994			
1.	B.C. Chatterjee	M/s Daewoo Corporation, Korea	42.00
2.	Rajiv Gandhi	M/s Hyundai Heavy Industries, Korea	40.95
3.	Ankleshwar	M/s Samsung Corporation, Korea	65.53
4.	Gamdhar	M/s Samsung Corporation, Korea	65.53
1995			
1.	Maharaja Agrasen	M/s Hyundai Heavy Industries, Korea	65.53
2.	Julelal	M/s SDS Shipping, Norway	10.63
3.	Gurau Gobind Singh	M/s Hyundai Heavy Industries, Korea	65.53
4.	Basveshwara	M/s Sovchari, Switzerland	11.90
Total			491.50

[English]

STATEMENT

Sodhani Committee

325. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Government have approved some of the recommendations of the Sodhani Committee on investment from non-resident Indians overseas bodies, corporate bodies and persons of Indian origin particularly to bolster portfolio investments, and

(b) if so, the details regarding the new guidelines followed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). A Working Group set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to look into the various schemes and incentives available to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) submitted its recommendations to RBI in May, 1995. The recommendations include revamping of the existing investment schemes with reference to their relevance in the liberalised economy and steps towards simplification of approval procedures. Government has considered and concurred with a number of these recommendations which have been operationalised by RBI as per the *Statement* attached.

1. General Permission to OCBs for sale of shares acquired under portfolio investment schemes.
2. General Permission for sale of shares by NRIs/OCBs acquired on repatriation basis under direct investment schemes provided sale is through recognised Stock Exchange
3. Simplification of the procedure for grant of final permission for issue/export of shares to NRIs
4. General permission to NRIs for subscription to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of Indian companies, (which earlier covered only companies engaged in industrial activities), has been extended to all companies irrespective of the activity undertaken by the company.
5. Easing of formalities for opening Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO) Account
6. Dispensation of the requirement of prior permission by RBI for remittance of sale proceeds of shares (net of taxes) to offset loans raised abroad on security of shares of Indian companies.
7. Permission to Authorised Dealers (ADs) to extend rupee loans to NRIs for acquisition of residential houses in India conforming to the

terms and conditions followed by Housing Finance Companies.

8. Permission to Indian Companies to grant housing loans to NRI Staff deputed abroad under the company's Staff Housing Loan Scheme subject to repayment in foreign exchange.
9. General permission to Indian Companies for payment of interest on delayed refund of share subscription.
10. Safe custody of securities on behalf of NRIs/OCBs permitted to be done by institutional custodians beside ADs

Four Lane Highway Track in Tamil Nadu

326. SHRI D. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether there is four lane highway track in all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) whether the Government are aware that there is two lane highway track in Tamil Nadu.

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to convert it into four lane, and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be converted?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) (a) At present only about 2% length of total National Highway network in the country is four lane

(b) The details are enclosed as Statement

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) and (e) Investigations for converting two lanes into four lanes are necessary and as such it is too early to indicate a definite timeame for such conversion

STATEMENT

Details of four lane National Highway in the country

Length in km

S.No	State	Four Lane
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	28
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-
3	Assam	-
4	Bihar	15
5	Chandigarh	8

1	2	3
6.	Delhi	72
7.	Goa	-
8	Gujarat	196
9	Haryana	77
10	Himachal Pradesh	-
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	-
12.	Karnataka	30
13	Kerala	-
14	Madhya Pradesh	-
15	Maharashtra	21
16	Manipur	-
17	Meghalaya	-
18	Mizoram	-
19	Nagaland	-
20	Orissa	3
21.	Pondicherry	-
22	Punjab	131
23	Rajasthan	19
24	Sikkim	-
25.	Tamil Nadu	34
26	Tripura	-
27	Uttar Pradesh	30
28	West Bengal	7
Total		67

White Paper on PSUs

327 DR RAMKRISHAN KUSMARIA
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to issue a white paper on status and future of public sector enterprises.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) (a) to (c) There is no proposal to issue a white paper on the status and future of the public sector enterprises at the present

Manufacturing of Asian Cars in India

328 SHRI K.C KONDAIAH Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether leading Japanese automobile company is planning to manufacture a low cost Asia Car in India.

(b) whether the manufacturing of the said car shall be in public sector; and

(c) if so, the terms and conditions laid down for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Government is not aware of any plan for setting up any unit by a Japanese automobile Co. for manufacture of such a car.

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

Demand and Supply of Cement in Assam

329. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the consumption and production of cement in Assam during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps being taken to bridge the gap between demand and supply of cement in the State?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) On the basis of statistical reports published by the Cement Manufacturers Association, the consumption & production of cement in Assam during the last three years is as follows :

Year	Production (In lakh tonnes)	Consumption (In lakh tonnes)
1993-94	1 48	4 95
1994-95	1 54	5 36
1995-96	1 56	4 35

Production data of mini cement plants is not maintained centrally

(b) Cement Industry is decontrolled and delicensed and entrepreneurs are free to set up cement units anywhere subject to locational clearance. Government is providing all infrastructural support to the industry to maximise cement production. Rail wagons are supplied to Cement plants on a priority basis for transporting cement to deficit areas.

[Translation]

Surcharge Levied on Income-Tax

330. SHRI MUNAWWAR HASSAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether surcharge on income tax was imposed at the time when the country was facing natural calamity some years back.

(b) whether this surcharge on income tax is still continuing.

(c) if so, the justification therefor

(d) whether the Government distribute the income earned on this account among States also;

(e) if so, the percentage thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Surcharge at the rate of 5% of income tax was imposed to meet the formidable after-effects of the drought of 1987-88.

(b) and (c). Surcharge initially imposed at the rate of 5% as mentioned in the answer to part (a), was increased from time to time to 12% in the case of non-corporate assesseees and to 15% in case of companies to mobilise resources. Surcharge in the case of non-corporate assesseees was abolished through Finance Act, 1994. However, surcharge in the case of domestic companies continues to be levied for revenue reasons.

(d) No, Sir. The surcharge is collected for the purposes of the Union only and it is not distributed among the States.

(e) In view of the answer to part (d), this does not arise.

(f) In view of the answer to part (d), this also does not arise.

Debt burden

331. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the per capita debt burden in the country as on date; and

(b) the amount of interest to be paid thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The per capita internal and external debt of the Government works out to Rs. 3272 and Rs. 1601 respectively in 1995-96.

(b) Total interest payment on internal and external debt of Government is estimated at Rs. 27166 crores in 1995-96 (RE).

[English]

ADB Collaborated Highway Projects

332. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the highway projects being implemented in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank;

(b) the funds obtained from ADB for these projects.

(c) the progress of each project as on date; and

(d) the target period fixed for the completion of each of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d). The details of the highway projects being implemented with loan assistance, from Asian Development Bank are given in the enclosed statements-I, II and III.

STATEMENT-I

*Detail of First Road Improvement Projects under ADB Loan Assistance
Loan No 918-Ind
Loan Amount US \$ 188 00 million
Funds obtained from ADB- US \$ 133.2 million (Upto May, 1996) (Rs. in crore)*

S. State No.	N.H No	Name of Works	Length in km	Sanc- tioned cost	Physical Progress in % upto May, 96	Target date of completion	
NATIONAL HIGHWAY PROJECTS							
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	Widening to 4 lanes from km 358/0 to km 395/876 of Vijayawada section & km 0/0 to 2/837 of Visakhapatnam Bhubaneshwar section of NH5 including strengthening of existing 2 lane carriageway	46 33	83 33	80 95	Dec 96
2.	Haryana	2	4 laning of Delhi-Mathura section of NH2 from Ballabgarh to Haryana-Uttar Pradesh Border (km 37.30 to km 93 83) in Haryana	56 53	68 91	59 50	Sep. 1997
3.	Uttar Pradesh	2	4 laning of Delhi-Mathura section of NH2 from Haryana-U P Border to Mathura (km 93 83 to km 148 33) in Uttar Pradesh.	54 50	64 00	58 50	Sep. 1997
Sub-Total			157 36	216 24			

STATE ROAD PROJECTS

1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	Improvement of Hyderabad-Ramagundam Road	214 97	70 00	67.27	March, 97
2.	Karnataka	-	Improvement of Ankola-Hubli Road	132 40	65 00	100 00	Completed
3.	Tamil Nadu	-	Improvement of East Coast Road	166 60	63.00	62.61	Sep 1997
Sub-Total			513 97	198 00			
Grand Total			671 83	414 24			

STATEMENT-II

Detail of Second Road Improvement Projects under ADB Loan Assistance

Loan No. 1041-Ind.

Loan Amount : US \$ 250 million

Funds obtained from ADB- US \$ 145.2 million (Upto May, 1996)

(Amount in Rs. crores)

S. State No	N.H No.	Name of Work	Length in km.	Sanc-tioned cost	Physical Progress in % upto May, 96	Target date of completion	
<i>NATIONAL HIGHWAY PROJECTS</i>							
1.	Karnataka	7	Widening to 4 lanes & Strengthening of the existing pavement of the Bangalore to Karnataka/ Tamil Nadu border section (km 8 km 33) of NH 7	25	48.11	73.00	June, 1997
2.	Kerala	47	Widening to 4 lanes & Strengthening of existing pavement of Alwaye to Vytilla & Aroor-Sherthailai & Strengthening Vytilla-Aroor section of NH 47	47	93.97	32.27	Dec, 1998
3.	Rajasthan	8	Widening to 4 lanes & Strengthening of the existing pavement of the Achrol-Kotputli section (km 162.500 to 231.00)	69	93.66	71.80	June, 1997
Sub Total			141	235.74			
<i>STATE ROAD PROJECT</i>							
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	Improvement of Kakinada-Rajanagram Road	54.00	34.03	89.70	Oct, 1996
2.	Orissa	-	Improvement of Rourkela-Sambalpur Road	164.00	189.30	72.56	June, 1997
3.	Uttar Pradesh	-	Improvement of Varanasi-Shakti nagar Road	182.00	108.67	31.85	June, 1998
4.	West Bengal	-	Improvement of Panagarh-Moregram Road	152.00	205.00	38.06	Dec, 1998
Sub-Total			552.00	537.00			
Grand Total			693.00	772.71			

STATEMENT-III

Detail of Third Road Improvement Project under ADB Loan Assistance

Loan No 1274-Ind.

Loan Amount . US \$ 245 million

Funds obtained from ADB- Nil (Upto May, 1996)

(Amount in Rs. crores)

S. No.	State	N.H No.	Name of the Work	Length km.	Approved cost in Rs. Crores	Remarks
1.	Haryana	8	4 laning including strengthening of existing 2 lane pavement of Gurgaon-Haryana/Rajasthan Border (km 36.68 to 107.18)	70.55	177.86	1.Executing Agency National Highways Authority of India (NHA)
2.	Rajasthan	8	4 laning including strengthening of existing 2 lane pavement of Haryana/Rajasthan Border to Kotputli (km 107.18 to 162.50)	55.38	120.64	2. NHA has received the tenders. These are being processed for early finalisation of contract agreements. It is too early to indicate the target dates of completion.
3.	West Bengal	2	4 laning including strengthening of existing 2 lane pavement of Raniganj to Panagarh (km 474 to 516)	42	143.35	
4.	Bihar	2	4 laning including strengthening of existing 2 lane pavement of Barwa adda to Barakar (km 398.75 to 441.44)	42.7	127.89	
5.	Andhra Pradesh	9	Strengthening of existing two lane carriage-way on Nandigama to Vijayawada (km 217 to 265) section including four laning from (km 252 to km 265)	48	67.32	
6.	Andhra Pradesh	5	Strengthening of existing two lane carriage-way of Vijayawada to Eluru (km 3.4 to 52.8 & km 69.2 to 75) including 4 laning from km 3.4 to 13 & a 17.88 km long bypass for Eluru town (km 53.80 to 69.20)	74.08	132.42	
Total				332.71	772.48	

Maintenance Work of National Highways on Agency Basis

333. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the maintenance work of National Highways has been entrusted to the State Governments on agency basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has made any representations to the Union Government pointing out that Maharashtra has been getting less than its fair share of allocations for original works, maintenance and repairs of National Highways;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(e) whether the Union Government propose to allocate more funds to the State for the purpose; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Nine per cent agency charges are paid to the State Governments for the maintenance work of National Highways done by them, on behalf of the Central Government.

(c) to (f). Availability of funds for maintenance and repair of National Highways is generally of the order of 50-55% of the requirement, as per the approved norms. As such, the short-fall has to be borne by all the State Governments equally. However, funds are allocated to the State Governments generally on pro-rata basis (based on length and width of the carriageway of National Highways in a particular State) for normal maintenance.

Robbery in PNB, Gwalior

334. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the 5-lakh robbery in Punjab National Bank Gwalior on March 16, 1996,

(b) if so whether any enquiry has since been conducted in the matter, and

(c) if so the outcome thereof and the precautionary measures taken to avoid such recurrence in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Punjab National Bank (PNB) has reported that there was no incident of robbery in PNB in Gwalior on 16.3.1996. However, an incident of

robbery took place at the Chetakpuri Gwalior branch of PNB on 16.5.1996 in which an amount of Rs. 5 lacs was looted by three armed robbers from the cashier during the course of cash remittance from branch to currency chest. The cashier and a daily wage worker sustained injuries when fired upon by the miscreants. An FIR has been lodged with the police. The matter has been taken up by the bank with state authorities for increasing the police patrolling in the area. An armed bank guard has been provided to the branch. The bank has also advised its Zonal and Regional Managers to ensure proper security arrangements at the branch.

Delicensing in Industries

335. DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to delicense various industries reserved for the public sector undertakings and small scale sector;

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

(c) the names of such industries?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). At present there are six industries reserved for Public Sector; and 836 items are reserved for manufacture in 'Small Scale Sector'. Review of the reservation/dereservation of industries/items for Public Sector/Small Scale Sector is a continuing process.

Electoral Reforms

336. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

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

(a) whether the Government are considering any concrete proposal to make radical changes in electoral reforms; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) The Government proposes to discuss shortly various proposals on Electoral Reforms with leaders of various political parties and is keen to finalise a package on Electoral Reforms as soon as possible.

Construction of National Highway No. 16

337. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government for repair of National Highway No. 16 from Nizamabad to Jagdalpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the project; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c). The National Highway 16 runs through the states of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra who have been allocated Rs. 6.13 crores, Rs. 5.58 crores and Rs. 6.86 crores respectively as maintenance grants during the current year for National Highways in these states which includes National Highway 16 also. The maintenance activities are a continuous process and being taken up in a phased manner within the available funds network in the country is four lane.

Oil Spill at Haldia Dock

338. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was any oil spill in the river Hoogly at Haldia dock area during June, 1996.

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) whether the Union Government have set up any High Power Committee to probe in this regard.

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent occurrence of such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There was spillage of High Speed Diesel from barge "Prem Tista" chartered by Indian Oil Corporation at Barge Jetty No. 1 during the early hours of 31.5.1996. Loading of petroleum products at the existing two barge jetties of Haldia Dock Complex is controlled and operated by Indian Oil Corporation (Marketing Division).

(c) and (d). No, Sir.

(e) Indian Oil Corporation which is controlling the entire operations at the barge jetty has taken steps for monitoring the loading operations closely from shore to the barge and is also training the personnel undertaking the barge operations.

Performance of National Highway Authority of India

339. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) is fully operational;

(b) if so, the details of the works performed by the authority; and

(c) the details of expenditure incurred by the Authority during the last three years, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) NHAI has functioning since February, 1995 with one Chairman, three full-time and two part-time members.

(b) The details of works undertaken by National Highway Authority of India are as follows :

(i) Upgradation of 333 km on NH-8, 2, 9, and 5 in the States of Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh under Asian Development Bank loan assistance. NHAI has called and evaluated the bids appointed supervision consultants and set up the Project Implementation Units.

(ii) Short-listing of entrepreneurs for Durg bypass on NH-6, for BOT, has been done.

(c) No expenditure on any project has been incurred so far.

[Translation]

Policy for Foreign Investment

340. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy regarding foreign investment,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when the above policy is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The Foreign Investment Policy as enumerated is constantly reviewed to make it more dynamic with the objective of increasing foreign direct investment into the country particularly in priority/core sectors, including infrastructure.

Vacant Posts of Judges in Courts

341. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT

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

(a) the total number of sanctioned posts of judges in High Courts and Supreme Court of India as on December 31, 1995, Court-wise;

(b) the number of vacancies of judges lying vacant out of the total sanctioned posts as on December 31, 1995, Court-wise;

(c) the number of vacant posts filled up out of them upto May, 1996, and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to fill up the remaining vacant posts, Court-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c). The requisite information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The process of consultation among the concerned Constitutional authorities for filling up the existing vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and various High Courts is on.

STATEMENT

S. No	High Court	Sanctioned Strength (As on 31.12.1995)	Vacancies	Appoint-ments made during 1.1.96 to 30.5.96
1.	Allahabad	71	4	3
2.	Andhra Pradesh	36	-	-
3.	Bombay	54	13	12
4.	Calcutta	48	6	-
5.	Delhi	31	3	2
6.	Gauhati	17	3	4
7.	Gujarat	32	5	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	8	1	-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	11	1	-
10.	Karnataka	34	-	-
11.	Kerala	25	7	9
12.	Madhya Pradesh	31	7	4
13.	Madras	29	9	5
14.	Orissa	15	7	4
15.	Patna	37	5	5
16.	Punjab & Haryana	37	8	7
17.	Rajasthan	26	2	8
18.	Sikkim	3	1	-
Total		545	82	63
If Supreme Court		26	3	2

[English]

Investment Protection Agreement with Thailand

342. SHRI VINAY KATYAR :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal for signing an investment protection agreement with Thailand is under consideration of the Government;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The process of Negotiations on a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPA) with the government of Thailand has been initiated.

(b) Negotiations on BIPA will be based on the Indian Model Text which includes, inter alia, protection of investments of either country in the other country, Most Favored Nation Treatment in respect of investments and investors, National Treatment for investments, settlement of investment disputes through international arbitration, compensation in case of expropriation/nationalisation and facility for repatriation of returns etc.

(c) Signing of this Agreement will depend on successful conclusion of negotiations with the Government of Thailand.

[Translation]

Outstanding Income Tax

343. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA :
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of income tax payers in the country against whom an amount of Rs 5 lakh or more is outstanding, State-wise;

(b) the period since when the said amount is outstanding and the total amount involve therein,

(c) the reasons for not recovering the said amount; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The desired information is not available. However, the following information relating

to outstanding demand as on 31.12.1995 is given below :

(1) *Age-wise analysis of arrear demand of Corporation Tax/Income Tax*

	(Rs. in crores)
(i) Over one year but less than 2 years	13069.57
(ii) Over 2 years but less than 5 years	4367.88
(iii) Over 5 years but less than 10 years	963.81
(iv) Over 10 years	512.29

(2) *Amount-wise analysis of arrear demand of Corporation Tax/Income Tax*

	(Rs. in crores)	
	No.	Net Arrear
(i) Cases upto Rs. one lakh	4624447	1641.61
(ii) Over Rs. one lakh but not exceeding Rs. 10 lakh	89629	1080.09
(iii) Over Rs. 10 lakh but not exceeding Rs. one crore	8801	1502.83
(iv) Over Rs. one crore	1372	5943.11

(3) *The information regarding dossier cases of Outstanding Demand exceeding Rs. one crore is given below :*

	No. of cases	Outstanding Demand (Rs. in crores)
West Bengal	143	869.59
Maharashtra	493	13527.51
Delhi	167	1024.05
Punjab	14	57.57
Haryana	6	19.10
J & K	3	15.60
M.P.	14	48.38
Gujarat	73	224.98
Rajasthan	15	68.70
Kerala	4	6.84
Andhra Pradesh	22	59.92
Bihar	11	73.73
Orissa	8	30.47
N.E.R.	11	24.75
Karnataka	43	227.51
Tamil Nadu	72	246.53
U.P.	40	180.37

(c) The following are generally the reasons for the outstanding demand :-

- (i) Demand not falling due
- (ii) Demand claimed to have been paid but pending verification.
- (iii) Demand stayed by Courts, Settlement Commission, Tribunal and I.T. Authorities
- (iv) Demand for which instalments have been granted.

(d) Various actions prescribed under the Income-tax Act, e.g. attachment of movable and immovable properties of defaulters, prosecution, imposition of penalties, detention in prison, appointment of receiver for management of defaulter's properties are taken for recovery of the outstanding demand. Besides, various steps are taken to effect recovery of demand including grant of instalments and where issues are locked up in appeal, appellate authorities are requested to dispose of the appeals expeditiously.

In the cases of arrears of tax due from Notified persons involved in security scam, as per provisions of the Special Court Act all properties, both movable and immovable belonging to the Notified person stand attached simultaneously with the issue of the Notification. Therefore, in respect of all demands that have since fallen into arrear, the department has filed applications with the Special Court for issue of directions to the Custodian to release funds against the tax dues.

Development of Industries

344 SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA .
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY ;
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have signed any agreement with the Government of Japan for development of small scale and medium scale industry.

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

(c) the time by which the said agreement is likely to be implemented?

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

(b) and (c). In view of (a) above, does not arise.

[English]

Identity Cards to Income-Tax Payers

345. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to issue new identity cards for the Income-tax payers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. As a part of the Comprehensive computerisation programme of the Income-Tax Department laminated Permanent Account Number Cards to all income tax payers are being issued in the three city regions of Delhi, Mumbai and Madras initially.

Meeting with Agriculturists

346. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Finance Minister has recently met a group of agriculturists and sought their suggestions on the farm sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the suggestions accepted and likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes Sir

(b) The pre-budget meeting drew attention to a number of issues such as the need for enhanced investment, improvement in rural infrastructure, removal of restrictions on movement of agricultural products and rationalisation of duties on inputs

(c) The relevant suggestions/deliberations made in the pre-budget meeting with FM are carefully considered for the budgetary exercise.

Privatisation of Banks and F.I.e

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

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise some public sector banks and financial institutions,

(b) if so, the details of such banks and financial institutions;

(c) the reasons for taking such a decision, and

(d) the steps taken in that direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government at present to privatise the public sector banks and financial institutions viz. Industrial Development Bank of India, Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India, Export-Import Bank of India, National Housing Bank and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.

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

Setting up of National Rural Bank

348. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any final decision for setting up of the proposed National Rural Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the proposed places where the Bank's branches are to be set up initially; and

(c) the steps taken so far towards setting up of the Bank?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). After considering a number of alternative models for restructuring Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) including National Rural Bank, it has been decided to revamp the RRBs by cleansing of their balance sheets on a 'Stand alone' basis. Accordingly, in pursuance of an announcement by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech on 28.02.94, 49 of the 196 RRBs were taken up in the course of 1994-95 for comprehensive restructuring including cleansing up of their balance sheets and infusion of free capital. Equity support has been released for another batch of 53 RRBs in 1995-96. The objective is to transform presently weak and ailing RRBs into financially viable and effective instruments of decentralised rural banking.

Widening of NH No. 5

349. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have taken up any programme of four-laning of Vijayawada-Madras National Highway No. 5, Delhi-Ajmer via Jaipur and Delhi-Bombay National Highway No. 8 in view of regular traffic congestion effecting trade and commerce movement,

(b) if so, whether the land acquisition work for four-laning has taken place and if so, the progress in this regard,

(c) the target fixed for fully widening and make these operational; and

(d) the funds allocated and utilised during 1995-96 and the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The 4-laning work is being taken up in a phased manner. The detailed position is as under :

- (1) NH-5 Vijayawada-Madras 434 Kms
- (a) Chilakaluripet to Vijayawada-Km 355 to 434 in Andhra Pradesh; land acquisition completed. Work has yet to be sanctioned.
- (2) NH-8 Delhi-Bombay 1514 Kms
- (a) Km 0 to 36.63 in Delhi - Completed
- (b) Km 36.63 to 162.5 in Haryana & Rajasthan. - Land acquisition completed and work sanctioned.
- (c) Km 162.5 to 231.00 in Rajasthan. - Work in progress targeted for completion by March, 1997.
- Km 231.0 to Km 248 in Rajasthan. - Completed
- (d) Length of 121.41 Km in scattered reaches in Gujarat. - Completed
- (e) Length of 64 235 Km in scattered reaches in Gujarat. - Land acquisition completed. Work in Progress. Last Section to be completed by December, 1997.

Employment on Compassionate Grounds in L.I.C., West Bengal

350. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of employees of Life Insurance Corporation of India, Jalpaiguri Division, West Bengal died during 1994 and 1995; and

(b) the details of the deceased whose dependants have not been provided with employment on compassionate grounds together with the reasons in each case and the time by which they are likely to get employment?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Foreign Collaboration in Maharashtra

351. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the number of industries/enterprises set up/being set up with foreign collaboration in Maharashtra alongwith the details thereof, location-wise and project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : A total no. of 667 proposals involving foreign direct investment of Rs. 105467.20 million have been approved to set up industries/enterprises in the state of Maharashtra during 1.8.91 to 31.5.96.

The details of such proposals viz. name of the Indian company, name and country of foreign collaborator, equity/investment involved, item of manufacture/activity are published by the Indian Investment Centre as a supplement to the Monthly Newsletter and copies of these are regularly supplied to the Parliment Library.

Black Money

352 SHRI JAG MOHAN Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated black/unaccounted money in the country as at present;

(b) whether any study on prevalence of black money has recently been conducted by the Planning Commission or some independent academic institution or research body;

(c) if so, the details thereof

(d) whether the quantum of black money has risen steeply after liberalisation of economic reforms.

(e) if so, the details thereof. and

(f) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to check the current trends?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) No authentic Study has been made recently and hence it is not possible to estimate black/unaccounted money in the country at present. As per the study made by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, Black money was estimated between Rs.31584 crore to Rs. 36786 crore in the year. 1983-84.

(d) and (e) In the absence of any recent authentic study, it is not possible to state whether the quatum of Black Money has risen steeply after liberalisation/economic reforms.

(f) The Government has been taking necessary legislative, fiscal and administrative measures, as deemed appropriate, from time to time, to curb the

generation and growth of black money. Rate of taxation has been progressively reduced and slabs of income have been progressively rationalised. At the same time, Income-tax Act, 1961 contains a number of provisions aimed at curbing the generation of black money. These include, inter alia, provisions regarding compulsory maintenance and audit of accounts in appropriate cases under section 44AA and 44AB, restrictions on cash transactions under sections 40A(3), 269SS and 269T, pre-emptive purchase of properties under Chapter XXV and provisions regarding penalties and prosecutions for punishing tax defaulters. The Act also contains provisions regarding summons, surveys, searches and other investigations to detect tax evasion. These provisions are resorted to in appropriate cases.

Euro Issues

353. SHRI RAM NAIK :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently announced guidelines for Euro issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on Indian Corporates and non-banking finance companies in GDR (Global Depository Ratio) market,

(c) whether there is a demand for removal of restrictions over foreign loans on Euro issues; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) On the basis of a periodic review and assessment of the current economic situation, the Government has announced on 19th June, 1996, through a Press Note, revised Guidelines for Euro issues by Indian Companies. The Guidelines, inter alia, provide for :

- (i) Relaxation in track-record requirement for Indian Companies raising Euro Issues to finance investments in infrastructure projects,
- (ii) removal of restrictions on the number of Euro issues which may be floated by a company or Group of companies in a financial year,
- (iii) Broadening the areas of deployment of issue proceeds,
- (iv) Permitting Banks, Financial Institutions and Non-Banking Finance companies (registered with Reserve Bank of India) to float GDR issues provided that the issue

proceeds shall not be deployed in stock markets and real estate sector.

The successful tapping of the Global GDR market by Indian companies depends on a host of exogenous factors including movements in United States interest rates, attractiveness of other emerging market equities, performance of the international capital markets, etc.

(c) and (d). Proposals for floating Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds (FCCBs) by Indian companies should conform to the enduse norms prescribed by the Government for External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) from time to time. A relaxation has been provided in the Euro issue Guidelines dated 19th June, 1996 allowing Indian companies floating FCCB issues to utilise not more than 25% of the issue proceeds for general corporate restructuring uses including working capital requirements. Deployment of the balance FCCB issue proceeds, would continue to be in accordance with the ECB norms.

Filling up of High Posts in G.I.C.

354. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the General Insurance Corporation of India and its subsidiary company, Oriental Insurance Company Ltd. have no Chairman-cum-Managing Directors for the last about one year,

(b) if so the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Chairman-cum-Managing Directors of three other subsidiary companies of General Insurance Corporation are retiring in the next few months; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to fill up such high ranking posts in anticipation of their retirement?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The post of the Chairman, General Insurance Corporation of India fell vacant on 1st April, 1995. Since no internal candidate from the industry was found suitable for the post, Government advertised the post in the National Dailies of the country. The post of Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the Oriental Insurance Company Ltd has since been filled up w.e.f. 5th July, 1996

(c) and (d) The post of Chairman-cum-Managing Director of United India Insurance Company Ltd. fell vacant on 1st June, 1996. The post of Chairman-cum-Managing Director of New India Assurance Co. Ltd. as well as National Insurance Company Ltd. will fall vacant on 1st October, 1996. All necessary steps are being taken by the Government to fill up these posts.

Ice-cream Industry

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

(a) whether many multi-national companies have signed the pacts with Indian Ice-cream manufacturers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for allowing such pacts when manufacturing of Ice-cream is reserved for small scale industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). M/s. Kwalita Frozen Foods have been granted approval to set up a joint venture with M/s. Baskin Robbins International Ltd. USA for undertaking activities relating to franchising and marketing of Ice-cream produced by independent small scale units with their technological support.

(c) The approval is subject to the condition that (i) they shall not manufacture items reserved for the small scale sector, and (ii) the outflow of foreign exchange on account of dividend payment will be balanced by export earnings.

Revenue Earned Through Taxes

356. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state .

(a) the total revenue earned by the Union Government through income tax, excise duty, customs duty and small savings during the last two years, State-wise,

(b) the amount given back to each State out of the total revenue collected, and

(c) the number of income tax assessees at present, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM)

(a) The total revenue earned through income tax, excise duty and customs duty and the amount collected through small savings during the last two years are given in the enclosed statement-I

(b) The share of income tax, basic excise duties and additional excise duties (in lieu of sales tax) paid to the State Governments during the last two years was as under -

(i) 1994-95 Rs 24842.79 crores

(ii) 1995-96 Rs 29299.47 crores

State wise data are given in the enclosed statement-II

Further, 75% of the net small savings collection in a State is given as a long term loan to that State.

(c) The number of effective income tax assesses as on 31.3.1995 was 1,02,84,606. Statewise figures are not maintained by the Income tax authorities.

STATEMENT-I

1. Customs duty	1994-95 1995-96(Prov.)	26682.73 35500.31
2. Central Excise duty	1994-95 1995-96 (Prov.)	37466.55 40784.81

Data on collection from Customs and Central Excise are not maintained State-wise.

3. Income Tax (including Corporation Tax)

States	year (1993-94)	year* (1994-95)
Andhra Pradesh	564.43	775.59
Arunachal Pradesh	1.72	2.58
Assam	107.00	202.78
Bihar	223.53	265.95
Goa	102.30	106.10
Gujarat	1020.57	1225.29
Haryana	144.16	179.91
Himachal Pradesh	28.49	27.45
Jammu & Kashmir	43.95	51.39
Karnataka	753.26	923.02
Kerala	386.16	397.53
Madhya Pradesh	307.44	364.55
Maharashtra	7237.37	10558.10
Manipur	6.77	5.41
Maghalaya	11.59	9.23
Mizoram	0.03	0.08
Nagaland	4.80	7.03
New Delhi	2357.27	3462.39
Orissa	109.18	125.49
Punjab	357.51	443.87
Rajsthan	241.06	277.49
Sikkim	0.16	0.27
Tamil Nadu	1273.51	1580.08
Tripura	5.41	7.15
Uttar Pradesh	678.62	882.42
West Bengal	1575.58	1744.50
Total	17541.37	23625.65

* Information for 1995-96 is not available at this stage

4. National Savings

Name of State	(Rs. in crores)	
	1994-95	1995-96 (Preliminary)
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	926.80	577.28
2. Arunachal Pradesh	7.36	4.19
3. Assam	641.09	230.95
4. Bihar	679.48	418.94
5. Goa	21.11	9.04
6. Gujarat	857.80	1051.52
7. Haryana	420.05	326.89
8. Himachal Pradesh	599.60	94.26
9. Jammu & Kashmir	153.28	145.56
10. Karnataka	1253.32	294.74
11. Kerala	636.14	272.84

	1	2	3
12. Madhya Pradesh		407.65	390.76
13. Maharashtra		1417.48	-633.85
14. Manipur		10.56	11.77
15. Maghalaya		18.66	-9.15
16. Mizoram		8.15	5.25
17. Nagaland		3.16	2.19
18. Orissa		335.35	260.35
19. Punjab		671.70	614.99
20. Rajasthan		680.41	500.36
21. Sikkim		5.72	6.00
22. Tamil Nadu		724.46	288.76
23. Tripura		28.96	28.78
24. Uttar Pradesh		2254.89	1803.12
25. West Bengal		1994.04	1870.57
Total		14757.22	8566.11

STATEMENT-II

	Income Tax		Basic Excise Duty		Additional Excise Duty	
	1994-95	1995-96	1994-95	1995-96	1994-95	1995-96
1. Andhra Pradesh	702.59	952.86	980.79	1408.33	199.97	201.48
2. Arunachal Pradesh	6.25	18.80	122.79	103.05	2.79	2.67
3. Assam	225.21	313.38	521.18	567.88	71.42	63.50
4. Bihar	1062.97	1449.44	1508.54	1832.15	216.56	203.86
5. Goa	9.42	20.01	71.54	45.06	5.94	5.98
6. Gujarat	389.47	457.98	435.41	526.85	153.75	154.43
7. Haryana	106.48	139.41	150.33	160.09	60.33	60.97
8. Himachal Pradesh	50.93	78.89	265.79	306.12	16.17	15.27
9. Jammu & Kashmir	59.49	22.22	485.34	494.59	24.19	23.38
10. Karnataka	421.83	600.93	561.39	696.09	152.71	147.65
11. Kerala	319.20	436.44	422.28	504.24	96.94	96.28
12. Madhya Pradesh	700.63	934.78	988.18	1073.20	186.53	186.35
13. Maharashtra	701.14	702.27	709.26	794.43	309.48	309.76
14. Manipur	14.64	31.42	160.59	129.34	5.55	5.04
15. Maghalaya	17.80	31.60	121.88	123.27	4.95	4.84
16. Mizoram	6.25	16.50	151.70	105.12	1.77	2.05
17. Nagaland	8.22	20.50	184.39	162.50	3.12	3.55
18. Orissa	370.30	506.15	732.93	692.92	90.77	85.86
19. Punjab	146.03	165.51	186.31	188.34	91.99	87.92
20. Rajasthan	413.95	623.57	755.64	733.95	122.09	125.70
21. Sikkim	2.57	17.64	35.57	45.82	1.35	1.37
22. Tamil Nadu	678.88	753.38	872.59	853.87	183.93	198.33
23. Tripura	25.94	42.32	212.85	178.60	7.24	7.37
24. Uttar Pradesh	1436.95	2008.48	2139.14	2743.82	381.63	374.93
25. West Bengal	682.74	844.29	902.82	966.37	212.60	206.61
Total	8559.88	11288.32	13679.14	15436.00	2603.77	2575.15

[Translation]

Bank Loans to priority Sector

357. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has asked each of the banks to achieve the targets fixed for priority sector and to take effective measures to remove the discrepancies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government have conducted any study in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the priority sectors identified by RBI?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Targets fixed for lending to the priority sector by commercial banks are given below :

(i) Public and private sector banks -	
Total priority sector advances	40 per cent of net bank credit
Total agricultural advances	18 per cent of net bank credit
Advances to weaker sections	10 per cent of net bank credit
(ii) Foreign banks operating in India -	
Total priority sector advances	32 per cent of net bank credit
Advances to Small Scale Industries	10 per cent of net bank credit
Export credit	10 per cent of net bank credit

The performance of banks in lending to priority sector is reviewed periodically through returns received from them.

(d) The segments included in the priority sector are as given below :

- (i) Agriculture
- (ii) Small Scale Industries
- (iii) Small Road and Water Transport Operators
- (iv) Retail Trade
- (v) Small Business
- (vi) Professional and Self-Employed Persons

(vii) State Sponsored Organisations for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

(viii) Education

(ix) Housing

(x) Consumption Loans.

Export Credit forms part of the priority sector only for Foreign Banks operating in India.

[English]

Loan Application Under P.M.R.Y.

358. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on March 1, 1996 to the Unstarred question No. 589 regarding loan applications under P.M.R.Y. and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi has reported that private sector banks are not participating and have not been assigned any target under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY)- In NCT of Delhi, no application has been forwarded to any private sector bank. Further, State Bank of India (SBI), the Convenor of State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) for the NCT of Delhi has reported that the Director of Industries, NCT of Delhi has advised that private sector banks have not been allotted any target under PMRY scheme in NCT of Delhi. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also confirmed that private sector banks had not received any application under PMRY in NCT of Delhi

RBI has reported that the private sector banks in NCT of Delhi are, however, giving loans for purchase of vehicles, commercial or private, and for purchase of modern gadgets and extending overdraft facilities to the small and medium traders, industrialists etc. The details of these private sector banks which extended the said facilities, alongwith the facilities so extended during the last three years (as furnished by RBI), are enclosed as Statement.

(c) Does not arise

STATEMENT

Loans for purchase of vehicles, commercial or private, purchase of modern gadgets and overdraft facilities for small and medium traders, industrialists by the private sector banks in Delhi for the last three years

(Amount Rupees in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Bank	Loans for purchase of				Overdraft facilities to	
		Vehicles etc.		Modern gadgets		small & medium traders, industrialists	
		No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1.	The Bank of Madura Ltd.	34	76.35	11	7.13	50	83.67
2.	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	17	25.06	-	-	-	-
3.	The Punjab Cooperative Bank Ltd.	-	31.22	-	-	-	783.31
4.	The Vyasya Bank Ltd.	-	0.40	-	-	-	125.15
5.	The Bareilly Cooperative Bank Ltd.	-	62.74	-	2.50	-	18.94
6.	Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	28	97.83	6	5.53	11	635.24
7.	Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	32	4.76	-	-	-	13.45
8.	Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.	74	139.47	39	3.29	825	1583.82
9.	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	22	28.23	-	-	15	510.38
10.	Federal Bank Ltd.	43	33.06	3	9.50	295	1167.50
11.	The South Indian Bank Ltd.	173	200.64	-	-	422	840.20
12.	Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Ltd.	5	4.36	-	-	25	27.25
13.	The Nendugadi Bank Ltd	2	0.50	6	1.30	5	1.55
14.	The Sangli Bank Ltd	22	23.67	14	6.00	25	32.70
15.	UTI Bank Ltd	-	-	-	-	2	178.26
16.	Banaras State Bank Ltd	1	1.40	-	-	11	-
17.	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	32	45.49	6	1.43	17	20.40
18.	United Western Bank Ltd.	7	12.70	5	4.97	31	925.32
19.	Global Trust Bank Ltd	1	3.50	-	-	2	40.63
20.	Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd	4	14.35	-	-	60	2430.29
21.	Bank of Punjab Ltd	9715	2636.17	-	-	64	142.53
22.	Nainital Bank Ltd	15	36.84	4	0.67	282	723.50
23.	ICICI Banking Corporation Ltd	-	-	-	-	5	2573.00

Note - No financing has been done by Centurian Bank Ltd., Indus Ind Bank, Times Bank and H D F C Bank Ltd since their New Delhi branches were inaugurated recently

Data

Provisional

Source

Reserve Bank of India, Regional Office, New Delhi

Repair of National Highway No. 17 in Kerala

359 SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN
Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be
pleased to state

(a) whether the major repair work of Arapuzha
bridge and other bridges on National Highway No
17 in Kerala have commenced; and

(b) if so, the expenditure likely to be incurred

thereon, and the State Government's participation, if
any in such projects?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT
(SHRI TG VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). Special
repairs to Dharmodam Bridge on NH-17 has been
sanctioned for Rs 4.83 Lakhs.

For the Arapuzha Bridge on Calicut Bypass on
NH-17, a new bridge is required

The State Government of Kerala are to execute
these works

Drunk Driving in Delhi

360. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Times of India, dated June 21, 1996 regarding fatal accidents by a drunk driver of a bus;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of people booked for drunken driving in Delhi during the last six months and the action taken against them;

(d) the number of deaths caused due to drunken driving during the last one year;

(e) whether the Government propose to make stringent law in this regard to save innocent pedestrian in future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Distribution of Mutilated Currency Notes

361. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cases regarding distribution of mutilated currency notes by the nationalised banks have been brought to the notice of the Government during the last three months;

(b) if so, the details of banks alongwith their branches involved therein;

(c) the details of the enquiry conducted in this regard and the outcome thereof; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the persons found responsible?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Government has received a complaint dated 13.6.96 from an Hon'ble Member of Parliament stating that a customer of Dena Bank's Connaught Circus branch had obtained a payment of Rs. 1000/- in denomination of Rs. 10/- notes. The packet is stated to have contained 57 notes in mutilated/pasted/unusable condition. Information has also been obtained from other nationalised banks. Two banks, i.e., Union Bank of India and Bank of India have reported receiving complaints in this regard. The details of these are as under :

Union Bank of India :

The Bank had received a complaint against their Sunder Nagar Branch, New Delhi regarding issuance of soiled and mutilated currency notes.

Bank of India :

Three cases have come to the notice of the bank as per details below :

(i) *Bullion Exchange Branch* : On 20.3.96 the officials of Central Bank of India had called on the branch with 3 packets of currency notes of 100 rupees denominations. One of the packets had the slip of the branch. Each packet contained 15-25 manipulated currency notes. The currency notes were manipulated by joining plain paper on the left hand side or at the middle to the genuine portions (pieces) of currency notes. The note slip of Bullion Exchange Branch had the account number of the account holder of the Branch written over the slip and had the stamp 'machine counted'. All the three packets had about 5/6 staples, two of them were on the middle of the packet. It was apparent that the note slip bearing the name of Bullion Exchange Branch was reused on the packet to indicate that the packet was received from some customer and prepared by someone else. The remaining two packets contained the slips of other banks including a Co-operative Bank.

(ii) *Khodadad Circle Branch* : On 22.3.96 the Bank had noticed one packet of hundred rupees denomination having about 8 staples, a few on the middle of the packet. This packet was one of the packets received from the customer who had deposited Rs. 1 lakh in cash. Upon scrutiny, 35 manipulated notes were found with the newspaper pasted in the middle or on the left hand side of genuine pieces of currency notes. The packet was bearing the note slip of State Bank of Mysore. A complaint has been lodged with the police and the 35 manipulated notes have been handed over to them. The account holder concerned has stated having brought the particular cash from Pune.

(iii) *Nariman Point Branch* : As per the news item published in Indian Express Mumbai edition dated 20.5.1996, one Shri K.M. Vakil found 5 defective notes in one packet of fifty rupees denomination from the amount withdrawn from the Nariman Point Branch on 12.4.96. However, as Shri Vakil had already opened the packet and brought the defective currency notes after considerable lapse of time and was not in a position to produce any documentary evidence such as note slip, etc. it could not be established that these defective notes were from the packet received by him from the Bank's Nariman Point Branch.

(c) On receipt of the complaint on 13.6.96 of the Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Government had taken up the matter with Dena Bank. The complainant while approaching the branch for exchange of 57 notes was not able to produce the packet with bank's slip and on account of that bank took the stand that the mutilated currency notes were not issued by them. Notwithstanding this, the Bank was advised

and has offered to exchange these notes with usable notes. The complainant has not so far accepted the issuable notes in exchange of the mutilated notes.

(d) According to Reserve Bank of India some instances of a few note packets containing some notes made up of papers stuck on the left hand stitched portion were in circulation had come to their notice. Reserve Bank of India have issued a press release on 18.4.96 informing the public to check currency notes packets received in the daily transaction even if they bear banks stamp. As per the advise of Reserve Bank of India, Indian Banks' Association has also issued circular to all member banks detailing the modus-operandi of the miscreants and cautioning the operational staff to exercise care while accepting the cash. On the basis of complaint of the Hon'ble Member, Government has also requested Reserve Bank of India to issue fresh instructions to all banks to take adequate steps to prevent the issuing of unusable notes to their customers.

Bench of BIFR at Calcutta

362. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Bench of Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction at Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No such proposal is under consideration of Government at present

(b) Does not arise

Generation of Employment Opportunity by NABARD

363. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has a plan to generate massive employment opportunity by the turn of the century;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the total contemplated investment therein; and

(c) the progress made by the NABARD in that direction during the last two years, and the amount of investments made therein so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has not drawn up any specific plan for generation of massive employment opportunities. However, while NABARD is not directly involved in generation of employment,

refinance is provided by it to banks for financing various agricultural and rural activities, which provides gainful employment in rural sector.

Schemes sanctioned for refinance by NABARD pertain to agriculture and allied activities such as social forestry, aquaculture, sericulture, mushroom cultivation and various other occupations in traditional areas like dairy development, sheep rearing, piggery, goat rearing, etc. NABARD has reported that it has provided an amount of Rs. 7,813 crores in 1994-95 and Rs. 8,377 crores in 1995-96 as refinance support for production and investment credit under various activities.

Closure of Instrumentation Ltd., Kota

364. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether many units of Instrumentation Ltd. particularly in Kota unit are facing financial strain;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken to remedy the situation?

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

(b) The Company is incurring losses as it is not able to face increasing competition. As a result, it is facing working capital constraint and difficulty in meeting various liabilities.

(c) The Company is a sick company under reference to BIFR as per provisions of SICA. Non-Plan Budgetary support and funds for VRS are being provided to the Company

Benches of Allahabad High Court

365. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up benches of Allahabad High Court at Meerut and Bareilly in accordance with the decision taken by the Government of Uttar Pradesh,

(b) if so, the time by which they are likely to be set, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c). The Jaswant Singh Commission recommended the establishment of a

permanent Bench of the Allahabad High Court at Agra and two circuit Benches thereof at Nainital and Dehradun. The then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh proposed, in his letter dated 7.11.94, that recommendations of the Commission be implemented. He inter-alia informed that the Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court did not agree to the proposal. The next Chief Minister stated in her letter dated 5.9.95 that the issue of establishment of a High Court Bench was sensitive and a decision in the matter had to be taken by the Central Government. The State Government were advised in December, 1995 that in the absence of a definite proposal from the State Government and a consensus amongst the constituents affected by the decision, it was not possible for the Central Government to take a decision in the matter.

[Translation]

Special Funds for Roads

366. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set-up special funds for the maintenance and repairs of roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to issue Tax Free Road Bonds on the lines of Railway Bonds.

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

(e) the other steps being taken to make the National Highway projects financially more attractive and cost effective?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Issue of tax free bonds amounting about Rs. 40 crores by National Highways Authority of India has been recently approved

(e) Certain concessions like tax holiday, reduction in import duty on equipments, generating revenue from way-side amenities and transport nagars finally have been announced to make the National Highway projects financially more attractive and cost effective under Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) Scheme

[English]

Expenditure Policy

367. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :
SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT :
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a comprehensive expenditure policy has since been announced by the Government;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether some trade Unions and other organisations have opposed the austerity measures proposed to be implemented by the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The Government have issued guidelines on 17.6.96 on expenditure management - fiscal prudence and austerity, which intend to achieve, through control of growth of expenditure and enhancement of return on Government equity in Public Sector Enterprises, an annual attrition of Rs. 3000 crores in the expenditure budget of the Central Government. The salient features of the guidelines include : (i) review and evaluation of on-going programmes and schemes to determine their continued relevance; (ii) strict curbing of deviations from the prescribed budgetary ceilings; (iii) declaration of a minimum dividend of 20% on equity by Public Sector enterprises if distributable profits permit or minimum dividend pay out of 20% of post-tax profits (30% in respect of Oil, Petroleum, Chemical and other infrastructure sectors); (iv) time and cost over-runs of schemes to be strictly avoided; and (v) manpower to be reduced to the extent possible.

Certain apprehensions were expressed in some quarters in so far as the guidelines relate to wages and manpower. The Government have since clarified that :

(i) There would be no retrenchment of any employee in any Central Government Ministry, Organisation or Public Sector Undertaking. The proposed reduction in manpower would be achieved through non-filling up of vacancies which arise due to retirement, death or through manpower rationalisation measures.

(ii) There will be no reduction in the wages of Government employees because the

provision for payment of salaries would be suitably adjusted for inflation in accordance with the DA formula accepted by the Govt; and

- (iii) The recommendations of the Vth Pay Commission when they are accepted by the Government will be fully provided for.

[Translation]

Central Assistance to Bihar

368. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total additional Central financial assistance sought by various States during the last three years, State-wise, with special reference to Bihar and Gujarat;

(b) the details of the funds actually allocated by the Union Government during the above period, State-wise, year-wise and project-wise;

(c) the reasons for not allocating the full assistance sought by the States;

(d) whether the additional assistance sought during the current financial year has since been released;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (f). The annual plans of States are finalised by the Planning Commission to be funded by States' own resources, Centrally allocated resources like market borrowings, negotiated loans and by Central assistance. The annual plans are fully funded. The central plan assistance consists of normal Central assistance, additional Central assistance for externally aided projects, Central assistance for Centrally sponsored schemes transferred to States and special Central assistance for Area Programmes. The States are given funds under above items as per their entitlement/allocation. The States do approach the Central Government for additional assistance due to special circumstances. The Central Government, keeping in view its resource constraints and financial implications, provide additional assistance in very special cases. Based on the information available in the Ministry of Finance, a *Statement* showing details of requests received from the State Governments and the amount provided is enclosed. We have, however, asked for information on this subject from the Governments of Bihar and Gujarat. Any information received from these States shall be laid on the Table of the House subsequently. The requests seeking preponed releases of future entitlements, memorandum seeking Central assistance in the wake of natural calamities and deferment of repayment obligations/ways and means advance are not included in above Statement.

STATEMENT

Additional Central Financial Assistance Sought by States and Amount Provided by the Ministry of Finance During 1993-94 to 1996-97 (upto 08.7.1996)

S. No.	State	Amount (Rs in crores)	Purpose	Amount provided (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5
A. 1993-94				
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	200.00	For proper development of roads	Nil
2.	Haryana	200.00	To Liquidate the outstanding of NTPC	Nil
3.	Himachal Pradesh	270.00	For conversion of APA of Rs. 270.00 crores into outright grant or long term soft loan as also additional Central assistance of Rs. 200 crores for 1993-94 and Rs. 600 crores during 1994-95.	268.74 as advance plan assistance
4.	J and K			
	(1)	178.00	Reimbursement of balance claim of security related expenditure of Rs. 178.00 crores.	

1	2	3	4	5
	(ii)	150.72	Arrangements for advance payment for security related expenditure estimated at Rs. 150.72 crores during 1993-94.	112.50
	(iii)	-	To provide additional financial assistance to enable to meet the balance deficit and protect the 1993-94 Plan outlay.	Nil
	(iv)	160 00	Special allotment of Rs 160.00 crores to meet the expenditure on the reconstruction of community infrastructure and other utilities damaged by the militants in the State.	Nil
5	Kerala	150 00	Medium term loan	Nil
6	Manipur	62 79	To cover the opening deficit by an assistance either in the form of medium term loan or grants	62 79 given as advance plan assistance
7	Meghalay			
	(i)	91 00	To provide term loan to cover deficit of 1993-94 so as to avoid overdraft during the year	48 87 provided as advance plan assistance
	(ii)	42 00	To convert ways and means advance into grant	Not agreed to
8	Nagaland			
	(i)	91 91	For conversion of advance plan assistance into one time grant.	91 91 was provided as advance plans assistance which is 90% grant and 10% loan.
	(ii)	55 07	To clear the pending bills	Nil
	(iii)	26 61	For implementation of 3rd Pay Commission Report of the State	Nil
9	Orissa			
	(i)	699 57	For implementatin of action plan for drought prone area of State for the period 1993-94 to 1997-98	Nil
	(ii)	50 00	Addl Market Borrowings	15 00
10	Tripura			
	(i)	50 00	To cover gap in resources for the year 1993-94	Nil
	(ii)	100 00	For meeting the repayment liability of the years 1993-94 and 1994-95 by the State Government	Nil
11	Uttar Pradesh			
	(i)	250 00	Additional Market borrowings to clear the overdues of Power Finance Corporation	118 00
	(ii)	24 00	Additional assistance for debt relief to non-rural weavers	24 00 was provided as advance assistance adjusted at the close of the year 1993-94

1	2	3	4	5
B. 1994-95				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	250.00	For implementing the balance component of AP Irrigation-II Project.	Nil
2.	Assam			
	(i)	220.00	Additional market borrowing	30.00
	(ii)	300.00	Advance plan assistance for covering the closing deficit of 1993-94.	Nil
3.	Himachal Pr.			
	(i)	550.00	Against outstanding loans of Rs. 1100.00 crores due from neighbouring States on account of share of energy from Bhakara and Beas Management Board (BBMB) system and supply of power to these States	Nil
	(ii)	100.00	To give effect to the Supreme Court's order to enhance wages to all the daily wages employees in Government Sectors in the State	Nil
	(iii)	268.74	To convert the advance plan assistance of Rs. 268.74 crores provided during 1993-94, as outright grant or a long term loan.	Nil
4.	J and K			
	(i)	550.00	Advance Plan Assistance to cover budgetary deficit	Rs. 973.00 as special plan assistance
	(ii)	733.00	Rescheduling of Rs. 733.00 crores payable during the year 1994-95 without effecting recoveries.	
	(iii)	185.00	For Security related expenditure	96.55 released by M.H.A. subsequently
5.	Kerala	100.00	Additional market borrowing	50.00
6.	Manipur			
	(i)	35.00	To liquidate the outstanding liabilities	Nil
	(ii)	119.00	Special package for economic development of Manipur	Nil
	(iii)	10.00	Request for various schemes drawn up by the State Government for combating militancy.	Nil
7.	Meghalaya	50.00	Ways and Means Advance/short term loan to clear the overdraft	Nil
8.	Nagaland			
	(i)	152.75	To cover opening deficit, D.A. on Central Government pattern etc.	12.00 as plan-loan and

1	2	3	4	5
	(ii)	80.00	Advance Plan Assistance/Ways and Means Advance to tide over acute financial crisis of the State.	18.00 additional Central assistance
9.	Orissa	250.00	Medium term loan to bridge gap in resources for funding the State's Annual Plan 1994-95.	Nil
10.	Punjab	310.00	To bridge the gap in resources for the Annual Plan 1994-95 and completion of major Power Projects.	Nil
11	Tripura	150.00	Request for Rs. 50 crores of grant, Rs. 100 crores interest free loan and 10% additional Central assistance	Nil
12	Uttar Pradesh			
	(i)	51.50	For providing 50% of the expenditure of the local cost of Anpara 'B' Thermal Power Project	Nil
	(ii)	24.00	Additional Central assistance against Advance Plan Assistance given in 1993-94 for debt relief to non-rural weavers.	Nil
C 1995-96				
1	Arunachal Pradesh	20.20	For construction of Capital Project	2.0
2	Andhra Pradesh			
	(i)	636	Additional Central Assistance (ACA) of Rs. 636 crores as additional Plan support for Annual Plan 1995-96	Nil
	(ii)	150	Conversion of Ways and Means advance of Rs. 150 crores into Term Loan	Nil
	(iii)	-	ACA to compensate the State for revenue losses due to the implementation of Prohibition Policy and also due to implementation of Rs. 2 per Kg Rice Subsidy Scheme	Nil
3	Assam			
	(i)	50.00	One time grant for Bodoland Autonomous Council	Nil
	(ii)	136.00	To convert Ways and Means advance given in April, 1995 into term loan	Nil
4	Himachal Pradesh	516.00	To meet State's financial requirements on account of closing deficit of Rs. 416.00 crores for 1994-95 and Rs. 100 crores on account of liability due to Supreme Court Judgement on enhancement of wages of daily-wage employees in the Government Sectors in the State	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
5.	J and K			
	(i)	71.00	For meeting the requirement of the State Government for interim relief to their employees on Central pattern.	42.34 provided as additional assistance.
	(ii)	67.00	To provide additional grants to the State Government for import of power.	Nil
	(iii)	155.21	Reimbursement of balance amount out of Rs. 251.21 crores related to security items.	143.16
6.	Manipur	18.50	To strengthen State Police Force.	Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.
7.	Mizoram	11.14	Special grant-in-aid to the extent of Rs. 11.44 crores which is equal to the shortfall in budget estimates of the year 1995-96 as against the estimates of Tenth Finance Commission for share in Central taxes.	Nil
8.	Orissa	2100.00	To write off loans	Nil
9.	Punjab	259.00	To expedite major Power Projects including Ranjit Sagar Dam	No additional Central assistance was given. However, as a result of the decision of Government of India to waive of repayment of Principal and interest during 1995-96 on account of Special Term Loan extended to Punjab during 1984-85 to 1993-94, State's resources went up by Rs. 291 crores. This increase was after taking into account non availability of Special Plan Loan of Rs. 600.00 crores in 1995-96 to the State Government
10.	Tripura	18.95	To meet gap between the Tenth Finance Commission (TFC) award and estimated devolution from the Government of India for 1995-96	Nil
11.	Uttar Pradesh			
	(i)	31.00	For waiver of loans of weavers of the non-rural areas.	Nil
	(ii)	772.54	for clearing the dues of Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB) to Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) upto March 1995 on account of Rural Electrification Programme in the State.	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
D. 1996-97				
1. Andhra Pradesh				
	(i)	636	ACA of Rs. 636 crores as additional Plan Support for Annual Plan 1995-96.	Since Annual Plan of the State Governments for the current financial year (1996-97) finalised, a view on these requests will be taken at appropriate time.
	(ii)	150	Conversion of Ways & Means advance of Rs.150 crores into Term Loan.	
	(iii)		ACA to compensate the State for revenue losses due to the implementation of prohibition Policy	
2 Assam				
	(i)	326.00	To cover the excess expenditure incurred by the State Government on Internal Security measures in the State during 1990-95.	Under consideration.
	(ii)	30.00	For taking relief and rehabilitation measures for the arson victim families in the recent ethnic disturbances in Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon districts of the State of Assam.	Under consideration
	(iii)	500.00	To improve budgetary resources of the State.	A decision will be taken while finalising State's annual plan for 1996-97.
	(iv)	1000.00	Construction of the permanent Capital of Assam	
3 Haryana				
		300.00	To convert medium term loan of Rs.300 crores during 1995-96 as 50% loan and 50% grant.	Not agreed to
4. Himachal Pradesh				
		500.00	Request for long term soft loan of Rs 500.00 crores	A decision will be taken while finalizing State's annual plan for 1996-97
5 J & K				
	(i)	422.50	To release the funds on account of special plan assistance and special plan loan at the level of 1995-96.	-do-
	(iii)	351.94	To provide special financial assistance to bridge the uncovered gap reflected by the BE 1996-97.	-do-
	(iv)	67.94	To defer recovery of Power dues through the mechanism of Central appropriation during the year 1996-97	Since Annual Plan of the State Governments for the current financial year (1996-97) have yet to be finalised, a view on these requests will be taken at appropriate time
6. Mizoram				
		45.00	Long term loan to cover the State's opening deficit of the year 1996-97.	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
7. Nagaland				
	(i)	1.25	For carrying out the land slide studies of Kohima town for Geo-Environmental studies.	Since annual Plan of the State Governments for the Current financial year (1996-97) have yet to be finalised, a view on these requests will be taken at appropriate time
	(ii)	55.07	To clear the pending bills of work done but payment not yet made by the State Government due to financial crunch of the State.	-do-
	(iii)	19.54	To make good the shortfall of Rs. 19.54 crores due to the difference in estimates of share of Central taxes as made by the Tenth Finance Commission and share of Central Taxes as provided in the Central Budget 1995-96.	Not agreed to
	(iv)	18.00	Revalidation of the Special Plan Loan of Rs. 18 crores (out of the special plan loan of Rs. 30 crores) which was adjusted against the additional Central assistance of an equal amount.	Shall be decided at the time of finalising State's Annual Plan for 1996-97.
	(v)	225.98	Write off of Rs. 225.98 crores of Central Loans to the State	Final decision not yet taken.

[English]

Rebate on Khadi

369. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have received any representation for continuance of rebate on Khadi;

(b) if so the decision taken by the Government thereon.

(c) whether any decision has been taken on the recommendations of the high power committee regarding grant of Market Development Assistance (MDA) on Khadi.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

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

(b) to (e) The issue of grant of rebate is linked to the issue of grant of Market Development Assistance (MDA). The High Power Committee set up under the Chairmanship of the then Prime Minister for suggesting measures to revitalise the KVI sector, had recommended introduction of the Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme Government

is in the process of taking a suitable decision in this regard.

[Translation]

Resignation by Employees of C.C.I.

370. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether a number of skilled employees of the units run by the Cement Corporation of India have resigned from service,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir Some of the reasons for the exodus have been the continuous losses incurred by CCI and lucrative terms offered by the private sector

(c) Govt. has released Plan Funds of Rs. 30.00 crores during the last two years for purchase of Diesel Generating Sets and implementation of certain other schemes of CCI to improve its performance Pay scales of the employees have also been revised, wherever applicable.

[English]

Foreign Capital

371. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make the rules flexible in order to mobilise foreign capital.

(b) if so, the details thereof.

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

(d) the additional capital investment likely to be made in the country as a result of making the relevant rules flexible?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). With a view to increase the mobilisation of foreign capital in the international capital market, and on the basis of periodic review and assessment of the current economic situation, the Government has announced on 19th June 1996, through a Press Note, revised Guidelines, for Euro issues by Indian Companies. The Guidelines, inter-alia provide for

- (i) Relaxation in track record requirement for Indian Companies raising Euro issues to finance investments in infrastructure projects.
- (ii) Removal of restriction on the number of Euro issues which may be floated by a company or Group of companies in a financial year.
- (iii) Broadening the areas of deployment of issue proceeds.
- (iv) Permitting Banks, Financial Institutions and Non-Banking Finance Companies (registered with Reserve Bank of India) to float GDR issues with the restriction that the issue proceeds shall not be deployed in stock markets and real estate sector.

(d) The international investors perception and interest in Indian scrips is a function of several variables, including exogenous factors like the movements in United States interest rates, attractiveness of other emerging market equities, performance of the international capital markets etc. Accordingly while the Government's ongoing efforts are intended to attract more investments in the Indian Industry, no precise estimates are possible on the amount of additional inflows of capital consequent to the announcement of the guidelines

[Translation]

World Bank Loan for Bihar

372. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been sent to the World Bank for loan for the development projects;

(b) if so, whether the World Bank recently has agreed to give loan for the development schemes of Bihar, and

(c) if so, the names of such projects and amount of loan to be provided to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Apart from ongoing projects in Bihar with World Bank assistance, proposals for possible World Bank financing for Bihar Forestry Project, Subernrekhia Irrigation Project, Bihar Primary Education Project and Reform and Restructuring of Bihar State Electricity Board are at various stages of processing. The details including the amount for these projects will be known only after the finalisation of aid negotiations with the World Bank.

[English]

FERA Violation in Urea Scam

373. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any investigation had been made by the Reserve Bank of India and his Ministry into the affairs of State Bank of India, New Delhi violating the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) norms in the Rs 133 crore Urea Import scam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Some officers of the State Bank of India (SBI) have been examined by the Enforcement Directorate in this connection. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also conducted a snap inspection of SBI's South Extension (New Delhi) branch. Four officials of SBI have been placed under suspension.

Prices of essential Commodities

374. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the process of liberalisation has any relation with the rise in the prices of essential commodities, and

(b) if so, the measures taken to counter the adverse effect of liberalisation on prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Economic liberalisation can affect prices of essential commodities in different ways. For example, liberalisation of imports of essential commodities generally helps to contain the rise in prices of essential commodities. On the other hand, liberalisation of export controls can, in the short run, put upward pressure on prices. Economic liberalisation and price movements are closely related. In the short-run, depending upon forces of supply and demand, prices may sometimes rise. In the long-run, however, free market in commodities ensures optimisation of costs and prices.

In order to counter the short-term adverse impact of liberalisation on prices of essential commodities, Government has undertaken active supply management measures and also taken steps to contain the fiscal deficit and growths of money supply. To augment domestic supply of essential commodities, Government have allowed OGL imports of edible oils, sugar, pulses, etc at concessional duties. Government has also undertaken large open market sales of wheat and rice from public stocks.

Bye-lane on NH No.52

375 DR ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to construct a bye-lane on National Highway No 52 at Lakhimpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) No Sir. There is no Provision for Lakhimpur bypass in 8th five year plan. Works of improvement to National Highways are being taken up depending upon the availability of funds and Inter-se priority Bypasses have been given lower priority

[Translation]

Concessional Rates of Interest on Loans to SSIs

376 SHRI ANANTH KUMAR .
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH .

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government propose to give relaxation in interest rates and accord priority in providing loans to the small scale industries;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as per the present interest rate policy, the rate of interest is linked to the quantum of loan and the purpose-wise linkage has been done away with.

RBI has further reported that based on the recommendations of the Nayak Committee, it has simplified the procedure for providing credit to small scale industrial (SSI) units. All commercial banks have been instructed by RBI to sanction working capital limits of less than Rs. one crore to SSI units on the basis of 20% of their projected annual turnover. Banks have also been instructed to give preference to village industries, tiny industries and other small scale units in that order, while meeting the credit requirements of the SSI sector

Price Rise

377 SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether 100 commodities recorded 10 per cent price rise as reported in Daily Tribune dated May 15, 1996.

(b) whether inspite of inflation rate falling down the prices of 33 food products have registered a double digit increase between April, 1995 and March, 1996;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to contain the price rise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) At the end of March, 1996 the Wholesale Price Index stood at 299.5 as against 286.8 a year back, thus registering an annual rise of 4.4 per cent. The magnitude of change in Wholesale prices of various commodities during the year from April, 1995 to March 1996 is listed below

No. of Commodities	% Changes
63	No change
84	Negative
72	Less than 5%
80	5-10%
2	10%
120	above 10%
26	Not available
447	

(d) The important steps taken on both demand side and supply side to contain the price rise included :

- (1) continuation of open market sale by FCI of rice and wheat through 1995-96;
- (2) continuing OGL import policy for sugar, edible oils and pulses at nil or reduced duty.
- (3) Import of sugar and edible oils on Government account for augmenting supply through PDS.
- (4) Reduction of fiscal deficit in the budget for 1995-96 to 5.9% (RE) of GDP.
- (5) containing monetary growth to less than 15.5 per cent in 1995-96 through a series of measures.

Loan Recovery under P.M.R.Y.

378. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the loans disbursed under Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana are being recovered as per the schedule;

(b) the percentage of its recovery during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to review this scheme in view of its poor recovery performance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) for the educated unemployed youth was launched on 2nd October, 1993. Under the PMRY scheme, the repayment period is from 3 to 7 years, after initial moratorium of 6 to 18 months. It is, therefore, too early to say whether loans disbursed under the scheme are recovered as per the schedule or not.

However, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have conducted a quick study in January 1996 of recovery performance of the banks under the scheme. It was observed that the percentage of recovery to demand was 59.44% in respect of cases examined. The scheme is being reviewed periodically at various levels such as by 'High Power Committee' at Government of India level, State PMRY Committees at State level and 'Monitoring Cell' under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Governor, RBI.

[English]

Consumer Courts

379. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the amount of funds released by the Union Government to Consumer Courts during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : With a view to strengthening the infrastructure facilities of the Consumer Courts, Government of India commenced a Central Scheme to grant one-time financial assistance of Rs.61 crores to the State Governments and U.T. Administrations, to be released in four half-Yearly instalments during 1995-96 and 1996-97. During the first year 1995-96, Rs.29.98 crores have been released to the States and UTs.

[Translation]

DTC Bus Service

380. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the present requirement of buses of the Delhi Transport Corporation to meet the requirement of passengers in the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) the steps being taken to meet the existing shortage;

(c) the depot-wise number of buses with Delhi Transport Corporation as on date which are plyworthy or which can be plyworthy and the depot-wise number of buses lying in dilapidated condition;

(d) the average number of buses plying everyday; and

(e) the total number of buses likely to be required in Delhi upto 2000 and the manner in which it is proposed to be met?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). So far as DTC is concerned, its fleet strength has been pegged at 3500. The rest of the requirement of buses are being met by the Govt. of NCT of Delhi under various schemes.

(c) The details are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) The average number of DTC buses plying on roads every day during the Month of June, 1996 were 1408.

(e) The Transport Deptt. of Govt. of NCT of Delhi has not made any projection for requirement of buses for Delhi for 2000 A.D.

STATEMENT*Depot wise position of Buses as on 4-7-1996.*

S. No.	Depot	Total no. of buses	No. of buses on road/ply-worthy	No. of buses lying Held-up for repairs/indilapidated condition but can be made Ply-worthy/on road after necessary repairs including 10% buses of total fleet which are required daily for various stages of general/preventive maintenance, break down repairs, preparation for MVI & Other docking etc. as recommended by vehicle manufacturers.
1.	BBM-II	46	26	20
2.	B.D.	70	16	54
3.	GTK	54	31	23
4.	NLD	56	33	23
5.	WPD-I	96	34	62
6.	WPD-II	96	61	35
7.	WPD-III	96	25	71
8.	RHN-I	64	20	44
9.	RHN-II	34	13	21
10.	RHN-III	41	19	22
11.	DKD	54	19	35
12.	HND-I	120	18	102
13.	HND-II	85	21	65
14.	HND-III	39	11	28
15.	KPD	30	24	06
16.	MPD	121	59	52
17.	N.D.	81	32	49
18.	SPD	75	41	34
19.	PGD	78	27	51
20.	SHD-I	83	29	54
21.	SHD-II	79	31	48
22.	PPGD	103	67	36
23.	NND	101	63	38
24.	NOIDA	54	22	32
25.	SND	81	50	31
26.	VVD	76	45	31
27.	AND	71	50	21
28.	KJD	110	58	52
29.	OD-I	80	58	22
30.	BBM-I	110	66	44
31.	IPD	151	99	52
32.	YVD	82	68	14
33.	OD-II	127	88	39
		2645	1334	1311

[English]

Self Employment Scheme in Maharashtra

381. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed and achieved during 1995-96 under the self-employment scheme of the Prime Minister for the educated unemployed youth in Maharashtra;

(b) the amount earmarked and sanctioned during 1994-95 and 1995-96 to implement the scheme in the State;

(c) whether the Government are aware that uneducated youths are facing difficulties in getting loan from the banks in Maharashtra, and

(d) if so, the guidelines issued by the Union Government to overcome the difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) During the year 1995-96 under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana target for Maharashtra was 35,900 beneficiaries. Against this target 40,392 persons were sanctioned loans as intimated by the State Government.

(b) The amounts sanctioned under PMRY to the beneficiaries by the banks for the year 1994-95 and 1995-96 are Rs 12421.39 lakhs and Rs 19,116.02 lakhs respectively as per the information supplied by the State Government. Targets under PMRY for loaning are given in physical terms i.e. number of beneficiaries and not for quantum of funds to be sanctioned.

Govt. of India provides subsidy @ 15% subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs 7,500/- for each beneficiary given loan. These funds are given to the Reserve Bank of India for subsidy for releasing to implementing banks for payment of subsidy to the individual beneficiaries.

For operational expenses the Central Govt. also provides need based funds which are released directly to the State Govts. The funds released to the Govt. of Maharashtra during 1994-95 and 1995-96 are Rs 2.66 crores and Rs 1.93 crores respectively.

(c) and (d) The State Govt. has informed that during discussions some of the applicants complained about insistence of collateral security and of fixed deposits against the loan from some of the Branch Managers. The problems were sorted out from time to time on the basis of guidelines issued by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries). Govt. of India (that no collateral security is to be asked for other than mortgagage of assets created out of loans sanctioned under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana) and at various forums like Task Force Committee Meeting, District

Advisory Committee Meeting, Block Level Coordination Committee Meeting, District Level Coordination Committee Meeting and State Level Coordination Committee Meeting.

Provision of Working Capital For Sick Industries

382. DR. RAMKRISHAN KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make it compulsory for the banks to provide working capital to sick industries

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

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that under the existing guidelines issued by it, banks provide need based working capital to sick industrial units. Rehabilitation packages are drawn up for sick industrial units considered as potentially viable and the packages inter-alia provide for need based working capital from banks. Rehabilitation packages sanctioned by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction are binding on the banks and other agencies concerned.

Foreign Investment in PSUs

383. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have proposed any new programme for attracting foreign investments in different sectors in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications pending with the Foreign Investments Promotion Board (FIPB) for clearance during the last six months; and

(d) the steps taken for earlier clearance of such applications?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Govt. Policy on foreign investments is dynamic and is constantly reviewed with the objectives of increasing foreign direct investment into the country particularly in priority core sectors including infrastructure.

(c) and (d) As per records during the period January 1996 to June 1996 424 Numbers of applications are pending in this Ministry for consideration by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board. Receipt and consideration of applications for foreign direct investment is a continuous process and requisite steps are taken for early clearance of proposals.

External Commercial Borrowings

384. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to relax norms for external commercial borrowings for telecommunication and oil sector; and

(b) if so, the norms and guidelines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) In the guidelines on External Commercial Borrowings issued on June 19, 1996, Corporates engaged in infrastructure project in telecommunications and oil exploration and development (excluding refining) have been permitted to raise ECB at a minimum average maturity of 5 years for borrowings exceeding USD 15 million equivalent, as against a minimum average maturity of 7 years prescribed earlier. In addition, end-use of ECB in the telecommunications sector can be for project-related rupee expenditure, including licence fees

Water Transport from Banaras to Calcutta

386 SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government propose to start water transport from Banaras to Calcutta

(b) if so the details thereof and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) The stretch of river Ganga- Bhagirathi-Hooghly between Banaras and Calcutta is a part of the National Waterway No. 1 between Allahabad and Haldia. The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWA) is maintaining navigability of the National Waterway through various river conservancy works executed every year. At present in the phased development of National Waterway the Haldia-Patna stretch is being developed for round the year navigation as the first phase with a view to provide channel of 45 mtrs. minimum width and 2 mtrs. minimum depth for a period of at least 300 days in a year. The National Waterway is open for plying of crafts by Govt. as well as private operators. Bed regulation to improve navigability up stream Patna to Varanasi and Allahabad and provision of other infrastructure facilities are proposed to be taken up during 9th Five Year Plan.

(c) Does not arise.

More Investment in Port Sector

387. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to make more investment in Port Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the existing capacity of Cochin Port Trust, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In addition to the 8th Plan outlay of Rs 3216 crores, the Port Sector has been opened for private sector participation in line with the liberalisation policy of the Government. Private Sector participation has been sought in the construction of berths/container terminals, tank farms, container freight stations, cranes/handling equipments, captive power plants, dry docking & ship repair facilities, warehousing, taking on lease equipments & floating crafts & pilotage.

(c) and (d) The following schemes have been commissioned at the Cochin Port to increase its existing capacity -

Name of the Scheme	Capacity addition (in million tonnes)
Deepening of COT Channel	2.00
Container Terminal	0.60
Total	2.60

D.A. to Central Government Employees

388 DR KRUPASINDHU BHOI Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the number of dearness allowance slabs are due for payment to the Central Government employees

(b) the rate at which the D.A. payment is proposed to be made to different category of employees.

(c) the date on which the D.A. payment is likely to be released and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the timely payment of D.A. slabs to the Central Government employees?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d) As per the existing formula relating to the

grant of dearness allowance to Central Government employees based on the recommendations of the 4th Central Pay Commission, additional instalments of dearness allowance become due from 1st January and 1st July every year on the basis of percentage increase in the 12 monthly average of All India consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (General) (1980-100) over the base index of 608 to which the existing scales of pay effective from 1.1.86 are related. The instalment due from 1st July normally becomes payable with the salary for the month of September.

Development of National Highway by Private Sector in Maharashtra

389. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted to the Union Government certain road development projects of National Highways through private sector financing;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Four proposals have been received. The details are as under :

- (1) *Thane-Bhiwandi Bypass on N.H. 3 & 4* : Approved and agreement entered into.
- (2) *Wain-Ganga Bridge on N.H.6* : Technical details have been received from State.
- (3) *Patal-Ganga Bridge on N.H. 17* : Technical details have been approved.
- (4) *Four laning of Khadala-Lonavella-Pune Section on N.H.8* : Technical details were found deficient and returned to State.

Complaints Received By SEBI

391. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints made to the SEBI by the investors during the last one year till date company-wise and bank-wise; and

(b) the number of complaints settled successfully so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Losses in PSUs Units

392. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified the public sector units which are running into loss;

(b) if so, the unit-wise and year-wise details thereof since the inception of the 8th plan;

(c) the steps taken to improve the performance of units running into loss;

(d) the number of such units where lock out has been declared during the last three years; and

(e) the details of the policy of the Government towards the loss making and lock out public sector units?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. During the first two years of the 8th Plan, i.e. 1992-93 and 1993-94, upto which period only information is available, 106 and 117 Central Public Sector Enterprises respectively incurred losses. Enterprise-wise details of losses incurred in the last five years are given in Statement no. 7-B of Vol. I of Public Enterprises Survey 1993-94 laid in both the Houses of Parliament on 22.3.1995.

(c) Improving the performance of Public sector undertakings is a continuous process and enterprise specific. Some of the steps taken in this regard are signing of MOU, periodic performance Review Meetings by the Administrative Ministries, diversification of product mix, technology upgradation, reduction of surplus manpower through VRS, restructuring, etc. The sick industrial PSUs are referred to Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction for formulation of revival/ Rehabilitation schemes of PSU through Operating Agency.

(d) and (e). No lock out has been declared in any of the Central Public Sector Enterprise during the last three years. Statement on Industrial Policy announced on 24th July, 1991 contains the policy for dealing with sick and loss making PSUs. The Sick Industrial Company (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 was amended in 1991 so as to enable the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction to register the sick PSUs for formulations of revival/ rehabilitation package.

Duty Free Gold Missing from Bonded Premises

393. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Customs officials at the NOIDA Export Promotion Zone have recently found 18 kg. of duty free gold missing from the bonded premises;

(b) if so, the facts alongwith the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to probe the cause of missing gold; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d) During the course of search of the premises of M/s. Arun Jewellery Exports (P) Ltd, an export unit in the NOIDA Export Processing Zone, on 26.4.1996, no gold or gold Jewellery was found. However, some silver coins weighing less than 1 kg were found. This Unit was issued 16 kgs of duty-free gold by the MMTc for manufacture and export of gold jewellery. But the Unit reportedly failed to perform its export obligations within the time limit allowed by the DGFT. Investigations are still continuing.

Small Scale Industries

394 SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow the multinational companies to produce such items which are reserved for production in Small Scale Sector.

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) In accordance with the current policies of the Government industrial undertakings, other than the small scale industries undertakings, are normally not allowed to manufacture items reserved for exclusive manufacture in the small scale sector. However they are allowed to do so subject to an export obligation of a minimum of 75% of annual production.

Foreign Investment in PSU

395 DR T SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have decided to impose restrictions on direct foreign investments in consumer goods sector,

(b) if so, whether any final decision has been taken in this regard; and

(c) if so, the items specified and to what extent the Indian industry would benefited?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). The Government policy on foreign investment is constantly reviewed to make it more dynamic with the objective of increasing foreign direct investments into the country, particularly, in priority/core sectors, including infrastructure.

Sick Paper Mills

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

(a) whether some paper mills in the country have fallen sick;

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

(c) the number of workers affected due to the closure;

(d) whether the Government propose to revive them, and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The data in regard to sick paper mills is not centrally maintained in the Ministry of Industry. However, according to available information the details of sick paper mills are indicated in *statement* enclosed.

(d) and (e) A quasi-judicial Body designated as the 'The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction' (BIFR) has been set up to deal with the problems of sick industrial companies. The Reserve Bank of India has also issued guidelines to the banks for strengthening the monitoring systems and arresting industrial sickness at the incipient stage. Revival of Sick industrial units is also done by amalgamation/merger of sick units with healthy units by granting income-tax concessions to healthy units which undertake such amalgamation.

STATEMENT

S No	Name of State	No of Sick Mills
1	2	3
1	Assam	1
2	Bihar	3
3	West Bengal	15
4	Orissa	1
5	Uttar Pradesh	13
6	Delhi	1
7	Punjab	5

1	2	3
8.	Haryana	4
9.	Chandigarh	3
10.	Himachal Pradesh	10
11.	Rajasthan	5
12.	Gujarat	8
13.	Maharashtra	11
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7
15.	Andhra Pradesh	14
16.	Karnataka	8
17.	Tamil Nadu	8
18.	Kerala	2
19.	Pondicherry	2
Total		121

Violation of Bipartite Agreement in Case of Retrenched Employees

397 SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bipartite Agreement signed on November 17, 1987 between the Management of State Bank and All India State Bank of India Staff Federation, also required to be implemented in case of retrenched temporary employees

(b) if so the number of cases brought to the notice of the Government during 1995 and 1996 by MPs in which the said Agreement reported to have been violated, State-wise particularly in respect of SBI's branch at Koochbehar, West Bengal, and

(c) the action taken in each of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) (a) State Bank of India has reported that the provisions

of its bipartite settlement signed on 17.11.87 are applicable to ex-temporary employees whose services were dis-continued, provided they fulfil the conditions laid down therein.

(b) and (c). The bank has further reported that on two occasions, two Hon'ble Members of Parliament have raised the issue of permanent appointment of one and five ex-temporary employees in Murarai Branch and Koochbehar District (both in West Bengal) respectively. The bank has stated that these ex-temporary employees have already been empanelled for being absorbed into the service of the bank as and when their turn comes and vacancies arise

Branch Expansion Programme of Nationalised Banks in Orissa

398 SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) The number of branches of nationalised banks which were proposed to be opened in Orissa during the 1994-95 and 1995-96 location-wise, and

(b) the names of the nationalised banks, the branches of which have since been opened during the above period location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it had authorised two public sector banks to open a branch each in Orissa during the year 1994-95 and five public sector banks to open twelve branches during the year 1995-96. The location-wise details are given in Statement-I enclosed

(b) Location-wise details of branches of public sector banks opened in Orissa during the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 are given in the Statement II enclosed

STATEMENT-I

Authorisations Issued to Public Sector Banks During 1994-95 and 1995-96 for Opening Branches in Orissa

Name of Centre (District)	Name of Bank
1	2
1994-95	
1 Paradeep (Jagatsinghpur)	Oriental Bank of Commerce
2 Sambalpur (Sambalpur)	Bank of Baroda
1995-96	
3 Bhubaneswar (Bhubaneswar)	Bank of India
4 Shahid Nagar (Khurda)	Canara Bank
5 Sanadeva Khunta (Balasore)	Canara Bank
6 Puri (Puri)	Vijaya Bank

1	2
7. Mausim Temple Marg (Bhubaneswar)	Indian Bank
8. Sailashree Vihar (Bhubaneswar)	Indian Bank
9. Charsuguda (Sambalpur)	Indian Overseas Bank
10. Bargarh (Bargarh)	Indian Overseas Bank
11. Dharamgarh (Kalahandi)	Indian Overseas Bank
12. Nayagarh (Nayagarh)	Indian Overseas Bank
13. Talcher (Angul)	Indian Overseas Bank
14. Baripada (Mayurbhanj)	Indian Overseas Bank

STATEMENT-II

Branches of Public Secor Banks Opened in Orissa During 1994-95 and 1995-96.

Name of Centre (District)	Name of Bank
1994-95	
1. Jajpur Road (Jajpur)	Indian Overseas Bank
2. Brajrajnagar (Jharsuguda)	State Bank of India
3. Bhubaneswer (Khurda)	UCO Bank
4. Sambalpur (Sambalpur)	Bank of Baroda
1995-96	
5. Bhubaneswar (Khurda)	Bank of India
6. Sahadevakhunta (Balasore)	Canara Bank
7. Keshalbahal (Sambalpur)	State Bank of India
8. Madhupatna (Cuttack)	Union Bank of India
9. Kharvelnagar (Khurda)	Indian Bank
10. Duburi Project (Jajpur)	State Bank of India
11. Puri (Puri)	Vijaya Bank

Industrial Growth Centre in Kerala

399. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any study on the possible affects of bifurcation on the objectives of the original Scheme for setting up of Industrial Growth Centre in Kerala particularly in Cannanore and Alleppey;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which work on the bifurcated units of the Growth Centre proposed to be commenced and scheduled to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Under the Growth Centre Scheme, 1988 Kerala has been allotted two growth centres. Originally, one of them was selected to be developed at Shertallai in Alleppey district and the other one at Tellicherry in Cannanore district. However, in view of the difficulty expressed by the State Government in acquiring the required contiguous land of about 1000 acres for a growth centre at one place due to the peculiar problems like density of population and scarcity of land, Government of India in Feb. 1994 acceded to their request and accorded approval for relocating the two growth centres at five split locations as mentioned below :

Name of the Growth Centre	Locations	Project Cost
1. Alleppey-Pathanamthitta	(i) Alappuzha	Rs. 1602 lakhs
	(ii) Pathanamthitta	Rs. 1883 lakhs
2. Kannur-Kozhikode-Malappuram	(i) Kannur	Rs. 1191 lakhs
	(ii) Kozhikode	Rs. 1745 lakhs
	(iii) Malappuram	Rs. 1491 lakhs

An amount of Rs. 268 lakhs and Rs. 884 lakhs has been released so far as Central assistance towards the growth centre at Alleppey-Pathanamthitta and Kannur-Kozhikode-Malappuram respectively.

(c) The growth centres are to be developed and established during the period of the VIII Five Year Plan.

Levy of Customs Duty

400. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Government of Manipur have requested the Union Government to relieve Timber, Rice, Dal, Rajma and Spices of Myanmar origin from levy of customs duty.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon.

(c) whether the Government are aware that customs officials are levying heavy fines arbitrary on natural inflow of timber from Myanmar to Manipur, and

(d) if so the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure imposition of the fines in the spirit of the representation of the State Government on the issue?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) to (d) No Sir, no such request has been received from the Government of Manipur

As regards Timber, this item is not included in the Indo-Myanmar treaty. Hence cases of its unauthorised import are to be adjudicated. It has been reported that in such cases, goods have been released on payment of duty, fine and penalty as provided for in the law

Restructuring of BIFR

401 SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to restructure Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction and to bring forward a bill on industrial sickness, and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken being taken to revive the sick industrial units?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) and (b). Yes However, no final decision has been taken

Smuggling of Gold

402. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have noticed a spurt in the gold and narcotic drugs smuggling during the recent months; and

(b) if so, the contraband seized during each month since January, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Reports available with the Government do not indicate that there is spurt in smuggling of narcotic drugs or gold. However, smuggling being a clandestine activity, the trends in smuggling cannot be stated with certainty.

(b) The quantity of Narcotics seized in the country each month since January, 1996 is as follows :

Quantity seized in Kgs.

Drug	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June (prov)
Opium	37	630	153	228	13	3
Heroin	145	88	112	158	167	2
Ganja	2086	7287	4724	5159	91	-
Hashish	190	3622	731	17	19	-
Cocaine	-	-	-	0 097	0 135	-
Mandrax	-	4 0 750	-	-	-	-

The value of contraband including gold seized in the country (other than Narcotics) each month since January, 1996 is as follows :-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Month	Value
January, 96	2414
February, 96	4524
March, 96	6910
April, 96	2441
May, 96	1960
June 96	1704 (Prov)

Winding up of Public Sector Projects

403 SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Government have decided either to wind up or sell major public sector projects which have failed to take off.

(b) if so, whether such projects have since been identified; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

National Highways in Bihar

404. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the national highways passing through Bihar;

(b) whether these national highways are in a dilapidated condition due to lack of repairs,

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of repair work proposed to be undertaken of these highways; and

(e) the number of roads proposed to be declared as the new national highways?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G VENKATRAMAN) : (a) The National Highways passing through Bihar are as under :-

NH No.	Name of NHs
2	Delhi-Calcutta
6	Calcutta-Dhule
19	Ghazipur-Patna
23	Chas-Taichar
28	Lucknow-Barauni
28 A	Piprakothi-Raxaul
30	Mohania-Bakhtiyarpur
31	Barhi-Guwahati
32	Gobindpur-Jamshedpur
33	Barhi-Bharagora

(b) and (c) No. Sir These National Highways, passing through Bihar, are generally being maintained in traffic worthy conditions, within available resources.

(d) Maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and ordinary repairs,

periodic renewals and restoration of monsoon damages are taken up, wherever and whenever necessary.

(e) Ghazipur-Patna highway has been declared as National Highway No. 19 recently. However, due to meagre allocation of funds during the 8th Five Year Plan, it is difficult to declare any other Highway, in the State of Bihar, as National Highway.

[English]

Irregularities in Vysya Bank Ltd., New Delhi

405. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the cases of frauds and issue of cheque books unauthorisedly and illegally in the branches of Vysya Bank Ltd. at New Delhi during 1994, 1995 and 1996 so far indicating the action taken in each of these cases;

(b) the reasons for not reporting all the cases of frauds and issue of cheque books illegally and unauthorisedly to the police,

(c) whether such cases have been reported to the Reserve Bank of India; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Details of the cases of frauds/issue of cheque books unauthorisedly/illegally in the Connaught Place, Karol Bagh and Chandni Chowk Branches of Vysya Bank Ltd. in Delhi during 1994, 1995 and 1996 as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are given in the attached *statement*.

(b) RBI has intimated that the Bank has reported to Police both the cases pertaining to Karol Bagh Branch. However, since the amount in the case at Connaught Place Branch had been restored to the customer and personal responsibility has been fixed to recover the amount from the concerned officer, no complaint was lodged with the police. However, RBI is advising the Bank to report the matter to the police. In so far as the fraud case at Chandni Chowk Branch is concerned, the bank has instructed its controlling office to lodge a complaint with the police immediately.

(c) and (d) RBI has intimated that all the cases, except the one at Chandni Chowk Branch which occurred recently, have been reported to it.

STATEMENT

(Amount in Rs. lakhs)

Name of the branch	Year	Amount involved	Amount recovered	Remarks
Connaught Place	1994	1.00	Nil	A cheque book was issued on the basis of xerox copy of requisition slip to an unidentified person. Three cheques with forged signatures were encashed aggregating Rs. 1 lac. Three officials have been punished for passing the fake cheques. The amount of Rs. 1 lac has been restored to the account concerned.
Karol Bagh	1995	4.40	Nil	One person obtained a cheque by presenting fake requisition slip which is similar to the original cheque requisition slip held with the customer. The culprit encashed seven cheques for Rs. 4.40 lacs and was nabbed while attempting to encash the next cheque and handed over to the police.
Karol bagh	1995	2.90	2.23	Some employees of the account holder obtained cheque book from the branch fraudulently and encashed several cheques, through clearing for the aggregate amount of Rs. 2.9 lakhs. One clerk at the branch suspected to be involved in the branch has been suspended.
Chandni Chowk	1996	0.80		Culprits got cheque requisition slip printed and obtained cheque book with forged signatures. Three cheques from this book were encashed for an aggregate amount of Rs. 0.8 lakhs in June 96. Internal investigation by the bank is in progress.

[Translation]

Branches of Nationalised Banks

406 SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks opened during the last three years in Bihar, location-wise, and

(b) the branches of nationalised banks in rural areas proposed to be opened in the near future, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the

number of branches of public sector banks opened in Bihar during the last three years is as shown below

Year	No. of branches
1993-94	20
1994-95	4
1995-96 (Upto 31-12-1996)	6

Location-wise details of these branches are furnished in enclosed statement-I.

(b) Location-wise details of rural centres in Bihar in respect of which RBI has granted authorisation to public sector banks for opening branches are at enclosed Statement-II.

STATEMENT-I

Rural Centres of Public Sector Banks Opened in Bihar During 1993-94, 1994-95, and 1995-96 (upto 31-12-1995).

Name of Bank Branch/ Centre	Name of District	Name of Bank
<i>1993-94</i>		
1. Daudnagar	Aurangabad	Punjab National Bank
2. Banka	Banka	UCO Bank
3. Bhabua	Bhabua	Punjab National Bank
4. Kahalgaijan	Bhagalpur	Allahabad Bank
5. Bokaro Steel City Branch	Bokaro	Vijaya Bank
6. Katrasgarh Branch	Bokaro	Bank of India
7. Katrasgarh Dhanbad	Bokaro	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur
8. Buxar	Buxar	UCO Bank
9. Darbhanga	Darbhanga	Indian Overseas Bank
10. Gaya	Gaya	Punjab National Bank
11. Tekari	Gaya	Punjab National Bank
12. Gopalganj	Gopalganj	Canara Bank
13. Madhubani	Madhubani	Canara Bank
14. Patna	Patna	State Bank of India
15. Motihari	Purbi Champaran	Canara Bank
16. Jamshedpur	Purbi Singhbhum	State Bank of B&J
17. Jamshedpur	Purbi Singhbhum	Union Bank of India
18. Ranchi	Ranchi	Corporation Bank
19. Sasaram	Rohtas	Canara Bank
20. Hajipur	Vaishali	Union Bank of India
<i>1994-95</i>		
21. Aurangabad	Aurangabad	Central Bank of India
22. Patna	Patna	Canara Bank
23. Patna	Patna	Indian Bank
24. Samastipur	Samastipur	Canara Bank
<i>1995-96 (Upto 31-12-1995)</i>		
25. Raxaul	East Champaran	Canara Bank
26. Bistupur, Jamshedpur	East Singhbhum	Union Bank of India
27. Chutia, Ranchi	Ranchi	Canara Bank
28. Phulwaria	Gopalganj	State Bank of India
29. Tinplate (Golmuri), Jamshedpur	East Singhbhum	Union Bank of India
30. Ranchi	Ranchi	Indian Overseas Bank

STATEMENT-II

Rural Centres in Bihar in respect of which Reserve Bank of India have Granted Authorisations to Public Sector Banks for Opening Branches

Name of Centre	Name of District	Name of Bank
1. East Basuriya	Dhanbad	State Bank of India
2. Sudamdih Project	Dhanbad	UCO Bank
3. Belhari	Saran	Punjab National Bank
4. Turamdih, (Village Purihasa)	Singbhum	State Bank of India
5. Jojbera	Singhbhum (E)	State Bank of India
6. Kulde	Singhbhum (W)	Bank of India
7. Murathakura	Singhbhum (E)	Bank of India
8. Matiabandhi	Singhbhum (E)	Bank of India

[English]

Bank frauds

407 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether there has recently been a rising in bank frauds involving foreign and national banks since the implementation of the new economic policy.

(b) if so, the modus-operandi followed in siphoning off hundreds of crores of rupees in connivance with the senior bank managers.

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check this rising trend.

(d) whether the report on the multi-crore bank scam in Calcutta has since been received and examined, and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) The number of frauds and amounts involved therein that occurred in public sector banks and foreign banks as reported by the RBI during the years 1990 to 1995 are as follows

(Amount in Rs. crores)

Year	Public sector banks		Foreign Banks	
	No	Amount	No	Amount
1990	1687	105.93	29	0.20
1991	1559	65.41	32	0.17
1992	1717	144.49	59	0.71
1993	2213	320.32	167	9.05
1994	2266	200.07	137	2.18
1995	1890	115.51	168	2.35

(Data Provisional)

(b) Withdrawal of deposit accounts through forged instruments, fraudulent encashment of negotiable instruments by opening accounts in fictitious names, misappropriation through manipulation of books of accounts, frauds in clearing transactions, misuse/overstepping of lending, discretionary power and frauds in foreign exchange by providing fake import bills etc. are some of the methods used in perpetrating of the frauds.

(c) The public sector banks at the instance of Government and RBI have taken several steps from time to time for checking corruption and prevention of frauds. These steps include issue of comprehensive guidelines by RBI for strengthening the control mechanism in banks, review of fraud cases on a continual basis by RBI, advising the banks of modus-operandi in ingenious cases alongwith required safeguards to prevent their recurrence, proper training of operational personnel and investigations and scrutiny into reported cases of major frauds as well as snap inspections covering systems and procedures and control arrangements in fraud prone areas by the Department of Supervision in RBI, etc.

(d) and (e) RBI has reported that reports giving the details of the fraud, modus-operandi used, amounts involved, steps taken to recover the banks funds involved and staff accountability etc. have been received from the banks concerned. The reports received indicate serious irregularities on the part of the officials such as issue of Fixed Deposit Receipts, Bankers' Cheques without consideration, drawals against uncleared effects, unauthorised overdrafts against third party FCNR deposits/fictitious deposit receipts, etc. These reports also indicate failure of internal control machinery to detect these fraudulent transactions.

RBI has circulated the modus-operandi adopted by fraudsters to all commercial banks and has also circulated a list of companies/individuals suspected to be involved and have advised the banks to exercise caution while dealing with them. Banks have also been advised to take action against controlling officers for their failure to detect the fraud at the early stages besides action against staff directly involved. CBI is also investigating the fraud.

Rental Accommodation of United India Insurance Co. Ltd.

408. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United India Insurance Company Ltd. has taken the residential premises of its Directors or their spouses on rent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) since when those premises have been used as Transit Camp/Guest Houses and the amount of rent paid and other expenses incurred on such premises from 1992 to June, 1996 year-wise;

(d) whether the benefits acquired by the Directors have been disclosed in the Balance Sheets of Insurance Company as per requirements of Companies Act, 1956;

(e) if so the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken or proposed to be taken against the persons responsible for the lease?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The United India Insurance Company Limited (UIIC) has reported that it has a Transit Camp at Hyderabad since 1986. The owner of the earlier premises wanted the premises for his personal occupation. Besides, the premises became unsuitable for a Transit Camp on account of acute water shortage. The UIIC has acquired on lease basis, the present premises at Hyderabad which belongs to the part-time Nominee Director of the Government on its Board after advertising for a new premises in September, 1993, and after evaluating through a recognised valuer the fair market rent of the premises and following other procedural requirements of the company. Under the Companies Act, 1956 there is no prohibition for leasing out his premises even by a full-time Director to the Company on the Board on which he is represented. As against the fair market

rent of Rs. 12,100/- per month assessed by the valuer the company hired the accommodation only at Rs. 10,200/- per month w.e.f. December 1993. This works out to a little over Rs. 3/- per square foot. Taxes and other expenses are borne by the landlord.

(d) Section 211 of the Companies Act 1956 does not apply to insurance companies, who will have to prepare their balance sheets as per the provisions of Schedule-I of the Insurance Act 1938 in which there is no separate provision for disclosure of rental income received by a Director from the premises owned by him and let out to the company.

(e) and (f). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Pending Cases in Courts

409 PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT :
SHRI E AHMED :
SHRI JAGMOHAN :

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

(a) the scheme of the Government to provide easy, inexpensive and early justice to the public, and

(b) the number of cases lying pending in high courts and Supreme Court of the country till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D KHALAP) : (a) To make an in-depth study of the problem of arrears in courts, a Committee of three Chief Justices of High Courts (Justice Malimath Committee) was constituted by the Government in 1989. The committee has made several recommendations on various aspects covering jurisdictional and procedural modifications, the improvements in the judiciary, the setting up of specialised bodies such as tribunals/commissions to deal with specific types of cases, the fixation of Judges strength and appointment of Judges in High Courts, the creation of more posts in the Subordinate judiciary and a number of other general recommendations relating to modernisation of office equipment in courts and allocation of more funds to the judiciary. These recommendations were forwarded inter-alia to all the concerned State Governments and the High Courts for necessary follow-up action.

Further, the problem of arrears of cases in courts and their expeditious disposal was also considered in a meeting of the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held on 4th December, 1993 under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The conference recommended several steps in a resolution it adopted for the speedy disposal of cases in the Courts/Tribunals. This resolution has been commended to all the State Governments/UT Administrations and High Courts/Tribunals for necessary action. The implementation of December, 1993 resolution and the recommendations made by the Working Groups were reviewed by the Law Ministers at their plenary meeting held in Calcutta in November, 1994 and in Hyderabad, in November, 1995. The resolutions adopted in these meetings have been commended to all the concerned authorities for necessary follow-up action.

(b) The available information is given in the attached *Statement*

STATEMENT

Cases Pending in the High Courts in India

S No	Name of the High Court	No of cases pending	Pendency as on
1	Allahabad	788448	30 6 95
2	Andhra Pradesh	148648	31 12 95
3	Bombay	217111	31 12 95
4	Calcutta	254369	31 12 95
5	Delhi	148878	30 6 95
6	Gauhati	30667	30 9 95
7	Gujarat	91953	31 3 95
8	Himachal Pradesh	20436	31 12 95
9	Jammu & Kashmir	93700	31 12 95
10	Karnataka	161493	31 12 95
11	Kerala	201551	31 3 96
12	Madhya Pradesh	84560	31 12 94
13	Madras	302361	31 12 95
14	Orissa	51942	31 12 95
15	Patna	95445	31 12 95
16	Punjab & Haryana	145792	30 9 95
17	Rajasthan	95368	31 12 95
18	Sikkim	67	31 3 96

Supreme Court

Regular Matters (Actual No of files)	Admission Matters (Actual No of files)	Pendency as on
21,357	15,811	1 12 1995

Sick Industrial Units

410. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :
SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA :
SHRI JAGMOHAN .

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the number of small/medium/large scale industriss declared sick during 1994, 1995 and in 1996 so far and the total number of such units as on date, State-wise

(b) the number of units revived during the above period and the quantum of financial assistance provided to these units year-wise and State-wise, and

(c) the steps being taken to prevent the sickness in industrial sector and the time by which all the remaining sick units are likely to be revived?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CAMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) (a) and (b) The data reporting system of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate the information in the manner asked for. As per information made available by RBI on the basis of the yearly returns received from commercial banks the State-wise data on sick small scale industrial (SSI) units and sick Non-SSI units as at end March 1994 and end March 1995 (latest available) are given in the enclosed Statement-I and Statement-II.

(c) Detailed guidelines have been issued by RBI regarding formulation implementation of rehabilitation packages in respect of sick/weak units (including sick SSI units) considered potentially viable for their revival. Rehabilitation packages inter alia provide for funding of existing dues of banks and financial institutions with extended period for repayment thereof in a phased manner, interest concessions, grant of fresh term loans as also fresh working capital facilities. As regards non-SSI sick industrial companies, Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), a quasi-judicial body set up under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 takes necessary action for determination of preventive, ameliorative, remedial and other measures and for enforcement of such measures.

STATEMENT-I

State-Wise data on SSI Sick units for the years 1994 and 1995

(Rs. crores)

States/ Union Territory	AS AT END MARCH 1994			AS AT END MARCH 1995		
	No. of Total Sick Units	Units put Under nursing		No. of Total Sick Units	Units put under nursing	
		No. of Units	Amount O/s*		No. of Units	Amount O/s*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	13842	729	65.13	13740	245	65.17
Arunachal Pradesh	123	0	0.00	140	0	0.00
Assam	14210	634	5.20	17984	649	5.12
Bihar	17063	292	11.09	26749	289	15.34
Goa	710	25	3.05	657	24	2.52
Gujarat	7812	288	21.18	7728	269	18.64
Haryana	1669	25	3.64	2339	24	2.78
Himachal Pradesh	614	13	2.22	649	9	1.74
Jammu & Kashmir	162	1	0.13	127	1	0.15
Karnataka	15145	423	31.81	11399	409	25.59
Kerala	10792	533	45.57	8631	367	23.10
Madhya Pradesh	9795	161	14.05	11489	135	12.82
Maharashtra	21350	771	135.41	21346	710	79.82
Manipur	2350	80	0.40	2370	95	0.48
Meghalaya	317	22	0.06	367	22	0.06
Mizoram	119	0	0.00	162	0	0.00
Nagaland	11063	0	0.00	1728	0	0.00
Orissa	17235	171	9.79	20498	180	12.46
Punjab	2434	140	3.27	2473	140	3.06
Rajasthan	14665	75	7.20	17205	47	7.45
Sikkim	77	0	0.00	96	0	0.00
Tami Nadu	8125	458	59.99	7300	433	56.38
Tripura	764	0	0.00	921	6	0.03
Uttar Pradesh	33915	291	31.15	35988	274	44.58
West Bengal	56083	6055	49.45	50500	5914	60.07
National Capital Territory of Delhi	5516	74	15.62	5712	118	9.39
Andaman & Nicobar Island	25	0	0.00	28	0	0.00
Daman & Diu	6	0	0.00	67	0	0.00
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	10	0	0.00	-	-	-
Chandigarh	179	12	1.45	188	7	0.71
Lakshadweep	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
Pondicherry	282	3	1.59	234	4	1.62
Total	256452	11376	522.42	268815	10371	449.08

* Outstanding

STATEMENT-II

State-Wise data on Non-SSI sick units for the years 1994 and 1995

States/ Union Territory	AS AT END MARCH 1994			AS AT END MARCH 1995		
	No. of Units	Units Reported as Nursed back to Health		No. of Units	Units Reported as Nursed back to Health	
		No. of Units	Amount O/s* (Rs crore)		No. of Units	Amount O/s* (Rs crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	209	3	19.06	225	1	1.15
Assam	10	-	-	31	-	-
Bihar	58	-	-	53	-	-
Goa	5	-	-	4	-	-
Gujarat	184	1	0.31	169	3	4.44
Haryana	65	-	-	62	4	17.08
Himachal Pradesh	26	-	-	22	1	1.57
Jammu & Kashmir	4	-	-	6	-	-
Karnataka	108	1	2.24	93	2	2.77
Kerala	66	-	-	66	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	87	1	0.82	98	-	-
Maharashtra	350	5	9.87	357	1	4.88
Meghalaya	2	-	-	2	-	-
Nagaland	1	-	-	-	-	-
Orissa	37	1	3.07	44	-	-
Punjab	39	1	1.79	38	-	-
Rajasthan	67	-	-	62	-	-
Sikkim	1	-	-	1	-	-
Tamil Nadu	152	1	0.90	137	5	15.46
Tripura	1	-	-	5	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	165	1	8.22	171	3	11.95
West Bengal	229	-	-	224	1	0.39
National Capital Territory of Delhi	17	1	1.13	23	-	-
Daman & Diu	3	-	-	1	-	-
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3	-	-	2	-	-
Chandigarh	10	-	-	13	-	-
Pondicherry	10	-	-	6	-	-
Total	1859	16	47.41	1915	21	55.69

* Outstanding

[English]

Industrial Growth

411 SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Shimla branch, to promote industrial growth in rural areas,

(b) if so the details thereof and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Privatisation of Insurance Sector

412. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise the insurance sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also any plan to open the insurance sector to foreign investment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The Common Minimum Programme (CMP) of the Government envisages restructuring of the insurance industry in the light of the experience gained in the working of the banking sector, and a strengthening public sector insurance companies like LIC, GIC etc.

Production of Cars

413 DR KRUPASINDHU BHOI Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Indian companies manufacturing cars in the country.

(b) the approximate number of cars produced by each of those companies during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of cars exported by these companies annually.

(d) whether any target has been fixed by these companies for exporting cars by the end of the century; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Names of the Indian Companies manufacturing cars in the country and number of cars produced by these companies during last 3 years are as under :

Name	Production		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
DCM Daewoo	0	0	9155
Hindustan Motors	25893	26177	28152
Maruti Udyog Ltd	151800	198601	268756
Mercedes Benz	0	2	1053
PAL Peugeot	0	0	10306
Premier Automobiles	24718	27213	27738
Telco	7284	12475	10498

(c) Number of cars exported by these companies during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 has been 17572, 23092 and 28851 respectively.

(d) and (e). No specific targets for export of cars have been fixed.

Investment Proposal for Foreign Country

414. SHRI DADA BABAUROO PRANJPE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of investment proposals of foreign countries approved by the Government as on March 31, 1996;

(b) the details regarding names of the companies with their nationality and investment offered by each of them, and

(c) the terms and conditions agreed upon by the Government and these companies?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) 4473 proposals have been approved involving foreign direct investment during 1 8 91 to 31 3 96

(b) and (c) The details of such proposals viz name of the Indian company, name and country of foreign collaborator, equity/investment involved, item of manufacture/activity are published by the Indian Investment Centre as a supplement to the Monthly Newsletter and copies of these are regularly supplied to the Parliament Library

Condition of Ports

415 SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether the operational condition of various ports in the country is appalling and anachronistic

(b) whether the exports have suffered set back due to this condition of ports.

(c) if so the details thereof, and

(d) the corrective measures taken by the Government to improve the condition of ports?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI TG VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir

(b) to (d) Do not arise

Economic Reforms

416 DR T SUBBARAMI REDDY Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the international economic division of World Bank has recently appreciated the introduction of existing economic reforms in India

(b) if so, whether the present Government have decided to continue the reforms in the same manner; and

(c) if not, the changes that are likely to be incorporated in the new economic policy?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The World Bank's publication, "Global Economic Prospects and the Developing Countries", 1996, an annual report prepared by the International Economics Department of the World Bank, states that India "continued to draw substantial benefits from the trade and investment liberalisation undertaken after the 1991 balance of payments crisis".

(b) and (c). The present government's policy on economic reforms is outlined in the Common Minimum Programme. The economic policy of the government can be broadly described as 'growth with social justice'.

Branch Expansion Programme by Bank of Maharashtra

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

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up the branches of Bank of Maharashtra in every State;

(b) if so, the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Bank of Maharashtra have reported that they have no plans at present to set up branches in all the States.

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

Agro based Foreign Investment

418. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the foreign capital investment proposals received for setting up agro-based industries in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the number of proposals approved and implemented so far; and

(c) the reasons for delay in implementation of approved proposals?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) (a) The details of foreign investment proposals received and approved for setting up Agro-based industries in Gujarat during the last three years from 1.1.1993 to 31.5.96 are given in the attached *Statement*.

(b) and (c). Implementation of Projects depends on the gestation period which varies from project to project.

STATEMENT

Details of Proposals received and Approved Involving foreign Investment in Agro Based Industries in Gujarat from 01-01-1993 to 31-05-1996.

S. No.	APPR. NO/APPR DATE (TYPE/AGENCY)	NAME OF INDIAN COMPANY	NAME OF THE FOREIGN COLLABORATOR	AMOUNT (% EQTY) (RS. LAKHS)
1	2	3	4	5
1.		McCain Foods Limited C/o COOPERS & LYBRAND PVT. LTD. 609/610 MERIDIEN COMMERCIAL TOWERS, WINDSOR PLACE NEW DELHI-110001	M/S. McCain Foods Limited	7887.50 (100.00%)
CANADA				
ITEM DESCRIPTION WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY TO MANUFACTURE & MARKET : GUJARAT FORZEN FRENCH FRIED POTATO PRODUCTS.				
2.		KOROSHO PROCESSING PRIVATE LIMIT. A-1, HIMALAYA FLATS NANAKUMBHNATH ROAD NADIA-387 001 GUJARAT.	EXPORT HOLDINGS LTD. POST BOX 602, TOWN SOUTH, RUE-DU-PRE, 57 PETER PORT, GUE-RNSL	40.00 (100.00%)
CHANNEL ISLAND				
ITEM DESCRIPTION : PROCESSING OF CASHEW NUT ROASTED OR SALTED			AT location : KHEDA (GUJARAT)	

1	2	3	4	5
3.	INDIAMALT PRIVATE LTD. HEPZ PLOT B5 & B6 TAMBARAM MADRAS-600045	FREEDOMCHEMICAL DIALT, GERMANY.		296.00 (74.00%)
ITEM DESCRIPTION :		CASSIA GUM POWDER	GERMANY	AT Location : VADODARA (GUJARAT)
4.	UMACON AGRO LIMITED 2ND FLOOR, PLOT NO. 162, OPP. PETROL PUMP, SECTOR-21 GANDHINAGAR-382021 GUJARAT	MACON AGRI LTD.,		225.00 (9.14%)
ITEM DESCRIPTION :		FRESH MUSHROOM PRESERVED MUSHROOM & WHITE BUTTON MUSHROOM PRESERVED IN BRINE SOLUTION.	IRELAND	AT Location SABARKANTHA (GUJARAT)
5	UN AGRO EXPORTS LTD. BOX NO. 2537, ELEMPE LOKMANYA TILAK ROAD VADODARA-390005	NRI		187.50 (27.00%)
ITEM DESCRIPTION :		DEHYDRATED ONIONS & OTHER VEGETABLES LIKE GARLIC, GINGER ETC	NRI	AT Location VADODARA (GUJARAT)
6	OL GROW LIMITED OLGROW HOUSE 31/1 L. COLONY AMBAVADI AHMEDABAD-380015 GUJARAT	NRI NRI		440.00 (40.00%)
ITEM DESCRIPTION :		SHITAKE MUSHROOM (LENTINUS ELDODES)	NRI	AT Location GUJARAT
7	BEST BUY FOODS LIMITED 2ND FLOOR COINS CORNER DR YAGNIK ROAD RAJKOT GUJARAT-36001	NRI		100.00 (10.00%)
ITEM DESCRIPTION :		DEHYDRATED VEGETABLES ONIONS, GARLIC, POTATO'S ETC.	NRI	AT Location RAJKOT (GUJARAT)
8	ANOOP KOTHARI M-227, GREATER KAILA NEW DELHI-110 048	DALSEM VECIAP HOLLAND		160.00 (20.00%)
ITEM DESCRIPTION :		WHITE BUTTON MUSHROOMS	NETHERLANDS	AT Location VADODARA (GUJARAT)
9	TROPICAL GREEN FRUITS EXPORTS LT B-402, SAMUDRA COMPLEX C G ROAD NAVARANGPURA AHMEDABAD-380009	EURASIA COUNTERTRADE PTE LTD SINGAPORE		20.00 (20.00%)
ITEM DESCRIPTION :		FRESH FRUITS J JICES AND CONCENTRATES OF PAPAYA-ORANGE-PINEAPPLE-APPLE-MANGO- CHIKOO-PEAR GRAPES-LICHI ETC	SINGAPORE	AT Location AHMEDABAD (GUJARAT)

1	2	3	4	5
10.	M/S. RADHEYSHYAM AGRO FOODS LIMI 2ND FLOOR, NIMA HOUSE, AHMEDABAD-380001.	M/S. BELLAI BARTER TRADE PTE LTD. SINGAPORE	64.00	(6.32%)
ITEM DESCRIPTION :	POTATO PONDER	AT Location	GUJARAT	
11.	GREEN SPROUT AGRONOMY LIMITED II-NEHA', 97, SAMPATRAO, RACE COURSE ROAD BARODA-390007 GUJARAT	SWIFT TRADING INC .	156.43	(30.00%)
ITEM DESCRIPTION	BANANA PUREE (UPTO 24 DEG BX)	AT Location	KHEDA (GUJARAT)	
12	RUCHI SOYA INDUSTRIES LIMITED 214, TULSIANI CHAMBE NARIMAN POINT BOMBAY-40021	NRI	300.00	(20.00%)
ITEM DESCRIPTION	SOYA DE-OILED CAKE	AT Location	RAJKOT (GUJARAT)	
13 59 31/01/96	EARTH ENERGY EXPORTS LTD 402, 4TH FLOOR, SOHAM TERRACH NR AMALTAS BUNGLOWS VASTRAPUR, AHMEDABAD-380052	IRATEC	120.00	(20.00%)
ITEM DESCRIPTION	FRESH FRUITS OF STRAWBERRY CULTIVATION FOR EXPORTS AS FRESH FRUITS	AT Location	MEHSANA (GUJARAT)	
14	KAMSON PHRMACEUTICALS PVT LTD C/O SAYAJI HOTELS LT KALAGHODA BARODA-390005 GUJARAT	MULTIFLOR HOLLAND N V HOLLAND	90.65	(49.00%)
ITEM DESCRIPTION	FRESH CUT FLOWERS LIKE ROSES, CHRYSANTHEMUM CARNATION GERBERA (GROWN UNDER GREENHOUSE CULTIVATION)	AT Location	VADODARA (GUJARAT)	
15	GUJARAT BLOOMS LIMITED 203, STERLING CENTRE R C DUTT ROAD BARODA GUJARAT-390005	DALSEM EXPORT PROJECTS B V HOLLAND NETHERLANDS	100.00	(12.50%)
ITEM DESCRIPTION	CUT FLOWERS ROSE AND OTHER FLOWERS	AT Location	VADODARA (GUJARAT)	

Industrial House

419. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the assets, turnover and profits of the twenty top industrial houses during 1995-96 and upto June, 1996.

(b) whether any of these industrial houses have sent proposals to set up industry in backward areas of Orissa; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Consequent upon the omission of Section 26 of the MRTP Act, 1969 by the MRTP (Amendment) Act, 1991 with effect from 27.9.1991, Large Industrial Houses are no longer required to be registered with the Government of India and therefore, information relating to assets, turnover and profits of the twenty top industrial houses are not maintained.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Voting Rights to Migrant Kashmiries

420. SHRI PINAKI MISRA

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA .

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state

(a) whether arrangements were made for ensuring due exercise of voting rights to the persons displaced from the terrorist affected areas of Jammu and Kashmir during the recent polls to the eleventh Lok Sabha.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the success achieved in this regard indicating the percentage of such voters who polled their votes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir Migrant voters enrolled in any of the parliamentary constituencies of 1-Baramulla, 2-Srinagar and 3-Anantnag and who were residing outside their place of ordinary residence were permitted to vote by postal ballot during the recent polls to the eleventh Lok Sabha. The procedure for voting by the migrant voters was as laid down in Part IIIA of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961. Wide publicity was given to the scheme by the Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu & Kashmir and the Election Commission of India who also arranged with the Department of Posts and Telegraph for the prompt clearance and speedy delivery of the postal ballot papers to the respective Returning officers

(c) According to the information made available by the Election Commission of India, approximately 36%, 30% and 29% migrant electors voted in Baramulla, Srinagar and Anantnag constituencies respectively.

FERA Violation by Leading Satellite T.V. Companies

421. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the leading satellite TV companies in India are transacting crores of rupees in foreign exchange through clandestine operations in violation of FERA regulations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to check this practice?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Enforcement Directorate has undertaken necessary investigations under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) against various such companies. Enquiries against one of the companies have revealed prima facie violation of FERA to the tune of US \$ 6,80,000/-.

(c) A strict vigil is kept by the Directorate to check mal-practices and action as envisaged under the law is taken against the offenders

Lawyers Strike

422. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state .

(a) the number of times the lawyers in Delhi courts went on strike during the last three years along with the period for which each of the strike lasted;

(b) the main issues involved in the frequent strikes, and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to solve the hardships of litigants besides long delays in the process of justice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House

St. Kitts Forgery Case

423. SHRI R. L. P. VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government had undertaken an inquiry into St. Kitts forgery case.

(b) if so, whether the matter has been investigated by now and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay and by when the matter is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is evaluating the evidence collected during investigation for taking further decision. The matter is also being monitored by the Supreme Court of India.

[Translation]

Non-Banking Financial Companies

424 SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH
SHRI LALIT ORAON

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether non-banking financial companies are increasing rapidly in India, particularly in Bihar.

(b) whether the Union Government have any study regarding the embezzlement of the deposits of poor people by way of closing the companies under non-banking system

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has compiled the list of non banking financial companies and private limited companies operating all over the country.

(d) if so, the details thereof and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the government to safeguard the interests of the investors?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a), (c) and (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that, as per its mailing list, the total number of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) operating in India, and in the State of Bihar in particular, during the period 1991-1996 is as follows

Year (ended March)	Number of financial companies as per RBI's mailing list	
	In India	In the State of Bihar
1991	25085	151
1992	28378	161
1993	31811	112
1994	35411	294
1995	39454	306
1996 (approx)	42800	325

(b) RBI has reported that it has not made any study regarding embezzlement of money of poor people by NBFCs by closure of their offices.

(e) Proposals have been initiated to regulate the activities of NBFCs more effectively.

[English]

Industrial Growth Centre

425. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN . Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) the steps taken for setting up Industrial Growth Centres in Kerala particularly at Cannanore, and

(b) the reasons for delay in setting up such centres?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) (a) and (b) Under the Growth Centre Scheme 1988 Kerala has been allotted two growth centres for which the locations were initially selected at Shertallai in Alleppey district and Tellicherry in Cannanore district. However in view of the difficulty expressed by the State Government in acquiring the required land of about 1000 acres for a growth centre at one place due to the peculiar problems like density of population and scarcity of land Government of India in March, 1992 acceded to their request and accorded approval for relocating the two centres allowing split/relocations at

(1) Alleppey-Pathanamthitta, and

(2) Kannur-Kozhikode-Mallappuram.

The Scheme has to be implemented during the VIII Five Year Plan period. These two growth centres are in an advanced stage of implementation

Total Central assistance released so far, towards them is Rs. 11.52 crores. The State Government has also released an amount of Rs. 11.74 crores towards these two growth centres

[Translation]

Changes in Industries after Liberalisation Policy

426 PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) the changes affected in Industries regarding qualitatively, quantitatively and from the point of view of capital investment after introduction of Liberalization Policy

(b) the total foreign capital invested in Indian industries after the introduction of Liberalization Policy.

(c) the policy regarding the Industrial growth in the country likely to be adopted by the Government; and

(d) the action plan of the Government for promoting the small cottage and medium scale industries and encouraging the feelings of 'Swadeshi' and self-dependence?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Subsequent to the Liberalisation Policy since 1991, various measures have been taken which, inter-alia, include delicensing, automatic approval for foreign collaborations, simplification of procedures, rationalisation of import and excise duties, etc. Since August 1991 till May 1996, 25,781 Industrial Entrepreneurial Memorandum (I.E.M) in the delicensed sector envisaging investment of Rs. 5,04,782 crores have been filed and 4,679 foreign investment proposals envisaging investment of Rs. 71036.68 crores have been approved during this period.

(c) and (d). Government policy for overall development of industry, including small, medium and large scale industries is constantly reviewed to make it more dynamic with the objective of making the Indian industry self reliant and globally competitive and to increase investment, particularly in the priority/core sectors, including infrastructure.

Customer Service of SBI

427 SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM .

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the State Bank of India propose to establish a subsidiary company for issuing credit cards and for improvement in its customer service

(b) if so the details thereof, and

(c) the specific measures proposed to be taken by the State Bank of India to improve its customer service in small towns and rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) State Bank of India has reported that the proposal to set up a subsidiary is under its consideration and details therefore will be worked out after a final decision has been taken thereon.

(c) State Bank of India has reported that improvement in customer service is being brought about on an on-going basis in all branches of the SBI situated at metro urban, Semi-urban and rural centres. The Bank has further stated that teams of senior officers from its Local Head Offices/Zonal

Offices Regularly visit branches to assess the extent of implementation of Bank's instructions for providing better customer service and corrective action is taken wherever necessary. In addition, Central Office Inspection Team(s) while carrying out inspection and audit of branches, also examine quality of customer service obtaining there at and suitable remedial measures are taken.

[English]

Export of Cement

428. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHQI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any target has been fixed for export of cement during the Eighth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the achievement made so far;

(c) whether target can be achieved with the present pace of export; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) While no specific target for export of cement during the Eighth Plan has been fixed, export of cement/clinker has been increasing during the last few years, except in 1995-96 when there was a decline mainly due to higher demand in the domestic market. The year-wise export of cement/clinker is as under

Year	Million Tonnes
1991-92	0.36
1992-93	1.18
1993-94	2.85
1994-95	3.17
1995-96	2.38

(c) and (d) Do not arise

India's Financial System

429 SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the survey conducted by the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy Limited have described India's financial system at 10th position in the world as reported in Statesman dated May 22, 1996

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the financial system of the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). According to a survey conducted by the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy Limited as reported in Statesman dated May 22, 1996, India ranked 10th in financial system with the rating of 6.29 while it ranked 9th with a rating of 6.93 in physical infrastructure. According to this survey report published in Statesman, Vietnam was found to have the most deficient financial sector followed by China, India and the Philippines.

Indian Financial System is currently undergoing a process of reform as a part of the broader reform programme initiated in 1991-92. The results of the implementation of various reform measures have so far been encouraging. As at the end of March, 1995, 13 out of 27 public sector banks attained the minimum capital adequacy ratio of 8%, 11 between 4% and 8% and the remaining 3 banks less than 4%. Besides, the positive trend of reduction in the number of public sector banks reporting operating losses from 9 to 6 during 1993-94 was further confirmed in a significant turn around of the public sector banks during 1994-95 with a net profit of Rs 1116 crore as against a net loss of Rs 4349 crore in 1993-94. Alongside there has been a drop in non-performing assets of the public sector banks from about 24% of their loan portfolio in 1992-93 and 1993-94 to a little below 20% in 1994-95. Besides, the first phase of deregulation of interest rate has been successfully carried out.

Industrially Backward Areas

430 SHRI T. SUBBARAMI REDDY Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether a study conducted for monitoring Indian economy have suggested that norms adopted

by the Union Government for classifying districts as industrially backward be revised;

(b) if so, the main features thereof,

(c) whether the Government have examined the said report, and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the recommendations of the said report are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No such Study has been conducted at the behest of the Ministry of Industry

(b) to (d) Do not arise

Foreign Banks

431 SHRI S. D. N. R. WADIYAR Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the details of foreign banks country-wise operating in India;

(b) the places where these banks have set up their branches, and

(c) the extent to which these banks are helping in the expansion of trade and industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Details of foreign banks operating in India country-wise and places where they have set up their branches as reported by RBI are given in the attached statement

(c) The market share of foreign banks in branch network aggregate deposits and advances (excluding inter bank deposits and advances) of all scheduled commercial banks as on 31 March 1994 and 31 March 1995 were as under

(Rs in crore)

	Branches as on		Aggregate Deposits As on last reporting		Bank Credit Fridays of	
	31.3.94	31.3.95	1993-94	1994-95	1993-94	1994-95
All Sch. Commercial Banks	61630	62100	3,15,132	3,86,859	1,64,418	2,11,560
Foreign Banks	146	151	24,886	27,641	10,964	15,471
Share of Foreign Banks (%)	0.24	0.24	7.90	7.14	6.67	7.31

STATEMENT

Details of foreign banks operating in India country-wise and places where they have set up their branches

S. No.	Name of the foreign bank	Country	Places where branches opened	and number
1	2	3	4	
1.	American Express Bank	U.S.A.	Mumbai	1
			Calcutta	1
			New Delhi	1
			Madras	1 (4)
2.	Bank of America	U.S.A.	Mumbai	1
			Calcutta	1
			New Delhi	1
			Madras	1 (4)
3.	Citibank	U.S.A.	Mumbai	2
			Calcutta	2
			New Delhi	1
			Madras	1 (6)
4.	Chase Manhattan Bank	U.S.A.	Mumbai	1 (1)
5.	British Bank of Middle East	U.K.	Mumbai	1
			Trivandrum	1 (2)
6.	Standard Chartered Bank	U.K.	Amritsar	1
			Mumbai	6
			Calcutta	8
			Cochin	1
			Kanpur	1
			Madras	3
			Delhi	2
			Goa	1
			Calicut	1 (24)
7.	Barclays Bank	U.K.	Mumbai	1
			New Delhi	1 (2)
8.	Banque Nationale de Paris	France	Mumbai	1
			Calcutta	1
			New Delhi	1
			Bangalore	1
			Pune	1 (5)
9.	Banque Indosuez	France	Mumbai	1 (1)
10.	Societe Generale	France	Mumbai	1
			New Delhi	1
			Bangalore	1 (3)
11.	Credit Lyonnais	France	Mumbai	1
			New Delhi	1
			Ahmedabad	1 (3)
12.	Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi Ltd	Japan	Mumbai	1
			Calcutta	1
			New Delhi	1 (3)
13.	Sakura Bank Ltd	Japan	Mumbai	1 (1)
14.	Sanwa Bank Ltd	Japan	New Delhi	1 (1)
15.	Fuji Bank	Japan	Mumbai	1 (1)

1	2	3	4	
16	Deutsche Bank	Germany	Mumbai	1
			Delhi	1
			Bangalore	1 (3)
17	Dresdner Bank	Germany	Mumbai	1 (1)
18	Commerzbank	Germany	Mumbai	1 (1)
19	ANZ Grindlays Bank plc	Australia	Mumbai	12
			Amritsar	2
			Bangalore	1
			Calcutta	18
			Cochin	1
			Ernakulam	1
			Darjeeling	1
			Delhi	10
			Kanpur	1
			Madras	4
			Coimbatore	1
			Simla	1
			Srinagar	1
			Guwahati	1
			Hyderabad	1 (56)
20	Hongkong Bank	Hongkong	Mumbai	7
			Calcutta	9
			Madras	1
			Visakhapatnam	1
			Delhi	2
			Bangalore	1 (2)
21	Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank Ltd	U A E	Mumbai	1 (1)
22	Mashreq Bank	U A E	Mumbai	1 (1)
23	Oman International Bank SAO	Sultanate of Oman	Mumbai	1 (2)
			Cochin	1
24	Bank of Baharain & Kuwait BSC	Baharain	Mumbai	1
			Hyderabad	1 (2)
25	Bank of Nova Scotia	Canada	Mumbai	1
			Delhi	1 (2)
26	ABN Amro Bank NV	Netherland	Mumbai	1
			Calcutta	1
			New Delhi	1
			Madras	1 (4)
27	ING Bank	Netherland	Mumbai	1 (1)
28	Sonali Bank	Bangladesh	Calcutta	1 (1)
29	Arab Bangladesh Bank	Bangladesh	Mumbai	1 (1)
30	State Bank of Mauritius Ltd	Mauritius	Mumbai	1 (1)
31	Development Bank of Singapore	Singapore	Mumbai	1 (1)
32	Bank of Ceylon	Sri Lanka	Madras	1 (1)
33	Siam Commercial Bank PCL	Thailand	Mumbai	1 (1)
34	Bank International Indonesia	Indonesia	Mumbai	1 (1)
35	Chinatrust Commercial Bank	Taiwan	New Delhi	1 (1)
36	Co Hung Bank	South Korea	Mumbai	1 (1)
	Summary	(i) No of foreign banks		36
		(ii) No of branches		165

Right of Franchise to Prisoners

432. SHRI PINAKI MISRA :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

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

(a) whether the All India Lawyers' Forum for Civil Liberties had appealed on the eve of recent general elections to the Lok Sabha to ensure that over 2.5 million prisoners in different jails in the country are able to exercise their right of franchise; and

(b) if so, the arrangements made for securing due exercise of their democratic right?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : The flood situation in Agra, Mathura, Rajasthan and Haryana is grim. Hon'ble Prime Minister had visited Agra. I would like to inform him that no relief has reached Agra where flood situation is grim. Many people have died. Property of crores of rupees has been lost. The flood menace is prevailing for the last 15 days. Services of Army were sought but have not so far been provided. This has resulted in great havoc. Relief operation is going on very slowly. I, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Prime Minister to take action to start immediate and long term relief operations.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will ask the Government to look into this

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : I would like to say to the Hon'ble Prime Minister that inspite of his assurance, no relief work has been started. We have made requests several time

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Prime Minister has listened to what you have said. I have already told them

(Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : There is also flood in Rajasthan... (Interruptions)

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : I would like to raise a matter on Monghyr... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I am on my legs now. You cannot stand up. Please sit down. That is not the way, please sit down.

Hon. Members, I have a special request to make to you to cooperate with me. Today is the Private Members' day; in the afternoon we will take up Private Members' Business. Before that we have to dispose of the Resolution on Kashmir because today is the last day. It has to go to Rajya Sabha on Monday. So today it has to be completed. Also, we are going to have the election of the hon. Deputy Speaker today. If we proceed with the Zero Hour, we will not have enough time to dispose of all these items. Therefore I have decided not to proceed with the Zero Hour today.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : I request to Hon'ble Prime Minister..

MR. SPEAKER : Please co-operate. Today election for the office of Deputy Speaker is to be held. There is very little time left. I have requested Hon'ble Prime Minister to look into the matter raised by you. You are not listening to me. Please sit down, this is not allowed

12.04 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Reports and Review of the working of the Scooters India Ltd., Lucknow for 1994-95 and statement for delay in laying these papers

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : 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 Scooters India Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1994-95

- (ii) Annual Report of the Scooters India Limited, Lucknow for the year 1994-95, 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 37/96]

Notifications Under Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 :

- (i) G.S.R. 213(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th May, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to waive payment of excise duty on parts and components fabricated and captively used for building a body on the chasis of a motor vehicle for the period commencing on the 28th day of February 1993 and ending with the 28th day of February, 1994.
- (ii) G.S.R. 254(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th June 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide that whole of the duty of Central Excise leviable on lime stone and captively consumed in the manufacture of cement clinkers shall not be required to be paid
- (iii) The Adhoc Exemption Order No. 38/3/96-CX dated the 19th March, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to certain exciseable goods procured from certain manufacturers mentioned in the notification from the whole of the duties of excise upto the 31st March, 1996
- (iv) The Adhoc Exemption Order No. 40/5/96-CX dated the 2nd April 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to quantity of excisable goods and procured from manufacturers as mentioned in the notification from the so much of the duty of excise leviable thereon upto the 31st March, 1997

- (v) The Adhoc Exemption Order No. 41/6/96-CX dated the 2nd April, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to certain hospital laundry equipment mentioned in the notification from the whole of the duties of excise leviable thereon

[Placed in Library See No. LT 38/96]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 117(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1996 enlarging the scope of Section 293A of the Income Tax Act 1961 in relation to participation in the business of prospecting for, extraction, etc. of Minerals Oils, under sub-section (3) of section 293A of the said Act

[Placed in Library See No. LT 39/96]

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 174(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd April 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking exemption to the taxable services provided by the telegraph authority to 55 specified Diplomatic Missions or members thereof from the whole of Service Tax leviable thereon under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act 1994

[Placed in Library See No. LT 40/96]

- (4) A copy of the Coinage (Standard Weight and Remedy of Commemorative Coins of Two Rupees and Five Rupees Cupro Nickel Alloy (Containing Copper 75 percent and Nickel 25 percent) coined from "8th World Tamil Conference 1995") Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 135(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 1996 under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Coinage Act 1906

[Placed in Library See No. LT 41/96]

Statement showing action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during various sessions of 8th, 9th and 10th Lok Sabha

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.P. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) I beg to lay on the Table on a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the

various sessions of Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Lok Sabha :-

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| (1) Statement No. XXXIV - Eighth Session, 1987
[Placed in Library See No. LT 42/96] |] Eighth
Lok Sabha |
| (2) Statement No. XLII - Tenth Session, 1988
[Placed in Library See No. LT 43/96] | |
| (3) Statement No. XXXIX - Second Session, 1990
[Placed in Library See No. LT 44/96] |] Ninth
Lok Sabha |
| (4) Statement No. XXXIV - Third Session, 1990
[Placed in Library See No. LT 45/96] | |
| (5) Statement No. XXXIII - First Session, 1991
[Placed in Library See No. LT 46/96] |] Tenth
Lok Sabha |
| (6) Statement No. XXIX - Third Session, 1992
[Placed in Library See No. LT 47/96] | |
| (7) Statement No. XXVI - Fourth Session, 1992
[Placed in Library See No. LT 48/96] | |
| (8) Statement No. XXIV - Fifth Session, 1992
[Placed in Library See No. LT 49/96] | |
| (9) Statement No. XXIII - Sixth Session, 1993
[Placed in Library See No. LT 50/96] | |
| (10) Statement No. XIX - Seventh Session, 1993
[Placed in Library See No. LT 51/96] | |
| (11) Statement No. XVIII - Eighth Session, 1993
[Placed in Library See No. LT 52/96] | |
| (12) Statement No. XVI - Ninth Session, 1994
[Placed in Library See No. LT 53/96] | |
| (13) Statement No. XI - Eleventh Session, 1994
[Placed in Library See No. LT 54/96] | |
| (14) Statement No. IX - Twelfth Session, 1994
[Placed in Library See No. LT 55/96] | |
| (15) Statement No. VII - Thirteenth Session, 1995
[Placed in Library See No. LT 56/96] | |
| (16) Statement No. IV - Fourteenth Session, 1995
[Placed in Library See No. LT 57/96] | |
| (17) Statement No. II - Fifteenth Session, 1995
[Placed in Library See No. LT 58/96] | |
| (18) Statement No. I - Sixteenth Session, 1996
[Placed in Library See No. LT 59/96] | |

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada) : Sir, I have a submission to make. I wish to draw your attention to item No. 4...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is going on?

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the matter is very serious. There is no law and order in Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will come back to you. I will see him first.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL : Mr Speaker, Sir, 20 persons have been killed in Bihar in a single day. This is a very serious matter. There is nothing like Government in Bihar.

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, I draw your attention to...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Mr Speaker, Sir, there is no law and order in Bihar. There is nothing like a Government. 20 persons have been killed in a single day. 8 persons have been massacred in Monghyr. 5 persons were killed in Bhojpur. There is no law and order.

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Item No. 4 relates to action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various Sessions of the Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Lok Sabhas and the earliest Report relates to the Eighth Session of 1987, that is after ten years the Action Taken Report is coming before this House. The Ministers give all sorts of assurances in the House and when it comes to fulfilling the assurances, they are not prompt in fulfilling them and the Committee on Government Assurances takes no notice of these issues. But in spite of that, Ministers are reluctant to fulfil the assurances. Now, we have this Action Taken Report after ten years and it has no relevance at this stage. We want you to give the guidelines to the Ministers as well as to the Assurance Committee on how long this procedure is to be continued, whether it is two years or four years or five years. There is no meaning if they submit the Report after ten years. I do not blame this Government but you should give the general guidelines to the Committee as well as to the Ministers.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Upendra, I think, the guidelines are already available. The proper course for you is to go to the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table.

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada) : It is the Committee on Government Assurances.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, you are right.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry, but it is because of the constraint of time.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Bangarappa, really, it is not that I do not want to allow you. I understand the importance of the issues which are to be raised by all the hon. Members. But, sometimes, we have to work under certain constraints. Some other important things are there. You had been a Chief Minister. You know how difficult it is.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Bangarappa, will you kindly cooperate with me?

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter.

[English]

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, would you allow me just for a minute? Yesterday...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I beg of you, Bangarappa, to kindly cooperate with me today. I must apologize to you. Mr. Bangarappa, I promised you yesterday, but today the situation is such I did not anticipate. I am sorry. It is my fault. Please, cooperate with me today because if I allow one issue to be raised, then I have to give equal opportunity to others.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Sir, I am very sorry...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, as the Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances, I have seen a number of instances where the Committee had recommended...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please let me say something.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Very serious matter. There is no law and order in Bihar. Therefore, I would like to raise this matter. There is no Government worth the name in Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me. You first listen to me.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHAMANANDA MANDAL : This is a very serious matter... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, this is not allowed.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot behave like this in the House. Please listen to me.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do you know when the Speaker is standing, you cannot stand? Will you kindly learn some norms?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Again you are doing the same thing.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHALAD PATEL (Sivani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, three MPs under the leadership of Kumari Uma Bharti are sitting on Dharna in front of Rail Bhawan demanding conversion of meter gauge line into broad gauge line.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I understand every issue is important.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Can you listen to me? Why can't the House listen to the Speaker? What is this?

Mr. Bangarappa, during the Zero Hour you get only a couple of minutes and you don't get the response from the Government. If you raise this matter under Rule 377, Government is supposed to reply to what extent the action is taken. But if you raise it in the Zero Hour, no action is contemplated from the Government. During the Zero Hour, you just raise the issue. This is the practice. On an issue like Cauvery, I do not think you are benefited by raising it during the Zero Hour. Why don't you come through some other method? Why don't you come through some other motion? I will consider it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : I know all these Rules, Sir, with your kind permission I would like to submit one thing. I not only tried to raise this matter during the Zero Hour but I have sent a notice under Rule

377 also because I know the position of raising the matter during the Zero Hour. Yesterday I tried to raise this matter during the Zero Hour. But you said, 'I am going to take up this matter as the first item tomorrow', i.e. today. Sir, what happened? You said there are some other urgent matters. But you are not telling what happened to that notice. You please protect us.

MR. SPEAKER : Matter under Rule 377 is balloted. I don't have any hand in that.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : The matter may not be taken up today because you are hard pressed for time. The matter may be postponed to Monday or Tuesday or to some other day. Cauvery matter is not a small matter. It is an urgent matter. You know the importance. I am appealing to you. You please try to protect us. You suggest me some other Rule to which I can take recourse to so that we can raise the matter today itself. You please suggest. Other Members have also given notice. The matter is very urgent.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Bangarappa, you kindly come to my Chamber. We will discuss. We will find a way out. We will meet today. We will explore the possibilities as to how it can be done.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, you allowed me to speak... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is nothing like a Government in Bihar. (Interruptions) I want to know as to whether Union Government is ready to take any responsibility of that state or not. (Interruptions) Such incidents are taking place. We want your protection for raising this issue. (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, that Government has no justification to remain in power. Thirty people are killed in a single day. The Minister of Home Affairs should make a statement in this regard. (Interruptions) There is nothing like a Government in Bihar state. A parallel Government of the criminals, led by persons of ruling party is running there. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please allow him to speak. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed him to speak. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not go beyond that. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, this matter should go to the Committee on the Papers Laid on the Table of the House. I have given a ruling to Shri

Upendra, that this matter should go to the Committee on the Papers Laid on the Table of the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I was the Chariman of the Assurance Committee for more than two years and I have seen a number of recommendations made by the Assurance Committee. Those recommendations have not been implemented by the different Ministries. So, I would like you, Sir, to direct the Government so that the assurance given on the floor of the House are implemented within the stipulated time, that is, within three months. I feel that the recommendations made, particularly by the Assurance Committee should not be ignored. Those recommendations should be implemented by the different Ministries and that type of a direction should be made by the hon. Speaker.

Sir, I have another urgent matter to be raised regarding the hunger strike by the Central Government employees *(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER No No That is your way of doing How do you confuse me? Why do you try to confuse me like this?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) Mr Speaker, Sir, I had no intention to speak today without your permission *(interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER No, no, you please speak

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE Sir, you have given an opportunity to an hon'ble member of Bihar to highlight the terrible situation emerged out by Kala-azar. But I don't think that the situation has been presented in the House with utmost concern. Kala-azar has assumed the form of an epidemic. Hundreds of people are dying. Medicines are not available there. Yesterday, I saw a TV programme in which it was stated that doctors are saying that medicines are to be sent from Delhi but Delhi is unaware of this. Children are dying. People are dying. Like every year, this year also the epidemic has assumed its extreme form. This issue has been raised but no result has come out. I request you to draw the attention of the Government towards this and to ask the Government to make a statement on this.

MR SPEAKER Is there anything from the Government on this? This is quite a serious thing.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA) : Sir, on this issue, the Government would like to make a statement. After collecting a

detailed information a statement will be made on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER : Today?

SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA : If it is possible, today; or else on Monday...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Okay, it has got the attention of the Government. I think, it is enough.

12.18 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA) : Sir, with your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday the 15th July, 1996 will consist of

- 1 Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper
- 2 Discussion on the Statutory Resolutions seeking disapproval of the following Ordinances and consideration and passing of the Bills replacing these Ordinances
 - (a) The Supreme Court and High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Amendment Ordinance, 1996
 - (b) The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Ordinance, 1996
 - (c) The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 1996
 - (d) The Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Ordinance, 1996
 - (e) The Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Ordinance, 1996
- 3 General Discussion on the Railway Budget for 1996-97
- 4 Discussion and Voting on Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 1996-97

As Members are aware that the Railway Budget for 1996-97 will be presented on Tuesday, the 16th July, 1996 immediately after Question Hour.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) Mr Speaker, Sir, in Punjab, for the last 3 years crops

and houses have been destroyed due to floods. The amount of relief fund given was not utilised properly. It should be looked into.

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Saheb, the discussion on this is already going on in the House. Time has been allotted for this. You have given your submission regarding petroleum products, and that also has been taken up for discussion in the House.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Sir, this is relating to floods.

MR. SPEAKER : But what you have given is not on floods, that is on petroleum products.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am speaking on floods.

MR. SPEAKER : Well, you may speak.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Punjab and Haryana suffer losses due to floods in river Ghaghar and crops and houses worth crores of rupees are destroyed. I would like to request the Government, through you, that a dam should be constructed there. Dam will help in two ways. One is that will help in controlling flood and the other is that water can be utilised for irrigation purposes. I would like to know, through you, as to whether the Government would provide funds for that dam.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : The following subjects may please be included in the next week's agenda

- (1) Need to provide additional quota to Gas Agencies to meet the ever increasing demand of persons who are in the waiting list in district Ajmer
- (2) Need to provide special assistance by the Central Government for starting dredging work in Pushkar Sarovar at the famous pilgrims and tourist centre Pushkar

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : The following subjects may please be included in the next week's agenda

- (1) For the last 15 years not a single new Post Office in the district of Kota, Boondi and Batran has been sanctioned by the Ministry of Telecommunications. At present a Post Office is being run in the ruins of Kota estate on a rent of one rupee a month, where the employees experience difficulty and all mail gets wet.
- (2) The 10 MW capacity transformer in Boondi is not working with full capacity as a result of which the TV sets of the customers of this region (Kota, Boondi, Batran) get damaged. Please allow discussion on this.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : Sir, I request that the following may be included in the next week's agenda :

- (1) India's sports policy : preparedness for Atlanta Olympics, problems of team selection, funding and training.
- (2) India's atomic energy programme, the power generation targets and lack of funding, and the strategic preparedness in view of Pakistan's reported nuclear capability, and recent development on the CTBT.

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request that the following may be included in the next week's agenda :

- (1) Bone Mills illegally running in Hapur (Ghaziabad) should immediately be got closed as these Bone Mills are creating pollution in the entire area as a result of which local people are suffering from various diseases.
- (2) CBI inquiry may be made into the corruption rampant in Ghaziabad Development Authority.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I request that the following may be included in the next week's agenda

- (1) Indefinite hunger strike by the Central Government employees demanding interim relief before final award due to inordinate delay in finalising the Report of Pay Commission.
- (2) Serious situation arising out of the closure of Howrah Goods Shed thereby crippling the economy of West Bengal as well as the Indian Railways.

[English]

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur) : Sir, I request that the following may be included in next week's agenda

- (1) Prasar Bharati Amendment Bill
- (2) Lok Pal Bill

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in next week's agenda

- (1) Samastipur in one of the backward areas of Bihar. There are only two sugar mills, one sick jute mill and one closed Paper Mill in

this area. In the circumstances, the Rail Factory should not be closed down, rather it should be expanded so as to provide employment to the local residents.

- (2) The proposal of gauge conversion of Samastipur-Khagaria meter gauge rail line should be taken into consideration

[English]

PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri) Sir, following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

- (1) To improve tourism in northern part of West Bengal
- (2) Revival of aerodromes at Ambari, Falakata and Jalapaiguri

▲ 12.25 hrs.

MOTION RE: CONSTITUTION OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : I beg to move

"That a Joint Committee of the Houses to be called the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit be constituted consisting of fifteen members, ten from this House and five from the Rajya Sabha, who shall be elected from amongst the members of each House in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote

That the functions of the Joint Committee shall be -

- (i) to examine the composition and character of all existing "committees" [other than those examined by the Joint Committee to which the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill, 1957 was referred] and all "committees" that may hereafter be constituted, membership of which may disqualify a person for being chosen as, and for being a member of either House of the Parliament under article 102 of the Constitution
- (ii) to recommend in relation to the "committees" examined by it what offices should disqualify and what offices should not disqualify.

- (iii) to scrutinise from time to time the Schedule to the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, and to recommend any amendments in the said Schedule, whether by way of addition, omission or otherwise

That the Joint Committee shall, from time to time report to both Houses of Parliament in respect of all or any of the aforesaid matters.

That the members of the Joint Committee shall hold office for the duration of the present Lok Sabha:

That in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Committee.

That in other respects the rules of procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees will apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make and

That this House recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the said Joint Committee and to communicate to this House the names of the members to be appointed by the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is

"That a Joint Committee of the Houses to be called the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit be constituted consisting of fifteen members, ten from this House and five from the Rajya Sabha, who shall be elected from amongst the members of each House in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote

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- (ii) to recommend in relation to the "committees" examined by it what offices should disqualify and what offices should not disqualify.
- (iii) to scrutinise from time to time the Schedule to the Parliament (Prevention of

Disqualification) Act, 1959, and to recommend any amendments in the said Schedule, whether by way of addition, omission or otherwise :

That the Joint Committee shall, from time to time, report to both Houses of Parliament in respect of all or any of the aforesaid matters;

That the members of the Joint Committee shall hold office for the duration of the present Lok Sabha:

That in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Committee;

That in other respects, the rules of procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees will apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

That this House recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the said Joint Committee and to communicate to this House the names of the members to be appointed by the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee"

The motion was adopted

12.28 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Motion Re. *First Report*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : I beg to move .

"That this House do agree with the First Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 11th July, 1996"

MR SPEAKER : The question is

"That this House do agree with the First Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 11th July, 1996"

The motion was adopted

12.29 hrs.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY-SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we have a very important item of the agenda. We take up the Motions of the Election of Deputy-Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

SHRI SHRAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That Shri Suraj Bhan, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, I second the Motion.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move :

"That Shri Suraj Bhan, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of the House".

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I second the Motion on behalf of Shrimati Vijayaraje Scindia.. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, what about Shrimati Vijayaraje Scindia?

MR SPEAKER : She has sent the letter to me Mr Chatterjee is very very particular

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move

"That Shri Suraj Bhan, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House"

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, PENSIONS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S R BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : Sir, I second the Motion

[Translation]

DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : Sir, I beg to move

"That Shri Suraj Bhan, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

[English]

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) : Sir, I second the Motion.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA (Sangrur) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That Shri Suraj Bhan, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Sir, I second the Motion.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That Shri Suraj Bhan, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Sir, I second the Motion.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move :

"That Shri Suraj Bhan, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

SHRI O P JINDAL (Kurukshetra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I second the Motion.

[English]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That Shri Suraj Bhan, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

[Translation]

DR SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) : Sir, I second the Motion on behalf of Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That Shri Suraj Bhan, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai North-East) : Sir, I second the Motion.

MR. SPEAKER : Since there are a number of Motions moved, I will put the first Motion moved by Shri Sharad Pawar to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That Shri Suraj Bhan, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House"

The Motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : I declare that Shri Suraj Bhan has been chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House.

12.33 hrs.

(Shri Suraj Bhan was conducted to his seat by the Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, the Leader of the House, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri Santosh Mohan Dev.)

12.34 hrs.

FELICITATIONS TO DEPUTY SPEAKER

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the leader of the House, I on behalf of the House, thank and congratulate Shri Suraj Bhan, who is a Senior Member of the Lok Sabha and is like my brother, for having been the post of Deputy Speaker. This is the democracy that despite all differences, we have always been respectful to the conventions and demands of democracy and have expressed our faith in Parliamentary democracy. The day Shri Suraj Bhan was nominated for the post of Deputy Speaker and as soon as my colleague, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Jena suggested his name to the Prime Minister, immediately the Prime Minister had expressed his satisfaction over it and said that this is very good and should be done.

We have had a long standing association. In 1977 when I first joined the Parliament, Shri Suraj Bhan was an experienced member even at that time. We got an opportunity to work together. We were members of Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Again we worked together in the Parliamentary Forum and wherever atrocities were committed on the poor, we went there together and worked for them. Even when he was not an elected M.P., the way he handled the work in the states was commendable. It is not because he belongs to the Scheduled Caste but I have seen that Shri Suraj Bhan is well-endowed with what we call talent. He is a very talented person. He is M.A.B.L. He goes deep in the subject whatever it may be. Shri Suraj Bhan is a very capable person in this regard. He is a lawyer by profession and is well known as a social activist. I believe that the eminence of this post will rise further when he takes charge and on behalf of the Government and the

United Front Government, I would like to give an assurance that we will extend our full cooperation to our brother Shri Suraj Bhan. As a Deputy Speaker, Shri Suraj Bhan would not only be honouring this post with his presence but would also pay attention to the welfare of the poor and the underprivileged through Parliamentary democracy.

With these words, once again on my behalf and on behalf of my United Front Government, I extend my hearty congratulations and good wishes to Shri Suraj Bhan on having been elected to the post of Deputy Speaker.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself fully with the views expressed by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. These are rare occasions when we agree on a point but today that fortunate moment has arrived. Hon. Deputy Speaker has been elected unanimously. It also proves that in spite of differences, we have unanimous views on some democratic values.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you were also elected unanimously. After that when the question of hon. Deputy Speaker's election arose, we consulted the ruling party and when this matter was brought to the notice of hon. Prime Minister, he readily agreed to it. He also liked the name of Shri Suraj Bhan. Shri Suraj Bhan has been elected Member of Parliament for the fourth time. He is hard working, vocal, has been raising issues and has been contributing in an important manner to the move to bring change in the society by coordinating his activities in the House with those of outside the House. I am a bit concerned that a vocal and active Member from my side would engage himself in a bid to silence our voices but I am sure that Suraj Bhan ji, after holding the office of Deputy Speaker will follow your foot steps and will safeguard our rights and the dignity of the House and provide an opportunity to each and every Member to speak.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in democracy
.. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I do not mind exchanging places with him.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in democracy the Government has to perform its responsibilities but the opposition has to ventilate its views. Just like we say in English that

[English]

Government must have its way, but the opposition must have its say.

[Translation]

The difficulty arises when the Government does not do its work in a proper manner and the voice of the Opposition is silenced but I do not want to indulge myself in this matter at this point of time.

[English]

DR. MALLIKARJUN (Mahabubnagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not "say". Actually, it is "The Government should have the way, but the Opposition should play."

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Play what?

DR. MALLIKARJUN : Whatever you want to play
.. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate Shri Suraj Bhan ji on my own behalf as well as on behalf of my party. I would also like to thank all the Members of the House because Members of all the parties proposed his name and also supported it. Now, he is not affiliated to us and for him now all the parties have equal status. I am sure that he will impart justice to all.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, keeping with the traditions of the House, today we have elected the Deputy-Speaker of the House from the main Opposition Party. As far as I know this is the first time when the posts of the Speaker and the Deputy-Speaker have gone to the Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste candidates. The days of Brahmins are over it seems.
.. (Interruptions) We are very very happy, Sir.

As very rightly said by my friend Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Shri Srikanta Jena rang me up sometime in the night - I do not know when he talked to others and said that this was their thinking. I rang up my leader and he immediately said, "Yes, that should be done", and it was accepted by all of us.

Shri Suraj Bhan is sitting very close to Shri Vajpayee. But his mind should be close to us and not close to Shri Vajpayee. In Shri Suraj Bhan we have seen a very active Member in 1980-85 when we were also Members. I have also seen him participating in the debates.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am quite sure that the combination of you and Shri Suraj Bhan will give a better chance to us who are neither on this side nor that side. We look forward to getting the same sympathy which we used to get in the past from Shri Mallikarjun-iah. We remember today the former Deputy-Speaker Shri Mallikarjun-iah. I do not know who selected him, whether it was Mr. Vajpayee or all of us, but he was a very good Deputy-Speaker. He

played a very useful role. Like Shri Shivraj Patil who will always be remembered as a very good Speaker, we remember and miss today Shri Mallikarjuniah who was a very good Deputy-Speaker. I am sure Shri Suraj Bhan will also prove to be a very good Deputy-Speaker. I am sure Shri Suraj Bhan will follow his policy, his decisions and his wisdom. He has seen what the Zero Hour is. I wish him all the best

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate Shri Suraj Bhan as he is being elected unanimously today for the office of the Deputy Speaker. I am very happy that today such a member who has vast experience and who is an active person, has been elected for this post. He is known to us since 1980, when he was elected for the first time for the Seventh Lok Sabha. He is aware as to how the problems of the general people of the country have to be raised in Lok Sabha. He used to raise serious issue in the House as per procedure. At present, about half of the strength of Lok Sabha is of new members. Of course, they would like to raise here the problems of their respective constituencies. We hope that Shri Suraj Bhan will be impartial. Thus our convention will be maintained and the dignity of this House will further be strengthened after his election for the office of Deputy Speaker. Our party will give full cooperation to him. We hope that you will safeguard the convention of this House. I conclude my speech with greeting Shri Suraj Bhan.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Mr Speaker, Sir, today I feel happy that Mr. Surajbhan who has got faith in Maryada Purosotham has become the Deputy Speaker of this House. We are more jubilant because the entire House has elected him. I mean he is the unanimous choice of the entire House. Mr Speaker, Sir, you were also elected in the same way. I fully hope that the House will function properly with both of you at the helm of affairs. May be that we will fight among ourselves because of our problems but while you are presiding we expect justice from you and a balanced thinking. Whatever is our problem is a problem of our people. Mr. Surajbhan will run this House in the same way as you run the House in order to reach the common man and will try to render justice to our cause when called for. More than this 287 new members have been elected here this time. There is a need to take care of them all. What I see is that the members here fell tempted to raise their issues but they do not get opportunity to this effect. Gradually they will get this opportunity. As the days pass they will get opportunity to raise matters.

My humble request to Surajbhanji is that he is an old member of this House and he should take proper care of newly elected members. It will take

time to know each of them personally, but when names will be known, then I fully hope that new members will get opportunity to raise their issues and they will be given adequate opportunities.

I congratulate Shri Surajbhanji on my behalf and on behalf of my party and hope that he will do good things commensurate with the post of Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha and do hope that he will get opportunities to do good things in future.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA (Sangrur) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I feel very happy on the unanimous election of Shri Suraj Bhan today, and I congratulate him. Earlier you were also elected unanimously. Now he has been elected in the same manner. It is a good tradition that is being established in the House. After his unanimous election, entire House expects him to be impartial. Everyone would be treated equally by him. Every Member has such expectations from him. Just as you preside over the House, we expect the same from him also.

Shri Suraj Bhan has been a Member of this House earlier also. This time he has been elected for the fourth time. He was a Member along with me in 1977. He is a very sober person. He weighs every word before speaking. He never talks unnecessarily. He talks less. Unlike you, he seldom laughs. In this connection we certainly have a minor complaint against him.

I know him also because he is my neighbour. He belongs to Ambala. Therefore I know his private life also. This is his fourth term in this House. His present materialistic condition remains the same as it was when he was elected Member of this House for the first time. I think that it is a great quality that a person even after being elected a Member for the fourth time remains unchanged-simple and honest. Such is his quality, his style of working and his decency that not only the people of the Backward Classes but everyone has faith in him.

I feel happy that he has been elected unanimously. I expect him to work in the House cheerfully and treat every Member equally. With immense congratulations, I take my seat.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to congratulate Shri Suraj Bhan. I recall my experience of the Fourth Lok Sabha. At that time Shri Raghunath Rao Khandekar was the Speaker. During those days we used to wait for the moment when Mr. Speaker would leave the Chair and Deputy Speaker would occupy the Chair. The reason for this was because the Speaker has got vast powers and once he says 'no' means we cannot say anything after that. It has been noticed that how much light hearted he may be, how much sociable he may be but once he sits on the Chair, we have to be afraid of him but when the Deputy Speaker used to sit on the same Chair, we used to raise

those issues promptly that could not be raised in the morning. Though there was nothing like Zero Hour, but after lunch, the same process continued to be there for half an hour. With the Deputy Speaker in the Chair, we used to feel very easy in raising issues related to our areas.

I am recalling that. Just now Shri Santosh Mohan Dev has mentioned the name of the former Deputy Speaker, Shri Mallikarjunniah. He also managed to dispose the business of the House properly and efficiently.

Though, today he is not a Member of this House but I hope that he will return soon to this House and the entire House will get his contribution. I expect from Shri Suraj Bhan that he will maintain the dignity of the office of the Deputy Speaker for which he has been elected unanimously and will give his contribution to run the business of the House properly.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome the spirit of unanimity in respect of election to the Chair of Deputy Speaker. On behalf of my Party, RSP, I rise to welcome Shri Suraj Bhan. I express my pleasure and greetings, and I believe that his elevation to the Chair of Deputy Speaker will add to the glory of this House.

SHRI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, I also join all my hon. colleagues in expressing our joy at the unanimous election of Suraj Bhan Ji. About his ability, much has already been said, with which I fully agree. Coming from the backward section, I am sure that as Deputy Speaker, he will not only show care for every Member but will also show care particularly for women who are also among the backward sections.

Sir, I also join my friends who have expressed their appreciation of Mallikarjunniahji. He also had all these qualities. I am sure, Suraj Bhan Ji will add to the glory of this high position. With these words, I wish him all success to his Deputy Speakership.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, I join the distinguished colleagues of mine in this House to congratulate Shri Suraj Bhan Ji on this auspicious occasion of being unanimously elected as the Deputy Speaker of this august House. Sir, he is an old friend of mine. Not only I appreciate his friendship but also the cause he fights for. He belongs to the Scheduled Caste community and he has always been articulate in raising the issues which afflict his community. Broadly speaking, he is very articulate in raising the issues which relate to the under-privileged, the deprived and the lowest of the low. This is the new time which demands that those voices and hearts should be heard earlier and heard with sympathy and perception. Therefore, I feel when he sits there, he is as powerful as you are. Sir, as you have shown your ability or capacity to understand the feelings of

the Members in this House, likewise, I hope, there are aspirations that Suraj Bhan Ji would also appreciate the urges and feelings of the Members who represent the under-privileged and deprived section of the society.

13.00 hrs.

I am sure that he would offer opportunities to all irrespective of political persuasions and beliefs. I think his contribution will further strengthen the glorious traditions of this House and create new conventions and create new perceptions about the functioning of this House.

Sir, I join all of our colleagues in congratulating him on my behalf and on behalf of my party.

MR. SPEAKER : It is one o'clock now. With the permission of the House, we will dispose of this item. Shri G.G. Swell.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you, do not worry. Everybody will get a chance.

SHRI G.G. SWELL (Shillong) : Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that Shri Suraj Bhan has been elected to the high office of the Deputy-Speaker. He has been a friend of long standing.

Many many years ago when we were younger, we travelled this country together. There was never more of a gentleman than Shri Suraj Bhan, there was never a warmer friend, there was never a more courteous person and what I liked about him most was his disarming smile. Ever since, whenever we met, whether he was the Member of this House or whether I was a Member of this House, he had always received me with warmers. I am sure that this personality of his will emanate and imbue the spirit of this House. I have no doubt that he will do his duty as well as efficiently as you have done and I am sure that his disarming smile will disarm many of us even when we are seized with temper over various issues.

I wish him well and as far as I am concerned, I will give him all the support and cooperation that he needs in order to run this House properly just as I have been giving you the same support and cooperation. The dignity and the authority of the Chair must be upheld at all times in order that this House will run to order.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : I associate myself with the sentiments expressed in felicitating the Deputy-Speaker by the leaders of the House and I avail of this opportunity on my behalf as well as on behalf of my party, the Indian Union Muslim League to congratulate Shri Suraj Bhan for having been elected unanimously as the Deputy-Speaker of the House.

Like you, Mr. Speaker Sir, the former Speaker and the Deputy-Speaker were also very much sensitive to the issues raised here, especially for the down trodden, particularly of the minority communities and I am sure that Shri Suraj Bhan — though I did have the opportunity to know him, our acquaintance with him is limited — will also follow the footsteps of his predecessors as well as you, Mr. Speaker.

I may also remind him of his predecessor Shri Mallikarjunaiah. He had conducted the House with great dignity without fear or favour and also with affection and without ill-will to any of the Members. I am sure, that Shri Suraj Bhan will also follow much more than that Shri Mallikarjunaiah had done.

On this occasion, I extend all the cooperation to Shri Suraj Bhan and I am sure that he will also take every member, especially the smaller parties into the active consideration in the disposal of the functions as the Deputy-Speaker.

I wish him all success in his new assignment.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) Mr Speaker Sir, at the outset I would like to thank all the Members of this House for following the healthy democratic convention of electing Shri Suraj Bhan as Deputy Speaker unanimously. Though Shri Suraj Bhan belongs to Bhartiya Janta Party but we had alliance with B.J.P in the state of Haryana several times. At present also there is a Government of BJP - Haryana Vikas Party in Haryana.

He has done commendable work in Parliament and also outside, for Party's programmes and public life as well. Therefore, I would like to make a submission to Shri Surajbhan as I had requested you also, that newly elected Members should be paid special attention because senior Members of the House are always given a chance to speak even if they raise their hand for once. Therefore, it is your responsibility to safeguard the interest of the newly elected Members. Shri George was saying that Members used to raise long pending issues before the Deputy Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would expect from you that under your leadership new Members should be given more chances.

I thank all Members of the House once again and congratulate Shri Suraj Bhan for his election as Deputy Speaker. I also thank the leaders of Bhartiya Janata party for introducing such a popular candidate who is accepted to the entire House. I also thank Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee for this.

[English]

SHRI P. C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) Sir, on behalf on my Party, the Kerala Congress, I would also like to extend all felicitations to the new Deputy

Speaker, Shri Suraj Bhan, who is known to all of us. He is a man of great character, a man of great principles, a man who could implement his principles and a person who has been working for a long number of years for the poor and the down-trodden. I congratulate him on this occasion.

I would like to add one more point. The job of a person, who sits in the Chair, at a time when the television is always looking on us in this electronic media, is going to be very tough. The people have seen the live telecast of two Motions which we had recently. There is a feeling amongst the people of India that this House, while transacting business, is always going beyond the limits when the Members are shouting at each other or when the Members are rising above the limits which are expected from the Members of Parliament.

Sir, I think, this is going to be a very great duty which the person who sits on the Chair will have to take up and we assure the Deputy Speaker, as Chairman of this House when he presides over, all our support and we also felicitate him for his glorious election in the most befitting manner by all sides together.

So, I also join on this onerous occasion to thank him and to thank the House.

DR PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA (Guwahati) Mr Speaker, Sir, I also join the other learned Members of the House in felicitating Shri Suraj Bhan, the Deputy Speaker of this dignified House. The very manner in which Shri Suraj Bhan has been elected as the Deputy Speaker of this House speaks volumes of his integrity, of his great personality and also as a learned Member of this Parliament.

I, on my behalf and on behalf of the A.G.P., like to congratulate and felicitate Shri Suraj Bhan. I am hopeful that Shri Suraj Bhan will be able to maintain the dignity and honour of this onerous responsibility bestowed upon him.

I, as a new Member, will expect that Shri Suraj Bhan will give due facilities to express our viewpoints in this big and most dignified House of the People's representatives. Sir, small parties do not have scope to express their viewpoints. I do not know the logic behind it as to why the small parties get lesser time than the bigger parties. If this is the logic, then I think that this logic is illogical and I believe that a *modus operandi* or a rule should be framed by which these small parties will have equal amount of say to represent the viewpoints of the people they represent. That is why my urgent request to the new Deputy Speaker and also to the hon. Speaker will be that they give enough scope to the Members of new and small parties to represent their viewpoints. We are not very much conversant with the procedure and the *modus operandi* of the House and at times

we fumble. Whenever there is an agenda placed before the House, this agenda has been fluctuated very many different times. We come prepared for an agenda here in the House and sometimes it is not discussed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please, do not go into all these issues now. This is about felicitation. Why are you going into all those things?

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Sir, sometimes we see that the agenda is differed. Therefore, we want that there should be a procedure by which we may come prepared.

We are thankful to the hon. Speaker that tomorrow and day after there will be an orientation programme.

MR. SPEAKER : Please, why are you bringing in all those things?

(Interruptions)

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Sir, on behalf of myself and on behalf of my party A.G.P., I extend our felicitations to the new Deputy Speaker.

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA (Phillaur) : Sir, I on behalf of my party congratulate Shri Suraj Bhan on his unanimous election as the Deputy Speaker from that caste which was considered as *mook* and *mum*, but by receiving good education and political rights with the great struggle of Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar, he has reached to this very respectable position. I wish him success in life.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Sir, I am not in the habit of often raising my hand. I will just show my hand. I have been adopted heel in this august House. *(Interruptions)* I hope, Sir, you will kindly consider.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, you speak.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I join with the feelings of this entire House in congratulating Shri Suraj Bhan who has been elevated to the post of Deputy Speaker of this august House. Of course, I do not know him personally well. But I want to make a little distinction on this. All the hon. Members of the august House have already expressed about the great qualities that Shri Suraj Bhan is having. I am now going to join all my friends sitting over here in congratulating Shri Suraj Bhan. Certainly these parties will appeal to the new Members who are elected to this House, to extend cooperation to the new Deputy Speaker.

As far as the dignity, decorum, conventions and traditions of this august House are concerned, all these things are certainly going to be upheld and these have been very much kept in fact by our predecessors also. Therefore, we will certainly give all the cooperation that is required, to Shri Suraj Bhan in the matter of conducting the business of this

august House. I join you, Sir, in congratulating Shri Suraj Bhan who has filled up that post and I am sure he will uphold the dignity and decorum of this august House and also keep in mind, as has been said earlier by some of our friends, that there are bigger and smaller and medium political parties and there are some hon. Members who do not belong to any political party and he may keep in mind these things. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji was saying this. I think he was touching that aspect yesterday. He just did that a little yesterday.

I congratulate Shri Suraj Bhan and join the entire House in wishing him all success in future.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Pudukkottai) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I confer my felicitations profusely on Mr. Suraj Bhan for his having been elected as Deputy Speaker unanimously. This House has once again established its uniqueness of electing the Deputy Speaker from the Opposition side and the happiest part of this is that the hail from a suppressed community. Making use of this happy occasion of felicitating him, I would say that we, the new-comers, expect more chances for ourselves to speak, especially the youngsters as well as the backbenchers. We are sure that during your regime we will establish a new history and work for the welfare of this nation. Once again, we promise our fullest cooperation which the Members could give to the Chair and we expect the Chair to have a soft corner towards us - youngsters and new-comers.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I would like to join the whole House in congratulating Mr. Suraj Bhan on his unanimous election as Deputy Speaker of this august House. From the time I was elected as Speaker, I was thinking only about two things - how to conduct the business of this House and who was going to be a colleague of mine. Everyday, I was thinking about it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : In fact, I was very curious and even quietly wanted to know from this side and that side who was going to be the Deputy Speaker. When I ultimately came to know that there was only one name and that was of Mr. Suraj Bhan - the man who is so seasoned, who has a lot of experience in life - I was very happy.

I have known Mr. Suraj Bhan since 1977 when I came to this House for the first time in the Sixth Lok Sabha. I can tell you today that from now onwards, I am feeling very much relieved. Mr. Suraj Bhan will be a great strength, a big support to me. I look forward to working together and conducting the business of the House together.

Once again, I extend my heartiest congratulations to Mr. Suraj Bhan and wish him all the best and success.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before saying something on my election, I would like to quote an Urdu couplet :

"Pathar ki Bhi Takdir Badal Sakti Hai,
Shart Yeh Hai Ki Karine Se Tarasha Jaye"

Fortunately, I have got training from a reverend person like Shri Vajpayeeji and you have embellished me further. Whatever has been said about me for a while I was thinking as to for whom all this is being said. I would like to thank all of you. Despite difference of opinion in political matters, the precedent of the election of Hon'ble Speaker has been repeated once again, by electing me unanimously as Deputy Speaker in this august House. This in itself is a unique exposition of the dignity of the House. My heartiest thanks to all of you. This is a very great achievement of my political life. In this regard, motions have been moved by top leaders of the country which include the names of reverend Vajpayeeji, Rajmataji, Shri Chandrasekharji, Bhai Ram Vilas Paswan ji, Shri Balasubramoniyam ji, Shri Sharad Pawar Ji, Shri Santosh Mohan Dev ji, reverend Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi ji, Shri Surjit Singh Barnala ji, Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar ji, Shri George Fernandes ji, Shri Jai Prakash ji, Shri Om Prakash Jindal ji, Shri Nitish Kumar ji, Shri Pramod Mahajan ji, Shri Jagmohan ji, Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar ji and Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona.

All of you have given me this honour and have expressed your faith in me. I hope that you will cooperate and guide me in conducting the business of the House in discharging this responsibility. My unanimous election has awakened me to do my duty. I will consider it my duty to safeguard the interests of hon'ble Members while conducting the business of the House and for that I will sit on this Chair as your representative. I pray to the God to give me strength so that I can discharge my duties properly.

India is the largest democracy of the world. Sometimes doubts are raised about the existence of this democracy but the unanimous election of the hon'ble Speaker and Deputy Speaker has once again cleared these doubts and the democracy has been strengthened further. Thanks to all.

13.21 hrs.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTER

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Before we adjourn for lunch, the Prime Minister will kindly introduce one more

Minister to the House. The Minister was abroad when introduction was done last time.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H. D. DEVE GOWDA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to introduce my colleague Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya, Minister of Steel and Mines, to the House.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise an urgent issue regarding the safety of life of a person as the House will adjourn today for two days and will meet again on Monday.

CBI has filed a case in the court the witness of which is Shri Lakkhu Bhai Pathak. His life is in danger. It has been proved when he was being honoured by the institution working for anti-corruption. It is a question of a person's life. In this case, evidence of Chandraswami, who is in jail at present, is being recorded. It is but natural that people will be afraid due to unusual things taking place in the entire case. When he was being honoured, a bid to exchange blows took place there. (Interruptions) I would like to add one more sentence.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Fernandes, the whole matter is before the court. Why should we anticipate things in the House like that?

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, on behalf of CBI that person is being asked to leave the country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot allow that. Mr. Fernandes.

(Interruptions)

13.23 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (GENERAL) 93-94

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Demands for Excess Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1993-94.

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to introduce a Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : No. There is an objection at the introduction stage. I have received a notice of objection from an hon. Member to the introduction of this Bill. It will take time. So, we will do it after lunch. Now the House stands adjourned for lunch till 2.25 p.m.

13.24 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Twenty Five Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Thirty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

RE: CAUVERY WATER ISSUE

[English]

SHRI S BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your kind permission to raise a very important and urgent matter of public importance relating to the Cauvery issue. I would not like to take much of the time of the House. You may just allow me either under your residuary powers or under some other rules because the matter is so urgent. If you permit us to raise this matter in the next week, then it will lose all its importance.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay. Mr. Bangarappa, I am allowing you since I promised to you yesterday. This morning, it skipped my mind because we could not have the Zero Hour. As a special case I am allowing you, but please be brief.

SHRI S BANGARAPPA : Sir, I thank you for the same.

DR K.P RAMALINGAM (Tiruchengode) : Sir, kindly allow me also.

SHRI S BANGARAPPA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter relates to the Cauvery waters dispute. I would not like to say anything about the matter that is pending before the judicial authorities like the Supreme Court or the Tribunal constituted under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act 1956. I am confining myself to two or three aspects only. This is a matter that has to be settled amicably through mutual negotiations. That was the unanimous stand of all the political parties which was adopted through a unanimous resolution passed by both Houses of the Karnataka State Legislature. We expect the same thing from the other lower riparian States like Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry.

Sir, I am not against any of the States' share or the people there. It is not my concern. Four States are party to this dispute. Kerala, to some extent, and Karnataka form part of the upper riparian region and Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry fall under the lower riparian region. Now, I am not drawing your kind attention to the full details of the matter at all. I am confining myself to two or three matters only. One is, this matter can be taken up only after the National Water Policy is completely finalised by the Government of India. Already, a decision was taken by the previous Government headed by Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao. They had called the concerned State Governments for discussions and all these things have been gone into. The point is that till the National Water Policy is finalised, this matter should not be taken up because this matter will not be pertaining only to the Cauvery basin or something like that. There are so many basins all along the country and the matter relates to all of them. If one principle is adopted in respect of Cauvery basin by the Government of India, then in respect of other basin States, they cannot adopt the same principle. So, all those things have to be taken into account before this issue is taken up.

Now, this matter has engaged the attention of the Government of India and it is seriously thinking about it. I know that the hon. Prime Minister is also very seriously thinking on this subject because when he was the Chief Minister of Karnataka, he felt that till the National Water Policy is evolved, guidelines are prepared and adopted by all the concerned States, including the approval of the Government of India, this matter should not be taken up and till then the petitions pending before the Tribunal constituted under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act might be stayed. That is the stand of the Karnataka Government. When Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao was there, at that time, on the application made by Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry Governments, a direction was given by the Supreme Court to the Government of India, to Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao's Government, saying that the Government should intervene and call the concerned States to see that the temporary order passed by the Tribunal constituted under the Act was adhered to or something like that. Shri H.D. Deve Gowdaji when he was the Chief Minister of Karnataka State, ordered the release of five TMC of water and accordingly that water was released. Tamil Nadu has asked for more water. I am not trying to find fault with that argument. The point is this. Now another five TMC of water is again released by the present Government of Karnataka State.

In the catchment area, we have got four reservoirs in the basin. We have got sufficient water in the catchment area. We do not have sufficient water in our reservoirs. We cannot supply water to

the adjacent areas. When we do not have that much of water, where is the question of releasing this amount of water? That is the point. Five TMC of water is again released already by the State Government of Karnataka. It is left to them I am not interfering. But the point is, it has been done at the instance of or on the direction given by the Government of India, that too by the Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowdaji. Here is the crux of the whole matter. The entire matter hinges upon this point. Previously there was a direction by the Supreme Court to the then Government headed by Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao to do so. But now in the absence of such a direction by any court of law, where was the necessity for the Government of India to give a direction to State Government of Karnataka to release certain quantity of water? I would like to know whether Government has such a direction from the Supreme Court or not. That is number one. From the press reports, I do not have any information. I do not have any source of information. Therefore, I would like to know the exact position in the matter. The Prime Minister should give all the information. He should give a proper reply to the question as to why the Karnataka Government was asked by the Government of India to release this much of water. Now agitation is going on.

MR SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI S BANGARAPPA : Agitation is going on in cities like Mandya, Bangalore and others. That is why I requested you on a number of occasions to permit us to raise this issue. Since you have permitted us to raise this issue, through you I appeal to Government. Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji is sitting here. I think he is ready with some kind of answer. But anyway, we would like to have a reply today. I am not holding the House to ransom. You may not be knowing the exact position of the situation on hand. Therefore, I request the Government to make a reply today only since the agitation is going on there. Both the Houses in Karnataka are not, in fact, properly working at all. Yesterday also no transaction has taken place in the State. Therefore, I appeal through you that Government should come out with a statement on the subject. The Hon Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowdaji is coming now and I expect a reply from his side also.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Sir, according to the statistics provided by Karnataka Government on 1-7-96, out of 175 taluks in Karnataka, in 27 taluks, there has been very less rainfall. In 126 taluks, there has been no rainfall at all. This is the situation in Karnataka. The Karnataka State is reeling under severe drought situation. The total river water available in Cauvery river basin reservoirs is only 23 218 TMC feet of water. Our hon Prime Minister

Shri H.D. Deve Gowdaji has been the Irrigation Minister. He has been the PWD Minister of Karnataka. He was the Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly. He has fought many battles for the sake of Cauvery water. But when the reservoir's water capacity is only 23 TMC feet, the total water requirement for July, 96 of Karnataka is 24 TMC of water. Therefore, the entire Southern Karnataka and Bangalore city are short of drinking water. It is reeling under severe scarcity of water. When that is the situation, the Janata Dal Government in Karnataka has released 5 tmcft of water *suo motu* and according to our information this water has been released not according to the Supreme Court's decision. This water has been released not because of the Tribunal Award. This water has been released at the instance of the Hon Prime Minister. Therefore, we want to know through you, what made the hon Prime Minister give this instruction to the State Government of Karnataka. There have been serious doubts in the minds of the people of Karnataka. (Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER : Please conclude. After this the Resolution on Jammu & Kashmir has to be taken up.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR : As I said, there have been serious doubts in the minds of the people of Karnataka that for political reasons, for maintaining the U.F. alliance the hon Prime Minister has given the instructions to the Janata Dal Government in Karnataka, to the Chief Minister Shri J.H. Patel to release 5 tmcft of water.

MR SPEAKER : Please follow Shri Bangarappa by giving constructive suggestions only.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR : I would like to quote the debate of 5/4/1992. The hon Prime Minister was a Member of this House at that time and he said this.

MR SPEAKER : It is not a full debate. I cannot allow a debate on this. You wanted to raise a matter of concern. You have raised it. We are not on a debate on this issue.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR : Sir, I am concluding now. He said on 5/4/1992 and I quote.

"The Award of the Tribunal is the death sentence for the people of Karnataka."

Therefore, I demand only three things, through you, Sir. First of all, the former Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, has promised that the National River Water Policy would be enunciated and till the National River Water Policy was enunciated, the proceedings of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal would be stalled, after that, there would be *pro rata* distribution of water to these States. (Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER : You are converting it into a debate. I am very sorry. Please do not take undue advantage of my leniency.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR : I request the hon. Prime Minister to give a reply to this.. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Sir, at the outset, I would like to assure my friends from Tamil Nadu that we have nothing against Tamil Nadu. Now, only the political tinge of it will have to be understood. Our dear Prime Minister is sitting pretty here. The whole situation is aggravated. I am very sorry to say - have to use these very harsh words - that the stealthy way in which they released 5 tmcft of water from the reservoir to Tamil Nadu has aggravated the whole situation.

Now, Sir, a peculiar situation has arisen. The Chairman of the Tribunal has resigned. The Tribunal is not functioning. As has been suggested by the friends from Tamil Nadu, nothing is pending before the Supreme Court. It is only the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu who says : "We are going to file an application in the Supreme Court." Nothing is pending before the Court. Today, the standing crops are withering. The entire sowing operations are delayed because of the drought-like situation in the whole of Karnataka. I must, with a heavy heart today, say, on behalf of the people of Karnataka, that *(Interruptions)**

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI TG VENKATARAMAN) : There is a Tribunal Order. You cannot violate it. Do not mislead the House. We cannot keep quiet. You should withdraw it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V DHANANJAYA KUMAR : I have nothing against you. I would like to make one point. *(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER : I will go through the records. You cannot make this kind of a remark. It will not go on record.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V DHANANJAYA KUMAR : I am going to make one submission. *(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER : That is enough. No more.

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER : This is not the way.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V DHANANJAYA KUMAR : This is a constructive suggestion. *(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER : I just wanted to fulfil my commitment given to Shri Bangarappa. No more now. I think the Prime Minister wants to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V DHANANJAYA KUMAR : I would like to tell the Prime Minister that the people of Karnataka will never pardon him. *(Interruptions)*

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA) : Respected Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would request for your kind permission to say that in these sensitive matters normally it is not proper on the part of the Prime Minister to intervene. But the issue has been raised with a political motivation. There is nothing beyond that. I know under what circumstances this issue has been raised. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Water is released. *(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER : No, no, you listen to the Prime Minister. Let the Prime Minister speak. Let him complete.

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER : It is not fair. You have had your say. Please listen to the Prime Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR SPEAKER : That is not the way to behave. Think of your future. Do not be trimmy. This is not the way.

(Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : With your kind permission, I would like to clarify the position. First of all, the Government of India has not given any instructions to anybody, to any State. That is the first thing. Secondly, the matter is before the Supreme Court. The Tamil Nadu Government has filed a Writ of Mandamus to request the Supreme Court to issue directions to release water according to the Interim Award given by the Cauvery Tribunal. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V DHANANJAYA KUMAR : I am sorry, the Prime Minister is misleading the House. *(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR SPEAKER : If the Prime Minister is misleading the House, you have other options open to you. You cannot do it now here.

(Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Even the Supreme Court, the day before yesterday, adjourned the case for some other date - I do not know exactly because the matter was raised - either to 22nd or 24th, that is to next week. The matter is again going to come up before the Supreme Court. This is the first information. What I know, I am bringing to the knowledge of the House. I tell you very frankly that

on the Interim Award which was given by the Tribunal, the Karnataka Government has reacted about the effect or adverse impact of the Interim Award. But ultimately, the Government of India has published that Interim Award. I do not want to again narrate the entire story of what all happened previously. I do not want to do that. There is no use. It has already been notified by the Government of India which we all had protested. That is a different matter. Shri Bangarappa as the Chief Minister had passed an Act. That has also been struck down. That is also a different matter.

But I would like to make myself clear. It is not the question of mere a political compulsion that has made me to intervene. No. My stand - as the then Chief Minister of Karnataka's stands is that from the beginning we wanted to sort out this problem through negotiations, mutual discussions. As a Prime Minister, I have not given any direction because the matter is now between the concerned States. They are fighting their battle before the Supreme Court and before the Tribunal. That is the correct position.

Sir, I would like to again assure this House that there is no direction from the Government of India. That is number one.

If the State Governments want to sort out this problem through negotiations and through mutual discussions, we do not come in the way. Let me be very plain on this issue. We do not want to create any problem. We do not want to create any type of hindrance if the concerned States want to come to an understand across the table. If they want to mutually discuss and decide and if at all the Government of India wants to cooperate we are prepared to extend them full cooperation.

Number two, not from today, even before the constitution of the Tribunal, the State Government of Karnataka as well as the State Government of Tamil Nadu had several sittings to sort out the problem across the table through mutual discussion. But unfortunately, how the events developed to force the Tribunal to be constituted, is a past now. But sincere efforts were made from both the States. Both the Chief Ministers tried. Sincere efforts were made to sort out this problem amicably by mutual discussion. At the same time, I would like to assure through this House that the Farmers of both Karnataka as well as Tamil Nadu whether in the deficit years or good years, we can have any quantum of water. In 1992, 1993 and 1994 there was no problem at all. There was abundant water in the Cauvery basin. Shri Bangarappa was the Chief Minister for two years. While he was the Chief Minister for two years there was no quarrel. Last year there was shortfall of rain. Of course, the standing crops on both sides were to

be saved. If the Supreme Court gave direction to the former Prime Minister to intervene and to see that a decision should be taken in consultation with both the States, all political leaders should be summoned to take their views; find out a solution where the Government of India can give a decision to save the standing crop of Tamil Nadu as well as Karnataka.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : This time there is no direction...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED : How the Prime Minister last time intervened? It is not on his own...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Now, you are preparing grounds...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED : The Prime Minister intervened...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : This is nothing but political, Mr Ahamed. You will not understand it...*(Interruptions)*. Now the Prime Minister is preparing to sacrifice the State's interests just to save...*(Interruptions)*... This is an internal conflict...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to the Prime Minister. You cannot interrupt like that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Mr. Ahamed does not understand it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to the Prime Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : The former Chief Minister, Mr. Bangarappa is here. Is it not at the instance of the Supreme Court? The former Prime Minister intervened or not, let him tell. He is the person who has raised this issue. Let him clarify whether the former Prime Minister has intervened on his own or on the direction of the Supreme Court. When the Supreme Court had issued the direction, then on the basis of the direction of the Supreme Court the former Prime Minister called both the State leaders, not only the Chief Minister, but leaders of all political parties and he heard them. In that delegation Mr. Bangarappa was also there. The BJP leader Mr. Yediyurappa, Leader of the Opposition was also there. Both the sides had submitted their cases. The Prime Minister appointed an expert committee and that expert committee after visiting both the States and after studying the crop condition gave a decision to release some quantum of water. That is only pertaining to 11 TMC of water ordered by the Tribunal. With regard to that limited scope, the Supreme Court had issued the direction for the intervention of the then Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please to not interrupt. You are very lucky that the Prime Minister is responding to you.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : It was a temporary order of the Tribunal relating to 11 TMC of water.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Only 11 TMC of water. That is all what I am saying. I have not said anything beyond that.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR : I request the Prime Minister to yield for a minute.

MR. SPEAKER : No. Please sit down. He is not yielding.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : They have said that I have directed the State to release 5 TMC of water at the cost of Karnataka and 'let him go'. I have faced a many challenges. Do not be under that impression. I am a man coming from the Cauvery Basin...*(Interruptions)* Do not bother about all these things. I want to see that the farmers of both the States in good years will have the maximum amount of water and in bad years share the difficulties and distress. I do not want to go beyond this.

Even the Karnataka Chief Minister said that this month they must release 40 TMC water according to the interim award of the Tribunal, but there is no water in the reservoir. I told my colleagues, not only my colleagues, but also to the members of the delegation which came and approached me that there is no bar in visiting the dam. I requested them to personally go and see for themselves. There is no question of mixing politics here. As a sort of sharing whatever difficulties are there between the two States, the Karnataka Chief Minister has taken the decision to release 5 TMC of water because there is no water in the reservoir. Just because all the regional parties are with me, there is no need to mix politics...*(Interruptions)* I can understand why this matter was raised. I will tell you very frankly. I will assure one thing. There is no question of any injustice to anybody. We will try our level best to see that the matter is sorted out amicably.

14.58 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now Bill to be introduced. Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI (Assam) rose-

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, you tell me

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : I think he wants to raise an objection to the introduction of the Bill. But I have not yet sought leave to introduce the Bill. Let me move for leave to introduce the Bill and then he can raise the objection.

MR. SPEAKER : He is opposing the introduction of the Bill. So, you can ask for leave first.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the inclusion of Koch-Rajbongshi in the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in relation to the State of Assam.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the inclusion of Koch-Rajbongshi in the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in relation to the State of Assam."

15.00 hrs.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI (Autonomous District) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I rise here today to appeal to the Government and to the entire House to save Assam from the impending crisis, or rather, a very serious situation, if this particular Bill is introduced, considered and passed.

I am not sure whether the major Opposition parties or other big Parties have gone through the details of the Bill or they are aware of the implications of this Bill so far as Assam and North-East are concerned. Therefore, I think, it is my humble responsibility to apprise the House of the implications of this particular Bill so far as Assam is concerned.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Rongpi at this stage, we cannot go into the merits of the Bill. We cannot go into the goodness or badness of the Bill at this point of time. You have to only point out whether this Parliament is competent to legislate it or not. That is the limited question you have to address. All the points that you are making now, that you intend to make now, will come at the time of discussion on the Bill. Whether Parliament is competent to pass the legislation is the only limited question at this stage.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am aware of the procedure, but here, I want to point out that in the way the Bill has been introduced, there is a procedural problem.

MR. SPEAKER : You can point that out at the time of the debate. You can ask the Government to modify it, you can bring amendments, and you can ask the Government to withdraw the Bill. At point of time, it is only a question of competence of Parliament to

(Interruptions)

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Sir, that is only one aspect.

You can allow a debate later on, but on other aspects you can allow a Member to make his statement. I am not asking for a debate but what I want to state is that there are laid down procedures by which a community is included in the Scheduled Tribes list. One of the procedures is that the existing tribal bodies, the customary bodies of the tribals, the tribal authorities and other institutes are consulted. Here, in this particular case, there are so many customary tribal bodies and tribal development authorities, but they were not consulted. Secondly, even those institutes of Government of India and Government of Assam who are entrusted with the job of verifying whether a particular community is entitled for scheduling, like the Tribal Research Institute, have been ignored. The Scheduled Tribe Commissions have been ignored. All these procedures have been. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Again, you are going into the merits of the Bill

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : I am not going into the merits of the Bill

MR. SPEAKER : You are going into the merits of the Bill. You come to a constitutional provision whether this Parliament has the power to pass this legislation or not

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : What I am saying is that the way the Bill has been placed, the Parliament has got the power. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. I am sorry, you are wasting the time. I am overruling it. Your objection cannot be sustained. Yes, Mr. Ramoowalia

(Interruptions)

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Sir, it is a very serious matter. It will amount to. *(Interruptions)* I may be allowed to make a statement. I am not demanding a debate. This Koch-Rajbongshi, again, is misquoted. It is Koch-Rajbongshi Kshatriya Sammelan. This particular community has 90 lakh population in Assam. If the Yadav Community of Bihar is included in the Scheduled Tribes list, what will be the implication for Bihar? If the Vokkaliga and Lingayat communities of Karnataka are included in the Scheduled Tribes list, what will be the implication for Karnataka? *(Interruptions)* Yes, this particular community is a backward caste. Now, they are included. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Sir, we want to know that the actual position is, why the Government has brought this Bill. We want to know that. So, at least, allow him.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : If this Bill is introduced and passed, the majority in Assam will be Scheduled Tribes. And Assam has to be declared as a tribal State. More than sixty per cent seats are to be reserved for Scheduled Tribes and more than seven autonomous councils have to be constituted, whereas in the financial statement you have said not much financial involvement is there if the Bill is passed and whatever fund is allocated to the Welfare Ministry that would be enough. But it is not the case. If Koch-Rajbongshi Kshatriyas are made Scheduled Tribe, the Scheduled Tribe population of Assam would be larger than that of the general population and if you want to increase the proportionate quota of reservation, then you have to go beyond fifty per cent which the Supreme Court or the existing court order does not allow. You cannot go beyond fifty per cent. But if this community is included in the Scheduled Tribe, you will have to make sixty per cent reservation. There are so many other demands for including various castes and tribes in Assam in the Scheduled List but you have chosen the Government have chosen, the most advanced sections of the population to be included in the Scheduled Tribe. This is just for the information of the House. This is the community which has produced three Chief Ministers of Assam, namely Vishnuram Madhi, Sharat Chandra Sinha and Mahendra Mohan Choudhri. And this community is being included in the Scheduled Tribe. All the three Chief Ministers belong to the Koch community. I do not object to Rajbongshi. Here Koch community is also being included. Rajbongshi community is recognised as Scheduled Caste in Bengal and Tripura and only in Meghalaya the State to which the Speaker belongs to, Koch community is recognised as Scheduled Tribe. But that Koch community is different from that of Dibrugarh and Tinsukia. That is completely a different tribe. Only some Koch people are there bordering Meghalaya in Gholpura districts who are recognised as Scheduled Tribe in Meghalaya. That way it is a misnomer. Previously it was called Kshatriya Sammelan and the previous Government has said, if you say Kshatriya we will not be able to include in the Scheduled Tribe and so you drop this demand Kshatriya. Therefore, there will be administrative chaos because any Assamese speaking person who is not a Brahmin, who is not a Kayasth can claim himself to be a Koch-Rajbongshi and there are no criteria by which you can say that you are not. So, the entire Assam will be Scheduled Tribes. It has got serious implications. That is why I request the larger parties, bigger parties because mine is a lone voice from the North-East, because my voice is very lone, because my voice is very dim and my voice is feeble that it should not be hushed up. The truth must come to the Parliament. And everybody should support it.

otherwise the situation in Assam is already very fragile. By this you have to create seven more autonomous councils.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Rongpi, you have made your point. We are running short of time.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Sir, I am concluding. Therefore, I request the Government to defer this Bill. I request the hon. Minister to go to the spot, talk to the people, talk to the tribal bodies, talk to the tribal authorities, talk to the representatives of the people and then come out with a comprehensive Bill. That is why I request that the whole House should extend its support...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Your notice was received very late. Next time you send the notice on time.

(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Sir, let me speak...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the basis of information given to this House by Dr. Rongpi and the demands raised by people, I would like to know the criteria for inclusion of any particular group of castes in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. There is a provision of reservation for the SCs and STs everywhere in the Constitution of India and that is provided in proportion to their population. New castes and a groups are included in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes frequently but the percentage of reservation has not been increased and is still lying unchanged. A tendency is increasing to join that group of castes. The reason behind it is to get the benefit of reservation from the backlog of SCs/STs. Such a demand is made for this purpose and also to rectify the fault incurred in the beginning to include some castes in the above list. But Dr Rongpi has said something. I do not know whether the Ordinance promulgated to include a group of Castes, for which now a Bill is being brought forward was promulgated by the previous Government it is the present Government, which is introducing the Bill. Have they applied their mind in this regard or not? If whatever Dr. Rongpi has said, is correct, it will develop a horrible situation (Interruptions) it also relates to a Constitutional point because as per the provisions of the Constitution, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are provided the facility of reservation in proportion to their population. This provision is not applicable on OBC. OBC has been given more or less 50 percent weightage while SCs and STs have been given 100 percent weightage. Therefore, Constitutional Point is involved in it. If you included any particular caste in the list of SCs and STs, their population will increase but the percentage of the reservation remains the same. The percentage of reservation for SCs and STs is limited.

Therefore, if you intend to include any group of castes in the list, a comprehensive approach should be adopted. If, without taking all aspects into consideration, you include any prominent caste in the list, a horrible situation will emerge. Shri P.R. Dasmunsi is informing that these castes exist in Bengal also...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : A point can be raised at this stage, only by giving a proper notice. You cannot raise it just like that. Everybody cannot raise this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am concluding.

If such a tendency develops, will anybody remain in limit?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He has already given notice. Therefore, he is speaking. It cannot be allowed.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : If a particular caste is included in the SC/ST list, a strange atmosphere and a strange situation will arise. Therefore, I would like to request you to ponder over the matter at your level as to what was Dr Rongpi's as well as the Government's intention behind this statement. First, call a meeting of all the parties to discuss the matter then introduce this Bill because heaven is not going to fall. Therefore, the Bill should not be introduced.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before introducing this Bill, I would like to state that we also advocate for social justice and social equality but the Bill introduced by the party which claims itself to be the Champion of social justice is not the comprehensive one. It is said that several State Governments have written to the Union Government for inclusion of some castes and several castes and group of castes have demanded their inclusion in SC/ST list. Separate Bills for inclusion of separate castes are being introduced one by one. The honble Minister of Welfare, Shri Sitaram Kesri had given assurance that Scheduled Caste Commission or Scheduled Tribe Commission will visit every State in this regard and make a list of castes or group of castes to be included in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and only then a comprehensive Bill will be brought forward. Therefore, I would like to request you to bring a comprehensive Bill so that new problem may not arise everytime for inclusion of a particular caste and as my friend has said, full information should be given to all of us as to what necessity compelled you to bring this Bill. Therefore, this Bill should not be introduced today...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is a Bill which has to be introduced. A notice has been given by the hon.

Member, objecting to the introduction and so, I am allowing that. It is not a debate where I have to allow everybody. How can you do that? Shri Rawat has given a notice and therefore, I have allowed him to say his point. I cannot allow everybody to speak here.

Now, Shri Ramoowalia please.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Sir, I have heard with rapt attention the views and concerns expressed by some of the hon. Members of the House about the inclusion of Koch-Rajbongshi people in the list of Scheduled Tribes. It can be considered at the time of consideration stage when the discussion will take place on the Bill, in the coming days. But you have directed me to briefly explain why the Government is introducing the Bill, so, I will not take much time of the House. I know the constraint through which we are to pass today because other issues are very important. (Interruptions) The Ordinance was issued on 27th January, 1996. As the period had expired, the Ordinance was promulgated again.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Why?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Because the Parliament was not in session.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Please tell us what is the urgency in it? The demand for inclusion has been made in the case of many other castes also.

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to him.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Please listen to me. (Interruptions) Let me complete. I am coming to urgency.

Now if my Government allows the present Ordinance to lapse then after 3rd July, the Koch-Rajbongshi people would have neither been in the list of Scheduled Castes nor in the list of Scheduled Tribes. They would have been nowhere. So, I seek the permission of the House to introduce the Bill.

You have already directed the Government. I assure you that my Government will take into consideration the sentiments expressed by every member of the House during the discussion. The Government is not only concerned with but is also committed to the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, so I may be allowed to introduce the Bill. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am helpless. Mr. Nitish Kumar, you have been presiding over this House for a long time.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : No, there is a point. If any caste is included in the list the population may increase but reservation is not being increased in that proportion.

MR. SPEAKER : Rule, 72 is very clear. At this stage, it can be opposed on the ground that the Bill initiates legislation outside the legislative competence of the House.

The matter has not been opposed on the ground of legislative competence of this House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is permitted. Anyway it can be introduced with the leave of the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the inclusion of Koch-Rajbongshi in the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in relation to the State Assam."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I introduce the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : At the time of discussion of the Bill, amendments can be brought.

15.19 hrs.

STATEMENT RE CONSTITUTION
(SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER (AMENDMENT)
THIRD ORDINANCE, 1996—LAID.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Third Ordinance, 1996.

15.20 hrs.

(Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please allow me to speak only for two minutes. I would like to share my personal happiness with the House which I am feeling on

seeing you sitting in this chair and addressing you as Deputy Speaker. It is said that by sharing sorrows one feels it less and by sharing happiness one feels it doubled. If you allow me, I can make my happiness double.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, multidimensional qualities of your personality have been described in this House. I can prove them authentic because you and I have been in politics altogether. We both have been the Members of the same Legislative Assembly and have also been the Minister in the same Cabinet. But, here, I would like to tell the Members of this House that Mr. Deputy Speaker and I hail from the same state, same district and same town also. Some years back, that town was politically regarded as neglected but today, it has made its own identity on the political map when the representative of that town has been elected as Deputy Speaker of the Indian Parliament. I extend my heartiest congratulations to you and on behalf of the people of my home town. I would like to thank the leaders of all political parties for glorifying the name of our city by electing him unanimously as Deputy Speaker. Thank you very much.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Thank you.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Please mention the name of that town.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : It is Ambala cantonment town of Ambala district in Haryana state where Shri Suraj Bhan and I have been born.

15.21 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE :
CONTINUANCE OF PROCLAMATION BY
PRESIDENT IN RELATION TO THE STATE OF
JAMMU AND KASHMIR -CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will now take up Statutory Resolution in respect of Jammu and Kashmir to extend the President's rule for a further period of six months with effect from 18th July, 1996.

Shri Chaman Lal Gupta may speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while congratulating you, I would like to start my point. I rise to support the Motion moved in this House regarding extension of President's rule in respect of Jammu and Kashmir state for a further period of six months.

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR (Baramulla) : I have a point of order. If a resolution is put up in the House under article 356 and elections to legislative assembly are due to be held, then the Government

should get the consent of the Election Commission. It should put up the resolution in the House only after getting the consent of the Election Commission. I want your ruling on it because the resolution has been moved in the House but there is no mention in it that the Government has got the consent of the Election Commission. It has been moved in the House without getting the consent of the Election Commission. Can it be done under para 2-b of section 5 of article 356?

[English]

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say one point. He is objecting to the moving of the Resolution. The Resolution has already been moved by the Prime Minister and the House has granted permission and at this stage, when we are discussing it, there is no point of order. I do not know from where has he got it, what does he want from it and under what rule his point of order has been raised. There is no rule and provision for it when we are discussing the Resolution... (Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Sir, this has no relevance so far as admissibility is concerned ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Discussion on this issue is going on in this House for the last two days. It is a continuous discussion. What is the relevance of a point of order in this regard. It should have been raised at the introductory stage

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria) : Today is the third day of the discussion. At this stage, when this resolution is going to be adopted, there is no relevance in raising a point of order.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It has no relevance Mr. Gupta, you please continue.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this resolution. That is because even today, the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is not favourable to revoke President's rule from that State. A few days back hon'ble Prime Minister visited Srinagar. It was stated that he had visited that area to take stock of the heavy floods there. He has done well. It is a very good thing that the Prime Minister went there after eight years. For this, he really deserves to be congratulated. But let us see also that he went there to take stock of the situation created by the floods and also released 7 crore rupees. But on the day of his arrival, a 'bandh' was

organised in the entire valley. A complete strike was observed there. But the Government tried to explain that the strike was being observed in the wake of increase in the prices of petrol whereas the fact was that the people opposed the visit of the Prime Minister and also said that they do not want the Prime Minister there. Sir, I would like to submit that militants are still dominating in Kashmir. At present, the state is under President's rule. There is no Government henceforth. Had any Government been there, there would not have been such incidents of murders as taken place in the Doda district. I myself had visited Kalwadi. I saw there that seven members of a family were murdered with a knife in a room. I saw there that a grandfather and a grandmother, their son and daughter and grandson and grand daughter with two minor girls aged two years and three and a half year were lying in a pool of blood. This incident took place at 7 p.m. Militants went to the village Kalmadi and murdered the members of that family but the police arrived there only next day at 4. P.M. The Security forces personnel reached there and found these two young girls clinging to the dead bodies of their parents for about fifteen hours continuously. How would God save them and what would they be able to do in their life. But this is an actual happening that occurred in Doda. On 24th, two boys, one eighteen years of age and another nineteen years of age were kidnapped and their dead bodies were recovered later on. Fifteen persons were killed in Vaarshala. The B.S.F. and C.R.P.F. pickets are merely one and a half kilometer away from that place but no police personnel reached there for twelve hours. When it is enquired as to whose responsibility it is, the C.R.P.F. personnel reply that it is the responsibility of the B.S.F. to look into it. The B.S.F. personnel says that it is the responsibility of R.R. Hon'ble Prime Minister is not present here. I would like to mention that a file has been lying pending in the office of hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao for past one and a half year for taking a decision as to whether the Rashtriya Rifles is Superior or the B.S.F. The Government has not been able to decide the issue for one and a half year. What should we make out of it? Is Government functioning there? Some children who were making bombs were apprehended from a D.C.'s house in Anantnag. The D.C. was found to be involved in it. It was announced that the D.C. would be implicated in it. But do you know what happened afterwards. The same D.C. continued working as D.C. at the same place for four months and after four months he was transferred to another place. Now you tell me that some people are caught making bombs in a D.C.'s House and nobody dares point a finger towards that D.C. Would you call this a Government? The Governor dismissed 90 police personnel. Some of them were Government servants and some were such employees and police personnel who had gone

to Pakistan and were apprehended while coming back from Pakistan. They were in jail but they kept on drawing salary for two years. The persons who remained in jail for two years, who have taken training in Pakistan, who are Government Servants and still they kept on drawing salary. So the Governor dismissed seven employees. A few days after their dismissal, a strike was held there and the Committee is still reviewing the cases of the people who had been dismissed.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is already 3.30. Therefore, Private Members' business could be taken up.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Chaman Lal Gupta. It is 3.30 p.m., now Private Members' business will be taken up. You can continue your speech later on.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Sir, we may continue with the Statutory Resolution on Jammu and Kashmir after six o'clock. We can extend the time of the House as we have to pass this resolution today itself so that it can go to the Rajya Sabha.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That will depend on the House.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : If all of us agree, after the Private Members' Business is over, we can sit for a while and pass this Resolution so that it can go to the other House as it has to be passed before 17th July, 1996.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, it is 3.30. Private Members' business should be taken up.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : I shall conclude my speech whenever you ask me.

[English]

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) : We have no objection. We can continue it after six o'clock.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : There are a number of precedents in the House, when because of some important matter Private Members' Business was deferred for 10 or 15 minutes. So, you may please allow him to finish his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Private Members' business begins at 3.30 and two minutes have already passed ever since. Right now

you please take up Private Members' business and then at 6 O'clock, we will see as to what should be taken up.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Gupta, you may continue after six O'Clock.

[English]

This House will now take up the Private Members' Resolution on Unemployment, moved by Shri Katheria. Before we take up this Resolution for discussion, we have to fix the time. Shall we fix two hours for it?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir

15.33 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION RE : UNEMPLOYMENT

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I extend my hearty congratulations to you for having been elected to such a high office in the Parliament. You have been unanimously chosen for this post and are now adorning this position with your presence.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that

"With a view to check increasing unemployment and for generating more employment opportunities, this House urges upon the Government-

- (i) to provide financial assistance to existing small scale industries;
- (ii) to set up new small scale industries and provide necessary infrastructural facilities like loan, electricity, marketing etc to such industries.
- (iii) to reserve certain areas of production for small scale industries; and
- (iv) to set up a National Craftsmen Development Bank "

Sir today unemployment, poverty and hunger are spreading like epidemic and are indicative of the fact that if small scale industries had been set up in rural areas, the unemployment, helplessness and poverty would not have increased in the country on such large scale. Even after 47 years of independence no measure has been taken for the development of small scale industries. The Government has been formulating policies and laws but the intentions have never been good. Their policy has never been sound. They kept on

giving all kinds of incentives to large scale industries. They did not give incentives to the small scale industries in the manner they should have been. That is why there is unemployment and hunger today. If the small scale industries in rural areas had been given the incentives and the basic facilities like electricity, water etc., the small scale industries would have been surviving independently.

Sir, the Government extends full protection to the large scale industries but it is a unfortunate that even after independence, the Inspectors' Raj prevails in the small scale industries, functioning in the country and that is the reason the small scale industries are not flourishing.

Today people who want to run small scale industries in rural areas are exploited by the Department of Small Scale Industry. Thereafter they are exploited by the Department of Power and by banks. At last he becomes so much helpless that he does not find himself able to run his own industry.

Sir, I was a member of 10th Lok Sabha also. At that time the Minister of Finance had made an announcement and gave assurance that inspectors system prevailing in the Small Scale industries will be checked within three months in the country. But it has not been done until now. A poet has rightly said :-

Wo wada hee kya jis par amal ho jaye"

Sir even today inspector raj is still continued. Today, large scale industries are being encouraged that is why small scale industries are not flourishing.

Sir, even today 19 percent people living under poverty line are facing problems because of lack of employment opportunities. Today, large number of people are leaving rural areas. Who is responsible for this? People from rural areas are migrating to Metropolitan Cities like Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, and Mumbai and there by increasing the pollution in these cities. If those poor labourers and farmers of such rural areas are provided employment and arrangement for their livelihood is made then I think they will not migrate in such a large number. All this is happening only because no attention been paid towards them. All the Governments have protected only big capitalists. If they had given protection to the small scale industries, this situation would not have arisen.

Sir, I would like to say only that small scale industries are not lagging behind in any field. Today, 45 percent of the production in the country is being done by the small scale industries and its contribution in export field is 35 percent. I think that small scale industries are not lagging behind in any matter. I would like to criticise the Government. The developing country like India should learn a lesson from Japan. Japan is the smallest country of Asia,

where small scale industries are dominating till today. Small scale industries are established in every house there. They are running electronic industries though it is manufacturing spare parts of Television or Tape recorder. There, industrialists are producing small things. Even today, Japan has established its name in the world in the field of small scale industries. On the contrary, in the developing country like India, small scale industries have become sick as a result of wrong policies of the Government of India.

After all whose responsibility is this? Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people who have been in power have not given protection to the small scale industries, rather they have protected only large scale industries. Our respected leader Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had once told in this House that so long as the elections are contested with black money, our democratic system cannot be strengthened as corruption spreads because of this. Big industrialists of the country give crores of rupees as black money to Members of Parliament for contesting election. This is the reason that industrialists get their work done in whatever manner they like. Till it goes on, corruption will be the main issue. That is why big industrialists are getting protection and the small industries are not getting the protection.

Our Communist friends of CPM are not sitting here. What is the position of Calcutta today? These people say they are the well wishers of dalits and minorities. Today, 20-30 percent people in Calcutta are in such condition who are forced to carry people on rickshaws like a naked horse. How strange it is. In a metropolis like Calcutta where foreign tourists come in large numbers such things happen there and our communist friends say that they are well wishers of both 'dalits' and 'minorities'. Mr. Speaker, Sir, these people of Calcutta are suffering from poverty, hunger and helplessness. Had our communist friends worked there properly this would not have been the condition.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hail from Firozabad. There are around 400 such small scale industries which not only export their products in India but also export these items to foreign countries and earn huge foreign exchange. In the year 1993 the Government through an order of Supreme Court got about 300 units closed down. It must be mentioned that the Government had agreed to supply gas to those units as a result of protest made by respected Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri Rawat. Even today we are being given step-motherly treatment. Those 400 units engaged in bangle and glass work are now becoming sick. There is no arrangement of water and electricity for the workers. They work in such conditions there.

The provident fund of the daily wage workers is deposited in their office and they cannot get it. I therefore, request you to note this point also.

The Government had promised to supply natural gas by 1996. Today in Firozabad we are being given step motherly treatment in this matter too. The rate of the gas being supplied in other districts is Rs. 3500 per thousand cubic meter whereas we are being charged Rs. 5100 as registration. Why such a dual policy is being adopted? Who is responsible for this? Our region Firozabad is known as Suhag Nagri, why there is so much partiality with it? Please note this point also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am again going to discuss the matter relating to the people living under poverty line. Even today, 19 percent people are there who make arrangement for the livelihood of their children by way of collecting the vegetables which are thrown out in the vegetable market.

I would like to say with deep sorrow that this condition is the result of the wrong policies of the previous Government. Today those very people speak of social equality. Even today, 20 percent people in the country are such who sleep under open sky without having their meal. They have not even a hut for shelter, whereas there are 30 percent people in the country whose bathrooms alone cost Rs. 20 crores. They are also born here. What to talk of their independence. What is this independence for? Even today, those people are given step motherly treatment. This is a very shameful act. Until and unless small scale industries and cottage industries are flourished, unemployment, helplessness and hunger will not stop. Therefore, the rural industries should be provided necessary facilities which is essential too.

In our country there are five crore unemployed people but only a small number of people are registered with Employment exchanges. A large number of people are not registered with Employment Exchanges. You can imagine the extent of unemployment in the country.

I would like to urge upon and demand that the rate of natural gas given to the small scale industries may be reduced from Rs. 5100 per thousand cubic meter to Rs. 3600 per thousand cubic meter. The minimum capital of the small scale industries may be increased from Rs. 75 lakhs to Rs. three crores.

Provident fund amount should be paid directly to the daily wage labourers in small industries. Once this amount is deposited in the office they do not get it back.

My next point is that in 1981, small scale industries used to satisfy a number of inspectors for their functioning. As I have already spoken on this point. Therefore, I do not want to repeat it.

We should take steps to ward off the challenges faced by the small scale industries. Today, they have to pass through a tough competition. This is the

biggest irony. Therefore the area of their operation should be earmarked. It should be ensured that the items produced by small-scale industries are not produced by big industries. It is unfortunate that in a developing country like India, the Multinationals are making potato chips and bhujias. Such items can be undertaken by small scale industries. I apprehend that due to the policy of liberalisation, our three lakh small scale industries, which have become sick, may get ruined. Therefore, the area of operation should be earmarked. If the need be a stringent law may be got enacted by Parliament for this purpose. If the intention of the Government is malafide, no law prevent multinational companies from manufacturing these things. It is being talked about that big crocodile are gulping small fishes. Various multinational companies are entering India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will have the right of reply. Therefore, you would be able to express your views later also.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am going to conclude. I welcome Multinational companies in India but they should be prevented from manufacturing potato chips and bhujias. The Government has already made provisions for liberalisation. I feel that it is a serious issue.

My last point is that we have got skilled workers in our country and they are earning fame abroad also. They have produced things like handicrafts, carpets and brass wares with their own hand. My submission is that National Craftsman Development Bank should be opened for these categories of artisans. So that economic security could be made available to them through this bank.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before concluding, I would like to speak only on one more point, as I would be getting time to reply. If the Government enforces this law seriously after its enactment, I think the unemployment and starvation will be done away with as a result of competition among small scale industries.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI P.R.DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Resolution brought by my dear colleague and friend, Prabhu Dayal Katheriaji on unemployment, which is specially related to the small scale sector's development, is really a very important and significant Resolution.

At this moment, in the entire country, the unemployed young population is looking forward to

the Government and the nation as a whole for their future. In that given context, when I see, particularly this Resolution, I take keen interest to participate in it. It is not merely that I would like to convey my feeling but I feel that this is a time when cutting across the Party lines, we must very constructively contribute in a manner that helps the nation to decide the destiny of the unemployed youngsters of this country so as to make them self-reliant young people for future.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the points made out by my dear colleague and friend, Prabhu Dayal Katheriaji, as laid out in the Resolution, have clearly thrown a few stones in the window as to how things will be taken up.

As you see, today, in the entire country, the number of registered unemployed is a little over five crores. In West Bengal alone, from where I represent, the registered unemployed people are more than 65 lakhs. I will not be surprised if in another two years, it will reach near about a crore.

I may recall those days of 1967 to 1970 when I was a student of university. Everyday I used to see blood-bath on the roads under the famous Naxalite movement. Eminent persons in those days used to write in the columns that this was due to the frustration among the unemployed youth, and rightly so, that was one of the main and principle reason. The movement is over. Many people lost their lives. In those days, the number of registered unemployed in West Bengal was more than 7.5 lakhs. But today the reality is that there are more than 65 lakhs unemployed. Yet we are still approaching this problem with a much sense of sorrow.

The small scale sector today should not be regarded as small scale in the narrow angle of the industrial vision. It is a sector which is specially taking care of the entire nation's daily needs. Right from morning when you get up from the bed from using the tooth-paste till the time you retire to the bed, whatever you use, out of 10 items, I can single out that eight items that you use from the small sector. And that particular sector is now facing a serious crisis. That is why the additional employment generation programme is at a halting stage. There is no time for me to explain everything in this Resolution. But I will narrate a few things only because many other speakers will participate today in this Resolution.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when I used to read about Mahatma Gandhiji in the days of the national struggle, I came to know that it was Mahatma Gandhiji who had first seen in his far-sight as to how the larger section of the people could be involved for self-reliant economic programme to get some jobs and, at the same time, to have a feeling of some creative contribution for the country. That was during

the national struggle against the British-managed and the foreign-monopoly-managed big industries, specially the clothing made by Manchester. Gandhiji innovated the idea of *charkha* and because of that, Khadi and Village Industries came into shape after freedom. These industries involve millions and millions of people. Till today the very *charkha* symbolizes the ego and the ideals of our nation's pride, in the sense that how Mahatma Gandhiji saw to it that a larger section of the people get involved in it to get things done.

Now today the Khadi and Village industries are in a very bad shape. I consider it one of the very largest Government organised public sector where the small scale industries programme is gaining ground in favour of craftsmen. Half of it is full of craftsmen. Everybody is taking the certificates in the name of helping the unemployed youth. I can say with authority that if the CBI only takes up of the Village Industries Commission to see and go to respective parts of India as to those who are taking the licence of Khadi and Village industries and how they are managing the forces at the grass-roots they will find that it is not the youth who are benefited, but a few individuals in *benami* management, looting the subsidy of the Khadi, sharing the booty with few of the gangsters and destroying the prospects of the future of the nation and depriving young people in the villages. This is one point I like to tell you today. I know, that the Government, if they are sincere, can do it immediately. This is the only sector where the Government money is being spoiled without providing relief to the youngsters and the craftsmen.

My second point is about the banks. In majority of the banks they study the proposal, the market approach and the material that will go out for the market. In connivance with a few people they are advancing the loans knowing fully well that it will be eaten up and there are a number of units which did not see the light of the day.

So, my proposal is like this, if the Government can consider. Only last week I was addressing a meeting of the Federation of Small Scale Industries at Calcutta since my constituency is a victim of the largest number of closed small scale units, i.e. Howrah, I have studied the whole thing. It is a very peculiar and funny situation. The banks in connivance sometimes with the big industries, have a meeting in advance such which of the small scale units whose advances should be delayed-which have to get the raw material in time and go to the market for competition-so that they become sick and the moment they become sick they got to manage themselves, either selling it out or leasing out or thereby close it throughout. There are a number of instances. I can cite any number of instances but there is no time at my disposal at the moment. So,

through some vigilance of the banks and the Government some special monitoring arrangement of the functioning of the small scale industries must be made.

Now I give two examples. Guest, Keen and Williams is known to be one of the largest units, of the big scale. The same components are made by the small scale units at the same place in the small scale. The banks take special care that unless the Guest Keen Williams material comes in the market the ancillary companies who make the same component do not get the banks advance in time. It is a peculiar arrangement going on for years together. This is a very unholy arrangement all over, every part of the country wherever there is a big scale and small scale and nobody is there to stop anybody. And I find that there is only one thing. When the banking people retire they are well placed in those big units as consultants or something else. I think there is an unholy arrangement. That is why the small scale is dying and it is not because of the entrepreneur's fault.

Lastly I must say this because this is a Private Member's Resolution. I belong to a party which propounded the concept of the liberal economy. But I do have still reservations. The manner in which the door of liberalism is getting up it is deliberately hitting the basic foundation of the small scale industries, the dream of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru of the very self-economic reliance of the youngsters.

I give you two examples. The day Dr. Manmohan Singh used to announce that "I am giving so and so rebate, so and so concession, or giving such and concession, so and so customs duty or excise duty relief", a message used to go to Japan and Korea that the Indian climate is very good. On the very same day a small entrepreneur-who educated his son up to MBA selling the ornaments of his wife, to take charge of his small scale unit which is going to be a medium scale tomorrow, to employ a little more young people to solve the unemployment problem and instal a machine, the products of which will come out in six months time in the market-finds that the costing system and the economic production in the market have no meaning.

16.00 hrs.

It is because the concessional advantage will be exploited largely by the large scale sector at that time. In the recession time, the small sector will not get any advantage or compensatory allowances even by the banks. Even the moratorium, the concession in the duties will not come. So they decided to close the units and get back to home. This has happened in many sectors. The liberalisation policy has caused not one but thousands and thousands upcoming small scale industries in the last four years to close

their units, causing unemployment to thousands and thousands of people. I can cite examples after examples as to how it has been caused. Of course, my friend has quoted Japan, Singapore and South Korea. I am not enamoured about these countries. I have been there, I have studied about them. They have developed small scale and big industries and have developed many things. Japan, Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore have an in-built arrangement. They never any problem of population or the problem of war. They never knew what is called Defence. They are looked after as the lackeys of the United States and still they are being managed by that country in the matter of Defence. Their way of arranging the in-built economy in their industrial sector, as compared to India, is altogether different. So, I am not going to argue on that point.

My dear colleague has suggested that the limit should be increased from Rs. 75 lakh to Rs. 3 crore. But the recommendation of the Federation of the Small Scale Industries, keeping in view the inflationary rate, is that it should be Rs. five crore. The amount of Rs. five crore is nothing. The cost of modern plant and machinery calculated hypothetically is Rs. three and a half crore. If I want to start a small scale industry, it cannot be just within the Rs. 75 lakh limit. It has to be a bare minimum limit of Rs. five crore.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I want to give an example. Because of this limit of Rs. 75 lakh, no small scale industry can be built with a greater vision. Take the Engineers of Jadhavpur University of Calcutta. They learnt Engineering education. They set up on the Southern Avenue Road of Calcutta a restaurant. These engineers are serving food. When I enquired them as to why they have opened up a restaurant they said, "we are engineers. What can we do with Rs. 75 lakh? What machinery can we install? What shall we manufacture? We are the trained Engineering Graduates. What do we do? We cannot do anything else. Who will listen to us? If we negotiate with the bank, the bank will say that it is the prescription of the Government."

Therefore I feel that Rs. five crore limit will provide opportunities to a number of unemployed youngsters who have qualifications of M.Sc., B.Sc., B.Com., Engineering Degrees etc., to club themselves together and to plan many more things in sectors like agriculture and in many other ways especially in the small scale sector.

Sir, I would lastly say one point. My dear colleague has suggested to set up new small scale industries and to provide necessary infrastructural facilities. Now no State Government is monitoring the industrial sectors. There are sheds, plots and lands but how are they being used?

I will refer to my State. Till today not a single industrial sector has grown after Dr. B.C. Roy. In my district, there is a sign board of State industrial sector. There are huts where in the evening the drug paddlers are gossiping. The unemployed youth see that there is a big signboard. There is no industrial sector, no industry, no entrepreneur has been given any new opportunity. The functioning of the D.I.C.s. in the respective districts has become only to receive the paper on political patronage and nothing else. The situation is so sordid that I cannot explain it to you. These days the identification of an unemployed youth is not that he is unemployed, but his first identification is which Party does he belong to. Unless he is sufficiently certified by a political colour, his paper is not scrutinised at all by the authority of the bank. How long will they go on fighting? This is leading to a very serious situation.

I know the days of maximalites during 1967-71. I am worried that the manner in which it is approaching, the situation is not so far away that all of us will be defied in the street.

All of us will be defied by the youngsters outside Parliament unless the Government respond to this issue as the biggest priority. I was listening about the United Front Government's Minimum Programme. It was a good one. But I will request the Prime Minister, through you, about one thing, that is unemployment. I am not saying that he will solve the unemployment problem so quickly. At least a priority-based programme, to take care of the educated unemployed immediately, to get out of the corruption link of the banks and other sides, is to be taken up and unless it is taken care of, it will be very difficult. Even to provide loan they ask "How much percentage will you return me back?" Otherwise the finance will not be given. I got three such cases referred to vigilance but nothing has happened. I have phoned in at the top and they were rescued. I did it in one bank; but nothing happened. What to do? Even youngsters get loan. If get a loan of Rs. 75 lakh and if I am to give 10 per cent of it immediately to get it by hook or crook, what do I do business with? who will protect me? This is another problem with the unemployed young people in this country.

Therefore, Sir, I request you for three things and then I conclude my speech.

Firstly, the limit should be increased to Rs. five crore.

Secondly, in the areas of small-scale functioning and development, there should be a compulsory direction by the Industry Minister of the Government of India that all big units' ancillaries should be supplied by the small-scale units and they should not compete with them in the small-scale sector, whatever may be the liberalisation of economy.

Thirdly, if any unit wants to come to India from abroad to take advantage of the liberalised economy, let them do it. I do not mind. But that should be in selective priority sectors of the Government of India like life-saving drugs, petroleum, Power sector etc. Whichever sector can be managed by our Indian small-scale entrepreneurs, they should not be earmarked for the foreign countries like the East India Company's invasion of India.

This is precisely what I would like to appeal on behalf of the unemployed youth of the country. I am thankful to Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria for bringing up this Resolution.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, first of all, I want to thank Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria, who has brought this Resolution on a burning issue. The way unemployment is increasing is a matter of concern. The policy-makers of this country had emphasised on industrialisation in order to remove unemployment. They had announced a policy of protection to small scale industries. But our experience shows that small-scale industries have got protection. The small scale and cottage industries are facing gradual extinction, giving way to big industries. The MNC's are coming in their places. Shri Katheria has rightly asked as to which industries the foreign companies will be permitted to set up.

Today, United Front Government is in power. Their Common Minimum Programme has also been published. After going through it, it is observed that they would not let the foreign companies come into non-priority sector. But this is just like a general statement. What is their real intention is yet to come in open. Now, Shri Murasoli Maran is the Minister of Industry. A controversy has started following his announcement. It appears that Ministers of United Front Government are speaking in different tones. The discussion takes place in the Steering Committee constituted for its internal coordination. Some points filter out and they are reacted upon.

Then, a drama starts for bringing improvements.

The United Front Government has stated in its Common Minimum Programme that they would not let the MNC's enter into non-priority sector. But, it is not known as to which is the priority sector. It is understandable if they come in the field of electricity, roads, aeroplanes etc. but MNC's are coming for making Bikaneri Bhujia, selling vegetables and Papads. If the MNC's sell vegetables, then the road vendors will be deprived of their livelihood. This is the policy of the Congress which you are following. Although you say very proudly that you would not follow the policy of the Congress. The Janata Dal is a major constituent of the United Front Government and it believes in Gandhian economic policy.

Gandhiji had always spoken in favour of small scale industries. When they were in the opposition, they espoused Gandhian Philosophy and talked of following Gandhi's principles. However, after assuming power, their tone and language has been undergoing a change.

It is a policy related matter as to how small scale industries and cottage industries will get protection and how it would be ensured that the people who have got employment, do not lose their job. Where does this Government want to take this nation? Do they want to take this nation towards destruction? If you want to ruin this nation, then you may continue your old policy but if you want to save this nation, then you have this opportunity to show courage and abandon the old economic policy launched by the Congress. If your intention, is bonafide you can enforce your policy in the country and thus save the nation. Otherwise, you continue to follow the policy of the Congress on the excuse of not displeasing them.

I would like to tell how educated unemployed people suffer in this country. The unemployed youth run from pillar to post in order to get loan from banks. I have been a Minister in V.P. Singh Government. The policy of that Government was to make the right to employment as a fundamental right. In this regard, we had even prepared a constitution Amendment Bill. If the right to employment is made a fundamental right, then all problems of unemployment will be resolved. During the Congress regime, a Prime Minister Employment Scheme was launched. Under this scheme unemployed youth were given loan of Rupees one lakhs for self-employment. These youth had to run from pillar to post for getting this loan. I had seen a big advertisement at that time about this scheme. Sometimes girls were shown and at times, boys were shown doing a job in that advertisement. It was told therein as to how the country had progressed under this scheme. But the fact is that unless and until the bank manager gets a good amount as bribe, the youth would not get loan.

In this way there was a fraud in the name of this scheme and in the publicity of the Government on electronic media. In fact not a single ordinary person was benefited by this scheme. I cannot say if some important persons had got its benefit.

We are the representatives of public. Many people came to meet us. I recall the case of an unemployed youth whose application under the Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojna was sanctioned at every level but loan was not given to him by the bank. I wrote a letter to the Manager of the Bank and to the Finance Minister but all in vain. He did not get loan from the bank. The Manager of the bank torn off my letter in front of that youth. This is the unemployment situation in the country. When I was coming here to attend the

session, that youth was complaining that he did not get loan so far. Therefore, I request you not to follow the path of Congress. Be strong, I want to encourage you for taking decisions according to your policies. Otherwise you will be blamed guilty for going astray to your policies and reverences and that you have changed your mind. Today, you are adopting multinationals and leaving Gandhian ideology. When we mention the name of Gandhiji we start talking about cottage industry. Gandhiji encouraged people to wear khadi. There are some basic conditions for getting primary membership of Congress Party and one of the condition is that he will wear handloom or khadi cloth. You can get a survey conducted to find out as to what is the number of congress leaders wearing khadi. We, the leaders from, U.P. and Bihar still wear khadi...*(Interruptions)* I know that you do not wear safari. Shri Arjun Singh used to wear safari and I have not seen him in khadi when he was in Congress Party. But now when he came out of congress and he could not prove himself a true congressman, we see him wearing khadi what I mean to say is that now a days congressmen believe in safari culture. How you would encourage cottage industry?

Gandhiji had said that spin and weave the yarn, this way you will pass your time and people will get employment. That is why khadi industry is given protection even now. Commission is given on purchase of khadi to encourage people for khadi. But I have come to know through newspapers that commission given on khadi has been stopped. Please look into this Shri Devendraji is sitting at the seat of the Minister of Industry, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad and Khalpiji are also sitting here I would like to request you to see that the commission given on khadi is not withdrawn...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA (Rohtak) : We all agree with you.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Stern action should be taken to check corruption prevailing in khadi industry. It does not mean that the rebate given on khadi on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti should be withdrawn because at that time we all purchase khadi. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think you may be purchasing khadi at that occasion. It should be given protection because nothing can be done without providing protection to cottage industry.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been a fraud in this country on the issue of child labour. What is happening in the name of child labour. Now Shri Sangma has been chosen as Speaker. Formerly he was Labour Minister. In the previous Lok Sabha when we ask him that the carpet industry has to obtain certificate from certain institutions certifying that child labourers have not been engaged in the industry

Then they can sell carpets in foreign countries. The demand of Indian carpets is immense in the world. When foreign companies producing synthetic carpets found that in comparison to India market of their carpets is shrinking and Indian carpet market is flourishing, they raised the issue of child labour to discourage the demand of Indian carpets. One day we raised this question but he did not understand my point and said that the problem of child labour is being dealt strictly. Children working in tea stalls, hotels and mines should be stopped to work there. But at the same time I would like to say that the child learn this particular skill within 5-7 years. It is traditional as well. It is a genetic character for example the shape of teeth of people belonging to non-vegetarian groups forms accordingly whereas shape of teeth of vegetarian people remain different as original. They face problem in chewing flesh. Similarly a person learn any skill during his childhood. It take a little time to learn weaving carpet. The carpet industry will ruin if you stop child labour. This small scale industry will vanish. As a result of it big industry will take over these small scale industries. Thereafter synthetic carpets of multinational will enter our domestic market and carpet market in abroad will shrink. This there are several aspects related to this.

The credit goes to Shri Katheria. The Government has given assurance to provide loan for it. People come to bank for running capital. Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi has said that a board has been installed there. In my constituency there is an industrial estate where first of all a scooter factory was set up and later an another tractor factory was set up there. But where those factories are now? H.M.T. is a public sector company. We have written several letters in this regard but nothing has been done.

I would like to say that nothing will be done if you fix State Governments' responsibility for it as has been done during the period of Congress rule and it is still out of control. In Patna, there is a board bearing the caption 'Industrial Estate' but nobody is there to look after it. Such is the condition of industrial Estates all over the country. Therefore, so far as the matter of handing over the small scale industries to the entrepreneurs is concerned, they set up their industries only when they get loan and running capital. Otherwise, there are some persons who got loan for this purpose but they have purchased gold in lieu of setting up industry, as the amount was not sufficient for industry. They tried to run away when the industry became sick and thus industrialisation could not take place. Banks do not give loans, they create troubles for people, this should be looked into. The products produced in small scale industries are not given market

protection. They cannot compete with big industries until we give them market protection. Therefore, protection should be given to them in order to keep the cottage industry in working condition in the country.

East India Company came. We have heard a lot of praise about the silk of Dhaka, that the entire length of cloth could pass through a ring. The Britishers came and they put an end to it. Their thumbs were cut. The same situation is arising today. People are being displaced in different manners. When it was not found possible to cut their fingers, they are being rendered unemployed in different manners. Every time on the eve of the Budget, the organisations of the small entrepreneurs furnish their representations to the Members of Parliament in respect of various problems faced by them, whether these are in regard to the matter of limit, or putting restriction on the items to be manufactured in small scale industries or the issue of running capital etc. As a matter of fact the position is that they never get protection. The Finance Minister makes a few points. But they are never implemented. Their problems are not looked into properly. This proposal has been made before the presentation of the Budget. Therefore, through you, upon the Government I would like to urge that this should be looked into and every possible protection and support should be extended to the small and cottage industry. Every person should get employment. Bapu had said that labour is the greatest asset of this country. We have not capital. We should set up small scale industries, which require more manpower and low capital investment. Only then we can provide employment to all, bring about industrialisation in the country and take the nation on the path of progress. We need such machines, which would enhance the efficiency of our hands and not render us unemployed. You should formulate such a policy. I would like to request the Government to accept the proposal given by Shri Katheria and also to announce steps for extending protection on behalf of the Government. At the same time amendment may be made in Constitution to make provision for Right to Work as Fundamental Right. Unless and until Right to Work is made a Fundamental Right, the nation cannot be saved from the clutches of the multinationals. The day we make the Right to Work a Fundamental Right, every unemployed youth will have the right to claim either for employment or unemployment allowance. In such a situation the nation will have to formulate such a policy.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D CHAVAN (Karad) From where will the money come?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It will be arranged... (Interruptions) Corruption and scams should be checked. Matador service has been provided for the Members of Parliament. The same

can be provided for the Ministers also. At present, each Minister has a separate Bungalow. All the Ministers can be accommodated in multi-storeyed flats to enable them under a single security cover. If you have to bring them to the Parliament House, they can be brought in a matador or a bus under the single security cover. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : You should have done this, when you were a Minister. (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I remained in power only for eight days. During that time we were discussing on the matter to make the Right to Work, a Fundamental Right. At that time we concentrated on meaningful thinking. Now it is all lost. Now those things are being forgotten by these people also. These people have given up austerity measures. Now it is becoming a status symbol. Unless there is a convoy of ten vehicles behind the Minister, he does not think he is a Minister. (Interruptions) Shri Devendra Kumar Yadav is sitting. He was a Member in the previous Lok Sabha also. His picture was published in place of another person and this caused threat to his safety. He was given a bodyguard. There are several other Members who have not sought any bodyguards. However, there are several persons who have secured Black Cat Protection and God knows what else, just for status symbol. Those, who have no threats to their lives, on whom no one would waste even a single bullet, have secured such security which has become status symbol.

Therefore, austerity measures should be observed here. When the issue of making Right to Work, a Fundamental Right arises, you should not raise the problem of fund. When Right to Work becomes a Fundamental Right, pressure will mount and under such pressure, policy would be formulated accordingly.

Liberalisation and globalisation is the norm of today. We are leading to global economy. Can a lame and a healthy person compete a race? Can our weak economy compete with the strong economies of Japan and America? Shri Narasimha Rao and Dr. Manmohan Singhji used to preach us. Shri Chidambaram would preach the same thing. Hence I request you to keep a little control on Shri Chidambaram. Else, he would prove to be more radical. If there is any person in the country, who is most radical advocate of liberalisation, it is your Finance Minister who is far ahead of Shri Manmohan Singhji. Hence, be careful.

Hon'ble Prime Minister is not present here. I request him, through you to consider some changes in his policies. While replying to the Confidence Motion, as the Chief Minister of Karnataka, he had spoken of Karnataka 18 times. What happened in Karnataka? Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet was opened. Small scale industries should be

encouraged. In the Common Minimum Programme manifesto of the United Front, you have mentioned that you will not allow foreign companies in the non-priority sector. What about Kentucky Fried Chicken? An agitation was launched there by Nanjudaswamy. The farmers there say, they are humble farmers. And when under the leadership of Nanjudaswamy, an agitation was launched by the farmers there, Nanjudaswamy was incarcerated. The Karnataka Government stood up in defence of Kentucky Fried Chicken. Will the same practice be adopted here ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : Fertilizer prices have come down. Please mention also the good work done by the Government.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Discussion is not going on agriculture. The discussion is on small scale industries. Hon'ble Minister, Sir, your Government has mentioned that foreign industries would not be allowed in non-priority sector. But I want to know from you, as to what are those sectors under which Kentucky Fried Chicken, Coca-Cola, Pepsi Cola, Bikaneri Bhujia and Uncle Chips come? These should be closed down, if it is in the United Front's manifesto.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : D.A.P. cost has come down by Rs. 100 per bag. The good work should also be mentioned.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It's all right. You have increased the subsidy on D.A.P. for which the credit goes to you. But, one hand you have increased the subsidy and on the other hand you have increased the price of Diesel and Naptha thereby nullifying the benefits after increasing the subsidy. You can increase the price of L.P.G. as much as you like because only a small number of people use L.P.G. for cooking. Discussion on L.P.G. has nothing to do with the main discussion...*(Interruptions)* Personally, I am of the view that there should be no subsidy on L.P.G. Because, only a few people use L.P.G. in this country...*(Interruptions)*

He said that the discussion was related to LPG Panigrahi, on behalf of the Government raised the issue of subsidy...*(Interruptions)* We allow to speak liberally. If I go there, I shall let you speak in that capacity. What he said has already been stated by the hon. Minister that the subsidy worth Rs 70 is provided on each LPG Cylinder but the facility of subsidy provided on LPG Cylinder is given to a few persons only. Therefore, this subsidy should be withdrawn. This subsidy is also a sort of headache for the hon. Members because they have to issue 25 Gas connections in three months. Please withdraw this facility from the hon. Members of Parliament ...*(Interruptions)*

That is a different matter. I was reacting and responding to the question asked by him. It is he who has changed the subject of the discussion. The hon. Minister has made a bid to derail me ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : No. I did not make any derailment.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Only therefore I stated that. I would like to say that some cottage industry ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I see that you can think now in a broader perspective but when you were on this side then you never thought like that. Today, the whole House is concerned at your Statement because you are so much worried about the country and the society that instead of raising the issue of fertiliser, you are raising the issue of L.P.G. but you are also expected to praise the Government for its good work.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You want to deviate from the subject of discussion which started on small scale industries. Infact, I support the four points highlighted by Katheriaji while introducing his resolution. Further, the Government should make its statement in the light of common minimum programme of the Front Government and this should neither be evasive nor a general type of statement. This should come in the shape of a concrete and time bound programme and in very un-ambiguous form as to what steps they intend to take to safeguard the interest of small scale industries and cottage industries and to remove the unemployment.

The National Front Government which was formed in 1989 had decided to make employment the fundamental right. I also demand the Government to make it clear whether it also thinks alike in this regard.

With these words, I again thank Katheriaji for raising a matter of public importance which is in the interest of the whole country and is related to the millions of the unemployed persons. They can get employment in this way. This resolution if adopted can prove to be of great importance in the development of the country.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : I would like to thank Katheriaji for moving a resolution in the House to provide employment to the unemployed persons. By moving this resolution, he has drawn the attention of the House towards the unemployment problem of the country.

16.33 hrs.

(Shri Nitish Kumar in the Chair)

I think it a most burning issue of the country which needs to be resolved but the question is how it should be resolved. He has given suggestion that

financial assistance should be provided to the existing small scale industries and new small scale industries should be set up. As a measure to remove unemployment, he has suggested to provide loan to unemployed persons. Though, the other Government, specially the Congress Government had introduced many schemes to solve the problems of unemployment but many difficulties came in the way of implementing those schemes. Particularly the system of providing loan is not proper. Banks and financial institutions which provide loans, are marred with corruption. Unless the palm of the concerned officer is greased, it is very difficult for a needy person to get loan. There are many unemployed youth who want to do something but cannot grease the palm of the concerned officers and are unable to get loan due to which unemployed persons particularly the educated unemployed find themselves unable to do anything. I hail from Jammu and Kashmir state which occupies the front page of daily newspapers. You might be aware that since 1989 till date, the militancy has shattered the system of the state. What is its reason? You might be aware that Pakistan had tried to instigate the people of the Jammu and Kashmir in 1965 to revolt so that it could occupy Kashmir illegally. But the people of Kashmir did not listen to them at that time. After that, they chalked out a long term scheme under which it was planned as to how their position in Kashmir could be strengthened and their entry could be made easy. Under the same scheme, opening of chain of schools in Kashmir was planned and training of fundamentalism was to be provided in the name of Jamat-e-Islami. Secondly, their intention was to win over the favour of educated unemployed persons and supply arms to them. They used to provide them financial assistance on the pretext that employment was not available. It was one of the reasons for the beginning of militancy. The second reason was the rigging during elections held prior to this election. Free and fair elections could never be held in the state.

It also became an issue. The result was that all the uneducated, unemployed youth came in the hold of militancy. They were provided with guns and this is how the militancy started. There are more than one lakh unemployed youth in Jammu and Kashmir at present. My Parliamentary Constituency is scarcely populated. It is larger than the area of Himachal Pradesh by 7000 sq. KM and is inhabited by more than two lakh people. There are resources which can generate employment but there are around five lakh unemployed youth at present. I want the Government to pay attention towards this problem.

As I said earlier that unless the Government takes steps to solve the problem arising due to financial institutions, the problem of unemployment cannot be solved. So far as the problem of educated unemployed persons is concerned, it is increasing day by day. A time will come when the Government

will find itself unable to provide employment to all the unemployed youth, then they will have to be diverted towards small scale industries. I would like to suggest the Government to divert the attention of these educated unemployment youth towards self-employment.

I would also like to draw the attention of the Government towards the problem being created by banks. Any one who approaches the bank to get loan has to face a lot of difficulties. Suppose, someone wants a loan of Rs. one lakh, bank asks him to deposit fifty percent of the amount in his account in cash and arrange for lump sum guarantee. If a person has Rs. 50000, why would he go to the Government for the loan? So far as the guarantee is concerned, it should be arranged. Youth of the country want to buy their own trucks, drive themselves to earn their livelihood. Some of them want to purchase taxi and some want to set up small scale industries but all the efforts are staked by the problems developed by the banks. There is a State Bank branch in my Parliamentary Constituency. People have deposited heavy amount in this bank. But that amount is not provided as loan. People are not getting the benefit that they should get. So far as the Government does not take any step in this regard, the educated unemployed persons will not get any benefit.

With these words, I thank Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria for raising this problem in the House through this resolution. I support this resolution and hope that the Government would take steps to solve this problem.

[English]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Hon. Chairman, Sir, my learned colleague has moved a Resolution which is a very important matter of our country. I think all the Members are of the same opinion that this problem is a paramount and a burning problem of our country. But I regret to say rather I am compelled to say that we are discussing the problem in the vacant House. We all agree that it is a burning issue, a paramount issue of our country. But we are discussing this matter in a vacant House.

You know there are different classes of unemployment in our country. First is the huge number of educated young men. Perhaps it is not possible to count the number of those who obtain degrees from universities and colleges. They have registered their names in the employment exchanges in the town area or city area. But barring those young men, there are so many young men who have not obtained degrees from universities or colleges, who are living in a remote corner of the village, they are not able to register their names in the employment exchanges.

Their number also is not possible to count because huge number of young men living in remote corner of our villages are not able to register their names in the Employment Exchanges.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is another class of unemployment and that is the agricultural labourers. The agricultural labourers are not obtaining any job particularly in our area i.e., 24 Parganas in West Bengal. There are so many fisheries and agricultural lands which are inundated by the saline water and so the lands are not fit for cultivation. Therefore, the agricultural labourers are not getting any job. They are not engaged by any cultivator to cultivate land to grow paddy etc. So, they are facing unemployment problem almost throughout the year.

Sir, the West Bengal Government has taken some measures to render some relief to the agricultural labourers. They are getting their rations at minimum prices from the West Bengal Government. I think, the Central Government should also take such measures and steps in the States so that the agricultural labourers are provided with such type of relief.

Sir, there are many other classes which are facing the unemployment problem. For example, the working class. The working class was working in so many industries. But all of us know that the maximum number of industries of our country have been closed now and due to which the working class who were engaged to work in the industries has now become jobless and unemployed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as all of us know that in both the banks of the Ganga river there are so many jute mills where the people are coming from Bihar, Orissa, UP, Sikkim and West Bengal. Lakhs of people of the working class were engaged to work in the jute mills. But the jute mills have been closed now. So, that working class is also unemployed now. Barring the jute mills, there are so many mills in our country so many industries in our country which are closed now. So, the Government should take - rather must take - initiative to reopening and to revive the sick industries and closed industries so that the working class who were engaged in the working of those industries is provided with job

Mr. Chairman, Sir earlier before the lunch recess today, there were discussions about the Banks that there were so many provisions to render financial assistance to the unemployed youth. So far as my knowledge is concerned, particularly the authorities of the banks are very much reluctant to provide, to render financial assistance to real unemployed youth who request to obtain loans from the banks for their jobs. But I am rather compelled to say that in connivance with so many designing persons, the bank authorities and officials are not rendering, not giving, not providing any loan to the unemployed youths. So, they have not been provided loans by the bank

authorities. Some designing persons, some interested persons in connivance with the bank authorities are getting loans by the bank authorities. This is the reality of our country.

I think, the West Bengal Government has taken some efforts, some measures to launch some programme for unemployed youth to provide them employment. But the scope of the West Bengal Government is very limited though they have taken efforts and measures seriously for the employment of the unemployed youth to reopening and reviving sick industries.

Therefore, Sir, I want that the right to work and the right to employment should be incorporated in the Fundamental Rights of the Indian Constitution.

I humbly urge upon the Prime Minister through you that there must be a portfolio in the Government of India under the supervision of a Cabinet Minister to look after the problems of the unemployed youth and to chalk out a programme to provide employment to them in order to solve this problem. I think this Government, which has declared so much in its Common Minimum Programme and which has been formed with the support of a large number of Members, would look after the matter and would take care of this problem. They should take positive steps to remove the unemployment problem from our country.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) Mr Chairman Sir, I, at the outset, thank our esteemed colleague Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria to have brought forward this Resolution relating to unemployment which has provided an opportunity for a threadbare discussion on this burning problem facing the country. The seriousness of this problem needs no emphasis. Everyone of us is acquainted with the problem. We face angry unemployed young men while moving in our areas. We also see frustration in the faces of our youth.

As you know, in our system the educated young men mostly prefer services; employment either in the Government or in public sector undertakings or in reputed private firms. In the absence of job opportunities a few are forced towards the industrial sector, that is to set up an industry or business themselves.

This problem of unemployment has different aspects in it. It is multifaceted. We have absolutely unemployed people and also we have a large number of people who are underemployed. Ours is an agricultural country and agriculture remains the mainstay of the economy. The agricultural sector engages a vast majority of our population. Directly or indirectly about 80 percent of people are linked with agriculture. I would not like to go into the statistics, they have already been given here. Somebody said that about five crores is the figure. That is available from our live registers of employment

exchanges, but that also does not reflect the real position. All unemployed people do not get themselves registered. There are many unemployed who are outside the register.

I said, there are two categories - educated unemployed and uneducated unemployed. Uneducated unemployment is easy to tackle by pumping funds into rural development. In that sector, the previous Government has done much to its credit, which even its enemies, if they would like to be truthful, have to admit. Today, honestly speaking in the rural areas, where this Employment Assurance Scheme is in operation, where it is under implementation, the problem of dearth of money is not there. That question is not being raised. But the other problem is how that money is being utilized. It is not being properly utilized. Even *Gram Panchayats* where ten years ago, even the *Sarpanchs* the *Pradhans* were unable to find funds to clear the salary bills of their secretaries and peons, are now overflowing with money to the tune of about Rs 8 lakh to Rs 10 lakh. Under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna, a minimum of Rs 1 lakh goes to every *Gram Panchayat* and where the population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is high, the amount goes up to Rs 1.5 lakh or even more than that per year. By all this, I do not want to undermine the seriousness of this topic but what I would like to say is if the uneducated unemployed persons want to work physically if they would like to do manual work, a lot of work is available and can be made available. That is what I would like to say. Even those who have studied up to Class VI or Class VIII are also ambitious to get Class IV jobs. Manual work, agricultural work, building work, etc. are their last preferences. So it is a question of attitude which has got to be changed. How can it be changed in an agriculture-dominated country?

We have to give more importance and a higher status to agriculture. Even the children of big farmers prefer Government service. This is something which the entire House, regardless of party differences, has to address itself.

Sir, I would like to say one more thing. You also participated in the debate and it is difficult now for me to contradict some points which you brought out here because you are in the Chair. Kindly permit me, Sir... *(Interruptions)*

(Translation)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no problem as such.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Please listen to me. You said that the Congress Government did not do anything.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may mention names. The Chair has no name. The Chair is a separate authority altogether.

(English)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): I agree with that. Yes, the hon. Member, Nitish Kumarji... *(Interruptions)* Nitish Kumarji said so. But, I say, the problem is so enormous and challenging that whatever you do, falls short of the requirement.

17.00 hrs.

But if one says that nothing has been done, that is not true. This Bill has another limitation. This Resolution relates to small sector. Of course, small sector industries have a major role to play in tackling this problem. In tackling this vexed problem, small scale units have a very very prominent role to play. Kindly allow me to read this. "With a view to tackling unemployment and for generation of more employment opportunities, this House urges upon the Government to provide financial assistance to the existing small scale industries". Is it not being done? It is being done. It is in the policy. But the question is, how it is being implemented. It is not being implemented properly. There is a lot of harassment. There should be more assistance. That is a different point. But is it not being done? Then, it says "Set up more small scale industries and provide necessary infrastructural facilities like loans, electricity, marketing etc. to such industries". Is it not part of the Government policy, the industrial policy to tackle unemployment? Reserve certain areas of production for small scale industries. It is fine. As you know, Sir, our society is not even. It is not like a football ground which is even. A lot of ups and downs are there. It is full of inequalities. When it is not equal when it is not uniform, naturally we have to have some reservation for the weaker sections, for the downtrodden and in the same manner we should make some reservation for small scale industries. Sir, we all know that big fish eats small fish. That is true in this sector also. Therefore, precautions have to be taken. *(Interruptions)* Yes, that is why I say some reservation should be there. Why are we having reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, reservation for weaker sections and now for OBCs? It is because we agree that all could not progress well. There are people who are left behind in the race for improvement for advancement in social side etc. Is it not being done? I am coming to the figures. In 1980, 836 products had been reserved exclusively for small scale industries. If they implement it properly, the big units, the big industries are forbidden from manufacturing all these things. Recently, in the month of January, an Expert Committee has been formed on unemployment. I do not know whether that Committee has given its report. I think, initially three months' time was given to that Committee, it must have been extended. I think, the committee was set up under the Chairmanship of ex-Planning Commission Member.

17.04 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

The Committee was set up to give a fresh look at the changing situation. Priya Ranjan Das Munshiji is not here now. Sea changes have taken place in our industrial policy, in our economy policy and because of this India could stand up. What happened to USSR? What happened to other countries? They have collapsed. And since we have switched over well in time, we could come out of the brink. The economy was on the brink of collapse economically in 1991. But we have a prestigious position in the world today. Of course, in the changing situation, in the wake of all these changes in our policy, a fresh look needs to be given to our small scale industries, to their problems etc.

I find that this committee does not have direct representation from the small sector units or small scale industries. If they are also given representation, it will be good, but at the same time, finance is the most important thing for industry, as you know. Some representatives of some major banks should find representation so that they can move together. This committee need not sit in Delhi alone and they should visit rural areas. They should have direct interaction with the small entrepreneurs, make a study of their problems in depth and come out with dispassionate, practical suggestions. The Government also should give all importance to the recommendations of this committee. This is what is needed. That is why I said all these things. We cannot say that this sector is totally neglected though with all the shortcomings about which we have made a complaint. In spite of that, today in the total scenario of the industrial sector, small scale sector account for 43 percent of the total goods manufactured. This is also true that it is exactly 40 percent.

As regards the exports, of the total production exercised, their contribution is 40 percent and also in terms of exports of this country, they account for 40 percent. Again the export of small scale industry sector has improved dramatically in two or three years' time....(Interruptions) I am giving you figures. In 1990-91, the value-exercised export was Rs. 9664 crore. Exports for the year 1994-95 are provisionally estimated to be Rs. 26000 crore. The targets for 1995-96 for production, employment and exports are Rs. 30000 crore, Rs. 145 lakhs and Rs. 30000 crore respectively. So, it is on the growing side. It is on a forward march, as I said. But they have their problems. As has been stated earlier in some areas, the sign boards are there for District Industry Centres, but there is no approach roads in such places. In this House earlier, in the Tenth Lok Sabha, many questions were raised about these DICs, the District Industry Centres or to build up infrastructure, etc.

Money is being paid by the Central Government and the implementation part is left with the State Governments. This needs to be monitored. Only giving money or placing money does not serve the purpose. It needs close, effective and day-to-day monitoring from the Centre. That way, we can see, further things. As I said, about sale and preferential treatment, etc., it is already there in the policy. But to what extent and for how many years it should be exempt initially from the sales tax and other taxes should be seen. To some extent, preferential treatment should be given in tender, etc.

I will come to the price hike in the petroleum products. Of course, I will be discussing the details on Monday while participating in this debate. But I can say today that the other factor associated with this Resolution is that we have to be competitive. Our industry has to be competitive internationally. In the international market, it must attempt. Otherwise, it will become sick. How long can you give protection? I think, that is the practical solution for different sectors of our economy. We have to go for dual-pricing. Even in the case of diesel, etc. used by the small-scale industry, there should be another price. Otherwise, we will also be eroding the international competitiveness of our industry. That way, the exports will be affected. Many of these industries will be closed down. Out of these, the small scale industry will be the worst victim. Earlier also, I had indicated why different treatment has to be given.

Now I come to the unemployed youth. There are also small-scale industries of different sizes and of different dimensions - medium, simple and very very small ones, and sometimes though on small-scale but sizeable ones. The small-scale industry - cottage industry - was very much at the root of our freedom movement. Gandhiji, Father of the Nation, started a movement burning the Manchester cloth. He went on practising *Khadi* and hand woven cloth. As you know, in our country, agriculture sector provides utmost employment. Next comes the textile sector or the small-scale sector, cottage industry and all those things. You go to Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh or you go to Orissa. You will find the pitiable condition of the weavers - the Harijan people, this downtrodden people - who earn their livelihood from it. In this competitive world, we have power powerlooms and other looms - textile mills, etc. Today, we have to see that the more we have drifted away from the Gandhian path, the more crisis we are facing in the country. That is why today is the time also to think about it.

SHRI SURESH PRABU (Rajapur) : Are the economic policy and the Gandhian path compatible?

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : There can be all these things. There can be comprehensive

coordination. There can be both the things. In some areas, we can do it. Otherwise, you cannot be competitive in the world. In certain areas, you cannot do it. You see power generation. What can you do in small scale industries? Tell me about it ...*(Interruptions)* Like this, certain things are there.

As you know, the population growth is our enemy number one. To have provided employment opportunities to a large number of people. Since the population growth is moving very very fast, this does not cope up with the employment opportunities, or other opportunities created in different fields do not cope up with it, i.e. popularizing growth. These are not matching with the growth in our population. That is the problem. Anyway, it is time for us to give a thought to it.

Today, you have been elected Deputy-Speaker. I also congratulate you. I wish you a very very successful tenure. I do not like that you ring the Bell and insist me to sit down. Before that, I would like to close.

I would say that unemployment is a very very serious problem covering everybody, particularly the people in Orissa. Therefore, there should at least be a Parliament Committee on Employment.

Before the system of Standing Committees came into being, we had formed the Committee on Environment, Agriculture, etc. So why not we form a parliamentary committee on employment and devote full and adequate time to different aspects of this problem and come out with concrete suggestions?

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) Why not we form a different Ministry for this purpose?
(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) We have enough committee existing in our country, there is no dearth of committees in our country. Now the problem is of unemployment. You are such an experienced and decent Member. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI There is a point in what our young friend from Kerala is saying. There are a lot of committees. Sometimes, we want to avert certain things and we form a committee, sub-committee, etc. I am not saying it in that sense. I am saying that a committee should be formed to look into employment and related aspects. *(Interruptions)* Since the matter has come up in the form of a Resolution, we are getting an opportunity to discuss the matter. But what I want to say is, if there is a permanent committee and also a department to deal with employment, it will be very good. Many of our policies are good but they need to be reoriented and looked at afresh, specially our policy on industry and small scale industry. My grievance is that their implementation is not satisfactory and there is a lot of scope in improving the implementation.

Implementation of policies is quite defective. There is a scheme for unemployed people under Rozgar Yojana or PMRY. Beneficiaries are being chosen for this. They are moving from pillar to post approaching bank authorities. Out of Rs. 1 lakh, about Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10,000 are being spent by them in coming to that office and greasing the palms of different people occupying position. By that, their interest is also lost. Therefore, you should update the policy. There is an expert committee looking into it. We can do it in the light of its recommendations also. At the same time, suggestions from hon. Members can also be invited so that our policy can be implemented in letter and spirit. This is very very important and has to be ensured.

With these words, I thank the hon. Member for having brought forward the Resolution for discussion.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria has moved the resolution "With a view to check unemployment and for generating more employment opportunities, this House urges upon the Government to - (i) provide financial assistance to existing small scale industries, (ii) set up new small scale industries and provide necessary infrastructural facilities like loans, electricity, marketing, etc. to such industries, (iii) reserve certain areas of production for small scale industries, and (iv) set up a National Craftsman Development Bank." I strongly support this resolution and through you, request all the Members of this House to rise above the political differences and pass this resolution unanimously so that the Government strives constantly to remove unemployment.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a couplet in Ramayana

Jas-jas sursa badan badhava
Tassu doon kapi roop dikhava

When Shri Hanumanji went to Lanka to find Sitaji, Surasa wanted to test Hanumanji. Suddenly Surasa assumed a gigantic form. Hanumanji also assumed a form which was proportionately double in size. Again, when Sursa grew two times bigger, Hanumanji assumed a form four times bigger. Such is the situation of unemployment.

Ever since independence, every Government that was formed, promised to remove unemployment but none has succeeded so far. Just now my friend was speaking. His party, in its manifesto in 1991, promised to check the price rise within 100 days but five years passed and prices kept on rising instead of coming down.

The situation remained unchanged. The prices are rising day by day.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if I describe the extent of price rise and unemployment problem, you will come to know of the frightening aspect of unemployment. More than four and a half crore people are unemployed in our country. Out of them more than 75 lakh are educated unemployed. There are various categories of people amongst them - educated unemployed, uneducated unemployed, urban unemployed, rural unemployed, trained unemployed, periodically unemployed. Unemployment exists in various forms.

Sir, there is a wide resentment over unemployment. It is causing political and social discontent in the country and wrath of the people is increasing. After studying hard, earning degrees and even after acquiring a doctorate degree when one tries to enter the job market he faces unemployment because of which he gets disappointed and frustrated and his whole life is ruined. This is not a good sign for our administration.

Sir, we have always been speaking out in favour of providing work to every person, water to every field and appropriate remuneration to the labourer. I would like to make a request, through you, that the right to employment should be included in the Fundamental Rights in the Constitution of India. So long as this is not done, nothing can be accomplished. Provision for providing work to every youth and to every capable person should be made in the fundamental Rights. Till employment is not provided, unemployment will keep on rising.

Sir, we observe that the U.P.S.C. advertises many vacancies. You will be surprised at the extent of amount being spent by the youngsters in the process of filling up forms, attaching postal orders, and for appearing in examinations and interviews. Firstly, the youngsters are unemployed and then they have to spend so much of money, which is a big burden for them and their parents. If you cannot do anything else, you should at least remove this burden. The problem of unemployment is quite frightful and if we only make it a subject for discussion or for staging demonstrations or just keep on describing it and afterwards nothing is done about it, then it is not going to be solved. As I suggested, the only way to remove unemployment is to include the Right to employment in the Fundamental Rights in the Constitution of our country.

Sir, the population of the country is increasing rapidly and the increase in the number of unemployed people is going up much higher in comparison to the increase in population. If one compares the increase in the number of unemployed and increase registered in population in the last 40 years, you will be surprised to note that the increase in the number of unemployed people is ten times higher in

comparison to the increase in population. The enormity of the problem of unemployment should be well apparent.

Sir, according to the statistics of the World Bank in respect of our country, 31 crore and fifty lakh people are living below poverty line. If such is the extent of poverty then all those friends who keep on shouting slogans for removing poverty, should sit back and ponder over this issue as to how they kept on shouting such slogans whereas the situation remained unchanged.

Sir, it is being stated that 30,000 crore rupees were allocated for rural development I wish to point out that Jawahar Rojgar is not being implemented properly in the villages. A muster-roll is prepared and the well-off people get their names included in it. The families who were identified three-four years ago are provided employment. Then it is stated that so many people were given jobs and so many mandays were generated. But does this help decrease unemployment? This will not help in bringing down the rate of unemployment. Similarly, at the time of elections, Prime Minister Employment Scheme was being propagated. The banks do not provide any assistance whatsoever in this regard. Our educated unemployed receive training from the Labour Institutes or some other training institutes and thereafter, their names are forwarded to the banks by District Industrial Centres or District Industrial Development Centres for setting up small scale industries of their own. They keep on visiting the bank because the bank employees frequently call them on the pretext that this and that paper has not been enclosed and the document does not contain the required guarantee. Consequently after five or six months of running from pillar to post, that person, sits at home overcome by frustration and discontentment and the training taken by him also goes to waste. He does not get any money from Prime Minister Employment Scheme. Even if he gets it, the bank personnel take their Commissions on it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, many members in this House must be aware that the loans are granted by the bank only after greasing a few palms. As a result thereof, the desired targets and objectives are not achieved. Sir, the closure or the sickness of about 58 public sector industries, the losses being incurred by the 125 N.T.C. National Textile mills, the Computerisation and the adoption of modern technology in industries, the retrenchment of labourers, the privatisation of Railways and the entry of multinational companies are some of the factor affecting economic position of the country.

Sir, Rajathan has a bhujia making industry and the potato chips ventures also the small scale

industries running in the villages such as handloom, Carpet weaving, murabba-making, Achaar making or semolina, papad and flour products would be affected.

Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that Japan was completely destroyed in the two wars however even after being destroyed, Japan has dealt with the unemployment, has made progress in the industrial sector and has been able to increase the value of its currency. The sole reason for such progress lies in the promotion of small scale industries. The electronic items such as the Tapercorder, Record player, T.V., Transistor, Small electrical appliances are manufactured in small scale industries sector in Japan but over here we have invited 'Sony' and several other multinational companies. All the companies have been taken over by the multinationals. In this way, the country is being deprived of the employment opportunities. They are bringing the technology experts from abroad. What would the youth do? What would be the fate of the youth who have been trained? Hence all such policies as the liberalisation, promoting multinationals, exerting pressure on agricultural banks, bowing to the I.M.F., all such policies are a part of the conspiracy to wipe out our industries, a conspiracy to crush the 'Swadeshi' spirit, and the spirit of self sufficiency. Hence through you I would like to state that there is a need to proceed with caution in this regard. We should welcome the multinationals to set up industries only in such areas wherein we do not have the high level technology and the sectors wherein we are incurring losses. But so far as the small scale industries, small scale traders, cottage industries are concerned which are handed down from generation to generation and which are traditionally based in rural areas, people should not be deprived of such industries, their source of employment should not be cut off, such industries should not be closed down. Khadi and Village Industries have been providing employment to many people in the rural areas of the country and now the news appear very prominently in the newspapers that the subsidy on Khadi and village industries given to the State Government has been stopped. If such a move is there then the existing cottage industries would be on the brink of destruction. Hence I would like to request, through you, that first of all the right to employment should be included in the Constitution. Secondly, we have decided that target of employment for all should be achieved by 2002. I would like to request the new Government that you used to shout many a slogans, now you should do something as well. How are you going to provide employment to every unemployed person by 2002.

You should present your scheme in the House. When you present budget, the scheme should be mentioned in it.

I would like to request my friends sitting on the treasury benches that you have always been a supporter of this cause. Now the budget is being presented. The truth does not need any proof. Hence I would request that you still have a few day left. You should at least try to bring such a budget wherein the unemployed are given relief, the young people are given jobs, welfare schemes are started for them so that socialism is brought in the country in the real sense, and the spirit of 'Sangachadhyam Sanvadadhyam' is materialised.

In this context, I would like to mention that the ceiling of land and employment should be determined in the villages also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, two hours' time was allotted for this discussion and now only two minutes are left. Many members still want to speak hence time should be extended by atleast one more hour.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the House wishes, time can be extended.

(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, everybody is repeating. If you give five minutes each, then everybody will be able to put forth his points. Unemployment is a burning problem in our country. So, it is very important for all of us to express our views.

[Translation]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the House agrees to it, we can increase its time by one hour. But my request is that the hon'ble Member should not speak for more than 5-7 minutes so that more Members have chance to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker. Sir, discussion is also to be held in regard to Jammu and Kashmir.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will begin it at six o'clock.

(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : Mr. Speaker. Sir, I am on a point of order. I do not object to discussion on Jammu and Kashmir but on Friday the last two and a half hours are only for disposing un-official work and discussion on any other subject.

cannot take place after that time is over
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the House so desires we can certainly have this discussion.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : That can only be done by relaxasing the rules and also with the permission of the House. But generally it is not so.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will do that.

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) : When Mr. Chairman Lal was speaking, the House agreed for now taking up the Private Members bill and the discussion on Jammu and Kashmir can be taken up at 6 o' Clock.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We are going to do that.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : To extend the time by one hour on this resolution does not mean that it is to be taken up today it self. Private Members bill can continue only upto six o'clock. After that if you want to take up any other business then you may do so. But time has been extended for this debate. If it is not concluded today, we can resume it some other day.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What I want to say is that if it is not completed today then it will continue next time. But we will discuss Jammu and Kashmir at 6 o'clock.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : I am making my last request. My suggestion is that a network of cottage industries, small scale industries and village industries should be set up in village areas on large scale and without being involved in the statistics the work should be given to the needy unemployed youths, so that rural unemployment can be removed and they do not run towards the cities. Arrangements should be made for this. Therefore, minimum limit for providing employment and also for land should be fixed.

We have one Khadi and Village Industries Commission and also an Institute of Engineering and Rural Technology. These two should be competent and strengthened further so that the information about the type of technology that can be provided and developed in the rural areas and the type of research to be carried out for the purpose can be provided. National Craftsmen Development Bank should be set up in the country. A bank for giving loans to the artisans to those who are good artisans, who are involved in carpet weaving and also those who work on looms, so that any individual family or community who want to start its industry can get loan at concessional rates and invest the money in industry of his choice and can repay it in easy instalments.

The greatest need is to make an overall change in the educational system. Today our education system is such that it is creating unemployment and discouraging the feeling of hard work. It prepares everyone for obtaining white collar job, which is not possible.

The reservation made for some categories proved to be useless because how many can be given jobs on the basis of reservation. How many of our friends from the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and the backward classes could get jobs in the name of reservation. Whatever employment they get and the number of vacancies created are not filled up and there remains the backlog for these posts. thousand of posts remain vacant, they are not filled up, therefore care should be taken to fill the vacant posts from amongst the persons of the relevant category to remove unemployment.

In the same way, I am producing some statistics. In the year 1991 there were 24.66 lakh matriculates in our area but only 0.59 lakh could get employment through Employment exchanges. There were 63.23 lakh non-degree holders but only 0.25 lakh could get employment. Similarly the number of Graduate and Post Graduate Degree holders was 7.19 lakh and only 0.42 lakhs got employment. These figures speak itself and you can well imagine, with this, the position of employment.

I, therefore, urge the Government through you that to instigate the feelings of self reliance and Swadeshi our own small scale industries should be encouraged and the multi national companies should not be allowed in every field and the right to employment should be included in the Fundamental Rights of the Constitution.

SHRI SURENDRA YADAV (Khalilabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our hon'ble member Katheria ji has raised a very important subject. Today, the youths of our country are very much frustrated with unemployment problem of our country. Today, all the youths are setting afire their degrees, simply because they are not getting employment.

I hail from Khalilabad of eastern Uttar Pradesh, which is dominated by weavers. These weavers who cloth the entire nation, are today forced to go in search of employment to the cities like Mumbai, Calcutta, Madras, Delhi, Lucknow and other cities of our country. The weavers who have set up handlooms and powerlooms are not getting power. They are facing difficulty in the absence of power. They are sitting with their hands crossed day and night. I want to tell you that when you go to the places like Mau, Monghyr, Khalilabad, Charamsinhwa, Ludua, Mahua or any other weavers uomenated area, you will find that people come out to stand for work and give

brick etc. at eight o'clock. They are the educated sons of these weaver. There was a time when they used to weave a wrapper out of bomboos to be used to cover the back of an elephant but today they are helpless. Their hands are cut off. Nobody cares for them in our country and nobody works for them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Governments come and go. Then do talk of giving priorities to them but as a matter of fact, no work is done for them. I feel very unhappy that the career of weavers is at stake ever since the last Government was in power. Those who are graduates and post graduates are living in villages and doing tuition work by visiting the residences of rich people in cities for Rs. 100 only per month. They come to them and make requests for tuition. I am also a trained graduate, I had started my career by doing tuition for Rs. 100 only per month. But what is the position of the institutes today. The persons having degrees of B.A. B.Ed. M.A. and M.Sc. go to such institutes and implore them for tuition for Rs. 500 to Rs. 700 per month. If this is the condition of educated youths of our country and they are not going to be given employment, then do not open such schools and institutes. stop giving recognition to them. If you give them recognition then you may give aid to such institutes. I recall that once a teacher was asked by a Manager as to why you come clad in a 'dirty dhoti' then he replied that if you give Rin Soap, then I will come in clean 'Kurta dhoti'

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, my friend Shri Katheria had raised here a burning issue Today, the situation has become bad to worse we are in difficulty Our area is dominated by weavers and fishermen Ghagra, Tapti and Ami rivers flow there I want to give an example of Ami river flowing in my area Sanjay Paper Mill is located just near it This mill pollutes the entire river If any person takes a dip in it, he becomes blind and if a buffalo gets into it, its skin gets removed Such kind of pollution is seen in these rivers of our country But no action is taken in this regard. This is a matter of great concern for the entire nation

I am a newly elected member, but the people of our area want that we should highlight such problems and the Government should work and they should get employment I will urge upon you to help the artisans, Specially the carpenters blacksmiths and Potters whose work go on very briskly in villages but such working people are not given any assistance It is said that banks provide loans but as a matter of fact, no loan is given to them One fourth of loan goes into the pocket of Bank Manager They come back with the rest of the amount of loan to their homes and after some days R C is issued

against them and then the employees of tehsil go to collect the sum. They harass them. A list of names of ten persons is maintained in every tehsil, who have taken maximum loan. In fact, no body harasses them and nothing is said to them. Tehsildar, Naib Tehsildar and Amin go to harass those who have got the loan of one thousand, five thousand or ten thousand irrespective of whether it is shoe maker or rikshapuller or any small entrepreneur.

I demand, through this House, that the system of arresting the poor and putting them in Tehsil Jail should be stopped, otherwise people, when infuriated, pull out your D.M. or Tehsildar from his Chair like the 16th Louis of Russia. Mill owners owe Rs. 10 crore as loan, and we owe just Rs. one thousand or Rs. ten thousand, then we are put in jail but nobody says anything to the mill owners. Why this happens? I have myself seen such people with my own eyes and worked in their favour. I pity such poor people

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir hon'ble Katheriaji has raised this issue We did not feel happy with it rather we feel anguished because the story of miseries of the poor has been unfolded I want to congratulate you for being elected to this Chair and want to express our plight, through a couplet. This is the suffering of unemployed, fishermen, blacksmiths, carpenters and the poor I want to express it before you When unemployed people look towards me with stony eyes, I feel their agony I am a new member and have been in politics ever since 1979. They ask whether they will get employment. This is the couplet I want to quote

Koi mere dil se puchhe tere tir-e-neemkash ko.
Yeh khalish kahan se hoti jo jigar ke par hota.

The arrows which do not pierce hearts, hurt us, destroys us and make us worried. Then we raise slogans against exploitation and injustice Police resorts to lathicharge. My right leg and left hand were broken with the police blows We will raise their questions I want to tell you that you should do something for unemployed people, otherwise nation will have to face a catastrophe One more thing I will like to say to Katheriaji Of course, he should say to the Government and but to his leaders also as to what message they have given by allowing Enron to set up their project here You have allowed Multi National companies to enter and thereafter you say that you want to develop rural employment for youths How will you do this? How the small scale industries and cottage industries will flourish? Whether they will flourish with the establishment of Enron?

I do not want to speak for long This is the agony of each of those who are true and honest I have been a teacher Today, I am a lawyer, because my

services as a teacher were terminated on 12th June, 1976. Therefore, I do know the sufferings of the people of my country and my area. Today M.A. B.Ed. and M.Sc., B.Ed. teachers are working in non-aided institutions, they are doing tuition. In Khalilabad, the city President of Janata Dal, Shri Kutubuddin 'Sarik' Shahi is I.S.C. diploma holder. He is doing tuition and thereby earning his livelihood. This is happening in this country. When Mandal Commission recommendations were implemented all the unemployed people were subjected to atrocities. This is the problem of this nation. I would like to say that the Government should stop ruining this country. The way the loans from the weavers in Uttar Pradesh are being recovered should be stopped. Whether the hoardings displayed in tehsil is for show? Why do not you stop it, why do not you arrest them? Why you arrest these unemployed persons? You arrest the carpenters potters, blacksmiths etc. who get the loan of just Rs. 1000 to Rs. 5000.

I am the only member of Janata Dal after Maneka Gandhi from Uttar Pradesh.

17.49 hrs.

(Shri P.M. Sayeed in the Chair)

Therefore, I want to speak on behalf of the entire U.P. that weavers and fishermen of U.P. are being subjected to injustice. The pollution of rivers should be checked, these rivers should be cleaned so that our fishermen could go for fishing to earn their livelihood.

With these words, I want to urge upon the Government that the vast question of unemployment that I have raised must be solved. The villagers should be given employment. The Government should develop the professions of carpentry, pottery and animal husbandry and where jute is grown in large quantity, jute mills should be set up there. In my area, sugar mills could not survive. Our Government did well that it issued orders to pay 50 per cent of the outstanding amount to the sugarcane growers. I would like to thank the Government for that and urge upon it that the agony of the unemployed may be realised so that their problem can be resolved.

DR T SUBBARAMI REDDY Mr Chairman, Sir, I wholeheartedly congratulate Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria for having moved a Resolution on unemployment. I must say that today in our country unemployment is the most burning problem. Those who have done their graduation and have come out suffer from frustration because there is no employment. You go to any place there is no job. The result is that apart from frustration, it is leading them to go on the wrong track and to take up extreme

activities. So, this is the most important thing. I am really happy that the small-scale industries are thought of very nicely in this Resolution.

Sir, everybody spoke on this Resolution. So, I do not want to repeat all the points nor do I want to have a lengthy debate. I will speak only for a few minutes on some important points.

Firstly, banks have got a psychology that a small entrepreneur is a small man. He is not given much importance. This has been the grievance of a common man who wants to start the industry. It is the duty of the Government to screw the banks and the institutions to give the top-most priority for financing the small-scale industries. It does not mean that we speak less of big industries. To solve the unemployment problem, we must have massive industrialisation on large-scale, medium-scale and small-scale. Further, the population should also be controlled. Then, only the unemployment problem can be solved. I hope hon. Members unanimously will agree on this and nobody can deny that this unemployment problem is a burning problem. We must make the Government formulate a law or give standing instructions to all the institutions and banks that every month they must have the quota. For example, take the case of the State Bank of India or the State Bank of Mysore. How many small scale industries must they finance and how much should be their duty for this sector? It is their duty to catch hold of the entrepreneurs who can start these small-scale industries, who must be trained and also given help also. For example, a man is having ten lakh of rupees but has no idea how to formulate the scheme properly. But when he goes to the bank the bank does not give him proper response. Once the bank has been told that it is its monthly duty and if it does not show monthly progress, it will be tolerated and spared and that bank will not be recognised by the Reserve Bank of India and by the Government of India or the people. Then only they will come round. Therefore, this is one way of solving the problem by stimulating and inspiring entrepreneurs in the small scale sector.

Sir, I do not want to politicise it. Everywhere we will find good people and bad people, every Party is good and bad, and everything has got its own plus and minus. But, at the same time, the previous Government has done its best to see that problem of unemployment is solved.

Sir, what is liberalisation? Some people get mixed up. Liberalisation means, 'Do not have licence, do not stand in queue, need not spend money for some lower or higher people. If you want an industry, you are welcome. Licence is not required. If you want some foreign collaboration, it is readily available.

Our Country is a poor country and we have no money. If you want money from any other country, the money can be invested from other countries all over the world. Therefore, the previous Government had inspired every country to come to our nation and participate in building this great country by participation in massive industrialisation, so that the unemployment problem can be solved. I must say it was sowed, seed was put, water was put and plant has started. Now, the fruits have to come. Therefore, as far as the unemployment problem is concerned, as far as massive industrialisation is concerned, let us forget the party and politics. Let us be united together.

Let us fight for it and let us inspire everybody. If some industry is coming, let us feel happy that one temple is coming. Previously, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said that any irrigation project coming up was a modern temple of India. Now today, not only the irrigation projects are the modern Temples of India but also the industries are the modern temples of the country to solve the poverty of this country. We must accept it. But unfortunately, people are trying to politicise the liberalisation issue. Today China is progressive and prosperous and is one of the leading countries in the world. How was it possible? Though it is a communist country they invited capital from all over the world. Therefore, let us not differentiate the medium-scale industries, large-scale industries or small-scale industries. Our determination, dedication, devotion and concentration should help us to remove poverty.

[Translation]

We should try to see and find out ways and means to remove poverty

[English]

For this we need massive industrialisation

I am very happy that this Resolution has been introduced to provide financial assistance. Here it is said

"to provide financial assistance to existing small-scale industries"

It is not that the financial assistance is not provided. What is required is to accelerate the giving of finance to the small scale industries. That is the idea of it. It is also said

'set up new small scale industries and provide necessary infrastructural facilities..'

Here I must tell one thing to the Government. One colleague has said that we must have a committee for unemployment. If there is a committee

for unemployment, there should be a Minister for Unemployment and that Minister also will become unemployed; Let us not use that word of 'committee or Minister for Unemployment'. The Minister who is meant to create the employment potentialities for various channels, such as small-scale industries, cottage industries, medium-scale industries and major industries and massive agricultural production should look into it. His duty is to implement the various projects of the Government to create employment. Now there are only some branches of the Ministry looking into it. There should be an exclusive Ministry and, at the same time, that Ministry should be given the top priority, top prominence, top significance and top respect. Wherever they go, they must be heard. Any Secretary called by that Ministry must come and cooperate. Such a system should be created. That is all and not by more criticising and by pointing out mistakes.

17.58 hrs

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

Sir, there is one more thing. People are mistaking that liberalisation has been given only for major industries. Liberalisation has been given by the previous Government for every industry, even small-scale industry also. If you want to have a licence, if you want to have paper formalities fulfilled, there will be problems. There will be environmental problem. Water supply and power connection and so many other things are required for setting up industries small, medium or large. Every State Government and also a branch of the Central Government should create an exclusive machinery to help them in such a way that red-tapism is abolished. I must say that as long as the red-tapism is living in this country we cannot dream to achieve the prosperity and solve this unemployment problem.

If you do not persuade the situation, nothing moves. Even a few days back all M.P.s have had a discussion with our Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. It was openly felt that even in Delhi, unless a man persuades, nothing moves. If nothing moves, industry also cannot come. If industry does not come, we cannot get employment also. Everything is inter-linked. Therefore there should be a zeal, enthusiasm and spirit which should be inculcated in the blood of every citizen of this country. As citizens of this country we must march forward to see that everybody works with a zeal and commitment to this nation. Let us not forget that if a man comes for a small-scale industry or a licence or for assistance or for any help we should not see whether he is our relation or whether he has any influence or not. As long as that red-tapism is there, we cannot dream to solve unemployment in this country.

Therefore, I want to submit one thing. Sir, just now the hon. Minister has entered the House. He will live for hundred years. I was just to tell about him and he entered the House.

I am very happy that he is taking very much interest on industrialisation. I really want to compliment him that big changes have been brought about by the Industries Minister. I request him that he must now concentrate on small-scale industrialisation also. Some effort should be made to find out as to what are the teething problems, the problems of red-tapism and other day-to-day problems. If Shri Murasoli Maran thinks about it, it is not impossible.

18.00 hrs

I hope that the present Government will accelerate the philosophy which was started by our previous Government. I have already told that the tree has come up and all of us must enjoy the fruit and unemployment should be curbed.

Lastly, even though population is not a concerned point, but it has got an inseparable connection with this problem of unemployment also. It is not that our country is not achieving prosperity since independence. We have been achieving it.

MR. SPEAKER: Your time is over.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Lastly, I support the Resolution to provide the financial assistance and acceleration to existing small industries, to set up new small-scale industries and to provide them necessary infrastructural facilities like loan, electricity, marketing etc. and reserve certain areas of production for them. Finally, I would say though this point is not there, to solve the problem of unemployment, population should also be controlled... (Interruptions)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): Would you give chance to others also?

MR. SPEAKER: It will continue.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, for my third Resolution, will I get a chance next day?

MR. SPEAKER: It will continue later on.

18.01 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: CONTINUANCE
OF PROCLAMATION BY PRESIDENT IN
RELATION TO THE STATE OF JAMMU AND
KASHMIR- CONTD.**

MR. SPEAKER: We will now resume the discussion on Statutory Resolution in respect of

Jammu and Kashmir to extend the President's rule for a further period of six months with effect from 18th July, 1996.

Shri Chaman Lal Gupta will resume his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had risen to support this resolution and had also said that I was supporting it because the situation was not normal there at present. Besides, I was giving an example that when the Prime Minister went there, a total Bandh was observed, though the Prime Minister went there to take stock of the floods and to provide some financial assistance... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please maintain order in the House. Mr. Reddy you have made a good speech; do not spoil it.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: My submission is that keeping in view the situation prevailing in Doda, Army should not have been withdrawn from there. Last time also, you had given an order that Army should not be withdrawn from there but after elections Army was withdrawn as a result of which today, 4-5 murders are taking place there everyday. Militants want to create an atmosphere of terror there. Militants slay people with a knife saying that they do not want to waste even a single bullet to kill them. They have created a reign of terror there. Our security forces have also been deployed there. You have also deployed Rashtriya Rifles, BSF and CRPF there alongwith the local police but there is no coordination among them. I was giving an example that a file is held up in the Prime Minister's Office for deciding which of the two is superior the Rashtriya Rifles or the BSF. The BSF people do not want to work under the command of Rashtriya Rifles. On the other hand Rashtriya Rifles personnel say that they are from Army and so nobody can dictate them. Such type of confusion is prevailing there. I gave an example that the militants fled after killing 15 people in Varshala and their dead bodies were lying there for about ten hours. Though, BSF post is only one kilometre and Rashtriya Rifles post is quarter to one kilometre away from there but none of them is ready to be accountable for that. Both of them are passing responsibility on one another for this incident. I would like to submit that the Government should establish its authority. As I said earlier also that today Delhi Government is running the state, there should not be so much of confusion there. About 60 officers there

went to Pakistan for training and returned back to the country. They were arrested and were kept in the jail. But it is very surprising that they continued to get their salaries for about one and a half year. When they were dismissed by the Governnor, so much of hue and cry was made. Consequently, a committee was constituted but it could not give its findings although a period of one and a half year has since been elapsed. Orders for their dismissal had been issued but could not be implemented. Here, a reference to elections was made. Elections were held properly and rightly so. As many as 11,000 employees from U.P., Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Delhi were sent there for holding elections in addition to more than two lakh Army personnel who were deployed there. For how long can you run administration like this? Now, very soon Amarnath Yatra is going to take place and you are going to deploy Army for this purpose. You don't have any control on the employees.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we have a common border with Pakistan. In 1971, our forces had occupied more than one third of Pakistan and had arrested its 93,000 soldiers. But they were later released because it is an international border and we cannot do anything on this border. In 1971, we dug a ditch all along the border systematically. After completing fencing work in Punjab, we decided to carry it out in Kashmir also. As soon as we started fencing, Pakistani soldiers started firing. When the Union Government was contacted in this regard, we were told to carry on fencing work moving back 500 yards from the border line. But when we moved back 500 yards and restarted fencing, Pakistanis again started firing. They had asked to abandon fencing. Pakistan does not allow us to carry out fencing on international border and we do not carry out. Even today infiltration is continuing. People enter the country from across the border with money and ammunition. Drug peddling is going on. I would like to submit that our Government should establish its authority.

The Government should establish its authority, as today authority of Indian Government has been eroded there. Shri Jagmohan has also mentioned that bureaucracy should be restructured. Today several people in Government machinery encourage and support militancy there. They work for them. The Government should establish its authority there so that existence of the Government of India should be there actually.

The most unfortunate aspect of this problem is that Pakistan has been fighting this war on our land. It has fought several wars with India like the war of 1947, 1965 and 1971 and has been defeated every time. Our army knocked it down every time. In

comparison to all these three wars, our country has suffered a huge loss in this proxy war. More than 5000 security personnel have been killed and a large number of them have been rendered handicapped. Around 30 thousand persons have been killed and 4 lakh have been rendered homeless. Thousands of houses, shops and around three thousand school and college buildings have been burnt to ashes. You should know that such a deplorable condition is prevailing there. It has been said time and again that there is need to win the confidence of people of Kashmir. There should be no doubt in it that Kashmiris are Indian, they were Indian and will remain Indian.

As I have mentioned earlier also that we defeated Pakistan badly in 1947, 1965 and 1971. What has happened in Kashmir today reveals our failure. Pakistan and ISI would create disturbances as they do not like Kashmir to remain with India. We have provided a corrupt Government there. My friends from Congress Party are also sitting here they are responsible for creating such problems in J&K. If we go through the history right from 1947 till date, we come to know about the cases of bungling took place in Kashmir. During 1947 to 1953, Sheikh Abdullah was encouraged by your party and Article 370 was framed for them. A separate Constitution was framed for them. In 1953, he was imprisoned and in 1975 he became hero when he was released. The same thing happened to Farooq Abdullah and G.M. Shah. A confusion has been created in Kashmir since long. So there is need to go into the root of the problem of Kashmir. As I have mentioned earlier also, this problem is being originated from Rawalpindi by ISI. I would like to remind that a unanimous Resolution was passed in this House which says that what remains to be done regarding Kashmir problem is merger of Pakistan occupied Kashmir into India. Today, the number of training camps are functioning in Doda and not in Pak-occupied Kashmir for imparting training to terrorists. I have brought this point in the notice of the Governor and now I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the new camps running in Doda district for training the terrorists. Recently two boys fled from such a camp, one of them is Shakil who has surrendered at Udhampur. One of them told that about 80 persons are being imparted training in one camp and 150 in another. You can very well imagine about the real situation of Kashmir by this that Pakistanis are training our people on our land to fight against our Government. Where is our Government today? I would like to make two more points.

[English]

The Government must establish its authority in Jammu and Kashmir.

[Translation]

The second point is that militants are fighting this war on our land by our hard earned money. Crores of rupees are sent to Kashmir and D.C. and other subordinate officers call militant leaders to seek their opinion about various projects and negotiate with militant contractors on these issues. Thus developmental works have come to a standstill. Recently a case has come to the notice of the Government that D.C. of Anantnag had withdrawn Rs. 9 crores. So far no action has been taken against him. It has been told today that Rs. 27 crores have been allocated for rural development in Doda district but if you go there, you will find that not a single penny has been spent there. All the funds are given to militants and they misuse it for buying arms. It is my humble submission that the Government should establish its authority and make proper utilisation of hard earned money of the Government of India. Hon'ble Governor of Kashmir Gen. K.V. Krishna Rao himself has said that so far Rs. one lakh crores have been spent on Kashmir, and Shri Jagmohanji in his book has mentioned this amount as Rs. 80 thousand crores. Now the Government should check that our hard earned money should not be misused for creating militancy.

The third point is that there is need for fencing border. Absence of which has rendered thousands of acres of cultivable land unutilised. Farmers cannot plough and cultivate it and they are unable to harvest their crops. We have to make some arrangements for it. A Parliamentary Committee should be constituted to inquire into the matter as to how our funds are being spent. Instead of taking these steps, only a minister visits, makes some speech and expresses view of the Government on TV. This cannot solve the Kashmir problem. During this extended period of President's Rule, the authority of the Government should be established to ensure the functioning of Secretariat of Kashmir in accordance with the policy of the Indian Government. A big portion of cultivable land is lying unutilised due to firing by Pakistan every now and then. We should adopt some measures to stop that.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, while concluding, I would like to make one more point. Around 4 lakh migrants have been rendered homeless by this militancy. You are talking about elections. During last elections, 97,000 migrants were registered and out of them only 23,000 could cast their votes. You can imagine the future of democracy in a State where voters are deprived of their right to cast vote. Hon'ble Prime Minister has given assurance that voter lists would be rectified. How a list of 82,000 voters could be rectified within a period of one month. You have

extended voting right to those who have attained the age of 18 years after 1990. How a person can cast his vote when his name is not included in voters' list. Therefore, I would like to make a submission that proper decision should be taken about the migrants' right to vote.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Sir, the matter is a very serious one. Let him speak.

MR. SPEAKER : Do you also want to speak? Your name is here.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Till what time you want to sit? We have exceeded the time already allotted for this debate. It is not that I am saying it just like that from the chair.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : But the matter is a very serious one.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : I would like to say that the persons who have been rendered homeless are running from one place to another. Some are in Delhi at present and some are in Jammu. The Government is not making any arrangements for them. We also wish that free and fair elections should be held in Kashmir as is being mentioned by the Government. How the discrimination done to Jammu will be removed? At present, there are more than 60,000 voters in Jammu Constituency whereas in Kashmir valley the number is still stagnant at 40,000. How free and fair elections would be held if the migrants and also the young people who have attained the age of 18 years, do not cast their votes. You have to first fulfill these pre-conditions before discussing the issue of elections. There is no difference in the opinion on the issue that elections are to be held.

[English]

Elections are the heartbeat of democracy

[Translation]

Every person knows that but elections should be free and fair. I would like to make a submission that one of the reasons for the insurgency going on in Kashmir is stated to be elections of 1987. You will alienate Kashmir from the rest of India if you hold that type of elections again. Kashmir has made sacrifices for the country. India has also spent a huge amount of funds on Kashmir. Kashmir belongs

to India and I would like to say that arrangements should be made in such a way so that Kashmir always remains a part of the country.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Thank you for the opportunity given to me to express our views on the Statutory Resolution for extension of the President's Rule in Jammu and Kashmir. On behalf of my Party, RSP, I rise to accord approval to this Resolution under constitutional compulsion.

Sir, the imposition of the President's Rule under Article 356 or its continuation for an indefinite period in that State is not the solution to the basic problems of that State. The President's Rule in a State is not a good sign of democracy. This is not a good sign of the federal structure of the Indian Constitution. So we have to go deeper into the process of the solution of the basic problems of the State.

Sir, it is my opinion that the basic problem here in Kashmir is to preserve the dignity of Kashmir and to preserve the sovereignty of India as a whole. Both these things, preservation of dignity of Kashmir and the preservation of the sovereignty of the country as a whole, should be taken into consideration while attempting to solve the basic problems of the State. The situation is so grave that it demands immediate restoration of the political process in the State. But the restoration of the political process does not imply holding of the Lok Sabha elections or holding of the Assembly elections only under the guardianship of the security forces in a bureaucratic manner.

To restore political process means to restore the political activity at all levels for bringing forth the positive enthusiasm, the positive faith and confidence among the people of Kashmir towards the political culture of Indian Constitution. For this purpose, it is my suggestion that more autonomy should be given to the people of Kashmir within the constitutional framework of India.

Autonomy, as granted for Gorkha Hill Council in West Bengal or the autonomy for Jharkhand Autonomous Council in Bihar, cannot be the same autonomy as demanded by the people of Kashmir. What type of autonomy can be given to the people of Kashmir should be settled in this House very carefully.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : We, two Members from Jammu, have opposed the autonomy. Who is demanding autonomy?

MR. SPEAKER : You had your chance. Have patience to listen.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (W.B.) : I can again repeat my sentence with your kind permission. I have explained what type of autonomy can be given to the people of Kashmir should be settled in this House very carefully. Autonomy is the beginning of the restoration of political process. At the time of Kashmir's accession to India, an assurance was given to the people of Kashmir by the then Central Government, that full autonomy within the constitutional framework of India would be given to the people of Kashmir and the assurance was given that the distinct identity of the people of Kashmir would be protected.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL (Ernakulam) : Yes. Government of India gave it on 26th November. Who gave it?

MR. SPEAKER : Don't put questions.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (W.B.) : Let me finish my point please. Distinct identity would be protected and an assurance was also given that the tradition of the Kashmiri people would be honoured. Article 370 of our Indian Constitution is the sum total, the embodiment, of this assurance given to the people of Kashmir by the then Central Government at that time.

So, I appeal to the Government, through you, that we should consider the extent of autonomy to be given to the people of Kashmir as a step towards the restoration of political process in that State.

Restoration of political process is very easy to say but it is very difficult to perform. Restoration of political process is impossible without the restoration of economic activity. Economic activity does not imply the sanction of Central assistance to the people of Kashmir in their Kashmir Budget. Economic activity does not imply the sanction of dry doles to the people of Kashmir. Immediate steps should be taken to rejuvenate the economic activities in respect of tourism, social forestry and other fields. They do not want that a little amount of money should be given to them from the Central fund. Actually, the economic process should be rejuvenated now and here. This is only to start the political process. It is very unfortunate for me and for everybody to remind that the beautiful girls and boys of Kashmir were misguided. They were misguided not of their own choice. They were misguided by the mishandling of the situation by the Central Government at that time. It is very painful to remember that the Central Government, that is the Congress Government at that time, imposed President's rule in Kashmir. As a result, the State Government of Kashmir was dismissed.

The Prime Minister-designate, Shri Sheik Abdullah, was sentenced to imprisonment for a long time. That was the beginning for the people of Kashmir to think that they were losing their dignity; they were losing their political status and they were losing their constitutional rights. So, their sentiments began to be wounded. I speak of the sentimental wounds of the Kashmir people because I believe that the sentimental attachment is the root of social integration and national integration. If the people of a particular State are emotionally detached, then they will be compelled to be disintegrated from the mainstream of the Indian society and those things have already happened in the case of Kashmir. So, we should adopt positive measures, the measures for building the confidence to get back the broken heart of the people of Kashmir to the mainstream of the Indian society.

Nobody wants terrorism. But terrorism is a fact in Kashmir today. Why did the beautiful children of Kashmir become terrorists? Is it their fault? The misrule of the Congress for the last thirty or forty years has made them choose the path of terrorism and extremism.

MR. SPEAKER : You have two minutes for your Party but you have taken 12 minutes. Please conclude.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (WB) : Please allow me to continue for two minutes. The point is that the Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in Kashmir to destabilize our country is a fact. But Pakistan is also perturbed in its own politics today. We are aware of the aftermath of the MQM in Karachi and the torture and atrocities let loose on them by the Pakistan Administration, and as a result, Pakistan today is compelled, due to its internal politics, to change its attitude of sponsoring terrorism in Kashmir. They have let loose the State machinery on the people. Even today, the people who are bent upon terrorism have begun to think about the restoration of peace and tranquillity in that State. The people of Kashmir want peace and tranquillity. They are alienated from the threat of security forces. They are also alienated from the threat of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. They are alienated from all those bad influences. They want peace. They want tranquillity. They want progress. They want to earn their livelihood. This is the situation. So, the scenario today has radically changed from what it was five years ago. This change is to be kept in our mind today. This is the situation. The situation is ripe for political interference and the Central Government should take positive steps. So, it is high time to start the political process and also to get back the migrants to their own homeland. You also think of them. Therefore, I appeal to the hon.

Prime Minister and to the Central Government to take positive steps for the restoration of political process, economic activity and for the restoration of peace and tranquillity.

With these few words, I accord my approval to this Resolution.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you very much for your cooperation.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Sir, the hon. Member has made a factually incorrect statement. He has said that an assurance was given by the then Central Government to the people of Kashmir that they would be given full autonomy. No such assurance was given. If this goes on record, it will give a wrong signal to the militants. They will get a chance to quote the proceedings of the House to drive home their own point. So, it should not form part of the record. Kindly expunge that remark.

MR. SPEAKER : I think the Government will reply to that.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, hon. Prime Minister has moved the Statutory Resolution in respect of extension of the President's rule in Jammu and Kashmir. This deliberation has been going on for the last two, three days, since the last day is 17th of July, it is necessary to complete this deliberation by today only so as to refer this Bill to the Rajya Sabha. We understand the seriousness of this entire situation. The time allotted for this discussion, considering the seriousness of this particular problem of this country, is according to me, inadequate.

The representatives, MPs from Jammu and Kashmir have also placed before this august House their grievances. Most of them said that they did not wish to have any more autonomy. Whatever has been granted is enough. The most surprising thing is that the people who have not visited Kashmir and Jammu, those who have not seen the plight of those who are staying in Jammu and Kashmir, they are suggesting to give more and more autonomy, more facility to see that some of the problem is resolved. A person like me always think of the situation. Is it a political wisdom of our country that we have not been able to solve a single problem of Jammu and Kashmir for the last fifty years? Actually who is responsible or instrumental for creating this problem? We must go into the root of the cause and find out the remedy. We will have to see and answer to that also. I am not going to elaborate the entire issue. I know the time is limited. But I would like to ask certain points from the Prime Minister. But unluckily, the Prime Minister is not here in the House even when such a serious discussion is taking place. And the Home Minister is

also not here. He is supposed to look after the day-to-day grievances pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir issue. How many resolutions were passed during the last fifty years? What were the facilities given and what is the total cost of all these things? From where are we spending this money and for what? We must think about that also very carefully. How many jawans were killed in two wars during the last fifty years? How many police personnel were killed? How many innocent citizens were killed both in Jammu and Kashmir irrespective of caste and creed? If you try to calculate those figures, you will come to know that basically our Indian Government is responsible for all these killings only because they have no courage to take a final decision in the matter this way or that way. What we are doing or trying to do is appeasement after appeasement trying to please the people and find out the remedy. There is nothing wrong in that also. But how long? That is the only question, I would like to ask to the Prime Minister. Shri Deve Gowda, our hon. Prime Minister has visited Jammu and Kashmir. At least that much courage Shri Deve Gowda has shown. Otherwise, the unfortunate part is, during the last six or seven years, not a single Prime Minister have visited that place to look into the day-to-day grievances of Jammu and Kashmir. Our Prime Minister has gone there. But I really fail to understand as to how in one visit, he is able to jump to the conclusion to say that this is the proper time when we can hold the elections in Jammu and Kashmir in one round. Who has furnished or who has rendered this information to the Prime Minister?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now I was observing Shri Sharma's speech also. I will congratulate all the parties - National Conference, Congress, BJP, Janata Dal, CPI, CPM, Panthers Party - because for the first time everybody has come to an understanding and unanimously they took that we must have the elections in Jammu & Kashmir. This is number one.

Number two, I will congratulate the political parties of Jammu and Kashmir as unanimously in one voice they said, "Kashmir is the integral part of India. India is in Kashmir; Kashmir is in India. Whatever issues are there, we will settle ourselves, we do not want other's guidance." This is the biggest achievement.

Even the hon. prime Minister has convened a meeting of all political leaders - I think you were also present in that meeting.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : I am coming to that.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : There also we have agreed that as early as possible we should have an election and that too they have indicated the time also.

As far as the voters' list is concerned, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the State Election Commission before all the parties have said that they have already two lakh forms. Still the forms are necessary because even if an eligible boy is there, there is no time to go to house and house for lamination. All political parties have agreed for that. And, two lakh forms have not come and only 12,000 have been registered. This is as per the information we have got. Still I will request on behalf of the Government of Sharmaji and all other parties that if—

[Translation]

Not only two lakh but we are ready to provide four lakh forms if required. You can take that. This will increase the number of voters in voters, list. We intend to hold peaceful elections there.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (Jammu) : Sufficient number of forms are available there with the Returning Officer and there is no need to take them from anyone else.

[English]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : The migrants are not there. They have come to Delhi. They are outside Jammu and Kashmir. Unless you give those powers to them... (Interruptions) ... Sir, he is telling about the voters' list. There are migrants in Delhi.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no, you cannot go and argue like this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : How can they go to Srinagar and fill the forms?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is going to be 6.35 p.m.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : My learned friend, the hon. Minister, intervened in the matter in my speech. It is a good thing that he has given the valuable information.

MR. SPEAKER : Anyway, I will minus that time.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : But am aware of these developments... (Interruptions)

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Because you happen to be my good friend, that is why I have given this information... (Interruptions).

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : The basic reason is that only.

What I wanted to point out is, in one visit of Mr. Deve Gowda, he has taken an all party meeting. He has consulted practically everybody.

My only simple question is this. As our MP has rightly said about the present situation, what are the developments taking place in Jammu and Kashmir today. Even today he has just pointed out in his speech that extremists are coming here and killing the innocent persons and our Rashtriya Rifles and BSF Jawans are not there. No one there supported the interests of the local people, and innocent persons have been killed. This is a couple of day's old story which he was narrating.

I have no grudge against the Kashmiri people at all. My only grudge is against the extremists who are entering into our country from across the border. What is the plight of our life? Mr. Sharma was telling that hundreds of acres land have been grabbed away and we cannot just cultivate them. This is the problem and in view of this problem, it is necessary that we should have election, there is no two opinion about it. In the meeting itself I said, it is necessary to have election because the democratic process should start. But at the same time it should be the determination of the Government that would see it in action. What should be the determination of the Government? The first thing is that corruption will not take place and it would be stopped at any cost. What is going on in J&K today? Whatever you may be spending here, but what is the revenue that we get from J&K? What is the amount that this country has been spending over J&K: since when and for how long? Are we not going to make them self-sufficient? In the absence of peace nothing is impossible, you cannot start any industry, you cannot start any business: you cannot give them any alternative jobs and other things. From where would you bring peace? For the purpose bringing peace to the State it is not advisable to have a dialogue with the extremists. What we are doing in the country today is that those who are killing the people are being called here and we are having a dialogue with these people. Those who are having AK 56 and other guns and sophisticated weapons in their hands are being invited for a dialogue on peace. On the one hand they are having guns and on the other hand we are requesting them 'for God's sake please do not use those guns and sophisticated weapons, please save us and have some peace. This is the theory. I do not know from where this entire theory was brought to bear

I have to come to the point about foreign hostages. Actually I did want to elaborate it. But since my friend has intervenes, I want to clarify our position on the point. Otherwise I would have liked to put emphasis on other points.

MR SPEAKER In order to help you I am not deliberately disclosing the time that is available to you'

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : For the information of the House I would like to ask this question. How many innocent people have been killed during the last 50 years only because of the skillful handling of our Indian Government? I do not say that they were not skillful. They were having skill. Then we will weigh the situation as to actually where that skill was used - in killing more people or in saving the lives of the people. We will have to look into that. How many visitors have been killed there? How much amount has been spent? Just now somebody said that one lakh crore of rupees have been spent over Kashmir. I would like to know that particular figure - how much amount we have spent during the last 50 years or during the last few years. Some information is needed on this. What is the utility of all these things? What development has been done in J&K? What are the industries and so many other things that we have provided to the local people there? Are they self-sufficient? Can they earn their own bread and butter? Can they have two square meals a day? Or should they be dependent upon somebody? We are giving them rice at Rs 2 a kilo whereas in the entire country we are giving this rice at not less than Rs.8 a kilo. We are giving them sugar at the rate of Rs.2 a kilo. I am told It may be wrong. We are really subsidising so much for those people. It is a good thing, there is nothing wrong in this. (Interruptions) Before I complete, please do not interrupt me. Let me complete.

I would like to know today what is the population of J&K. How many people have been added into the population from among the foreigners? I consider Pakistan as a foreign land to our country. I do not know what is the impression of the Government about that.

[Translation]

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : It is not available for Rs. 2 a kg

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) This is a deliberate BJP-Shiv Sena campaign.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR This is not a deliberate campaign of Shiv Sena. I know that I am proud of the stand of Shiv Sena, let me say this very frankly. If you are proud of yourself, I am proud of myself.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO . Why do you not understand the basic facts? This is all distorting the facts

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR . I am not giving any distorted picture

MR. SPEAKER : The Government will reply.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : If you are not proud of your own self, then I have nothing to say. I do not wish to add anything to that. I am asking this for my information-sake. There is nothing wrong if I do not know anything. I am not having any authentic information. I am not making any authentic statement. This is a piece of information which I have collected and which may be wrong also because I do not have authentic information.

I have visited Jammu once or twice. I have seen the plight of the people there. Just now, somebody said that four lakh people are staying in the sand. Shri Mukherjee or somebody said that if you want to see the plight of those rose-like children, you go to the sand there and see the kind of life they are leading. What was the crime committed by them? The only crime was that they are Hindus, they have been staying in Kashmir and because of that they are refugees in their own country...*(Interruptions)* Listen to me. So many Muslims are also there; so many Sardarjis are also there. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not saying that. I am coming to that. When he says, 'rose-like children', 'rose-like children' belong to all communities, not to a particular community. But what is the plight of their life and who is responsible for that? We will have to find that out. We have not taken timely action.

When we say that it is an intergral part of our country, then, why should we compromise our people? Why was land surrendered? A couple of months before, Shri Narasimha Rao, our former Prime Minister said that now our struggle, our battle will be for 'Azad' Kashmir and not for Kashmir. I was really happy to note. But instead of struggling for 'Azad' Kashmir, we are struggling for our own Kashmir today. That is the unfortunate plight of our life.

Many foreign tourists come there. They have been abducted and they are under arrest. I do not know as to how long will this affect the prestige of our country. Those persons have come as tourists and have been abducted by those people and they are under arrest. We cannot just get them released because that is the strength that our country has got. What impression will the foreigners carry about our country? Only the Government knows that.

The only problem, after going through all this is, whether our Government is capable of saving the lives of Kashmiris and the Jammu people. All the extremists are coming in, walking into the country and killing the people. This Government should declare that it does not possess the capacity and strength to protect our own people. Otherwise, let

them declare, 'Yes, at any cost, we will not allow a single life to go. Let anyone come'. Are we going to compromise with such extremist people? What are their activities? What are they doing?

I was told - I collected the information - that our military and BSF are the people who say, "We do not have the instructions to kill the people. In case of any extremism, if they have been killed, they will ask, 'why were they killed?', and if they are not killed, they will ask, 'why have you not taken any action?'" This kind of a policy will not serve any purpose. This Government has to adopt some fixed policy. Take some firm decision. We welcome the elections but at the same time the Government should have the determination that within a stipulated period we shall see that the problem of Jammu and Kashmir is solved permanently. We should march forward to vacate the place, which they have forcibly occupied, that is 'Azad' Kashmir. When are we going to free that part-of land from the clutches of the Pakistanis? That decision, this Government should take, if not today, tomorrow. But before that, let us protect entire Jammu and Kashmir. That is all.

18.50 hrs.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand to support the Statutory Resolution moved by the Prime Minister for extending the President's Rule in Kashmir.

Sir, in this House, I think, this is the fourth or fifth time I have been supporting this Motion. I had been supporting the Motions moved by the then Home Minister S.B. Chavan. Last time S.B. Chavan said that it was the last time that he moved the Resolution. Yes, it was his last time and I hope the present Prime Minister will also have no occasion to move for another extension in this House and I hope the election will be held in due time.

At the outset, I congratulate the hon. Prime Minister who has toured Srinagar which has given the most positive publicity for our country in the international media. I have got some of the papers and one paper I have is '*The International Tribune*' which has given the photo of the Prime Minister visiting Kashmir and they have also mentioned India's Prime Minister, H.D. Deve Gowda visiting Srinagar the embattled capital of Kashmir. He is the first Prime Minister to visit Srinagar since 1989". This is one positive propaganda in the international media that our country could get despite the adverse propaganda, adverse publicity and adverse campaign by the interested elements against our country. I would like to say only one thing. Whenever we speak about Kashmir, all of us should be a little bit cautious and we should also restrain ourselves.

There are moves by the international forces in the name of Kashmir helping Pakistan and the people alike them to destabilise our country and we should not play into the hands of those enemies of our country or those who want to destabilise our country. I do not know why some of our people are still communalising the Kashmir issue as a Hindu-Muslim issue. Is it a Hindu-Muslim issue? No. If say that it is a Hindu-Muslim issue, you are only helping the enemies of this country.

Sir, I have had occasions to represent and to defend this great country in the United Nations for four times consecutively and many times in the international fora. Many Islamic countries are compelled to believe taking this issue as a Hindu-Muslim issue which is going against interest of our country ...*(Interruptions)* Please sit down. You can ask the question after my speech. It was my duty as an Indian and also as a member of the minority community, to say that it is not a Hindu-Muslim issue. It is a question of the integrity of our country and it is the unity of our country as well and even if there are people who would not so, I am very sorry for that. Do you think that the people of Kashmir can be won over to bullets? No, you can only win over them by means of ballots and our reconciliation with them. Until recently we had only the soil of Kashmir but not the soul of Kashmir. But the soul is returning towards us. That was the result of the election. The Members including Mr. Sharma have been returned to Parliament, to this House. But still we are talking on the same lines. Is it possible I am sorry to hear the speech made by my friend Mr. Jag Mohan yesterday. What did Mr. Jag Mohan say? He made some unsavoury remarks about the tallest personality of Kashmir, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. I would even say that it was a derogatory statement. I would not even hesitate to say that it was obnoxious on the part of Mr. Jag Mohan to colour Mr. Sheikh Abdullah, such a tallest personality, in that bad shape. What did he think about Mr. Sheikh Abdullah? But for Sheikh Abdullah, should there have been the Instrument of Accession with India? Was he not the man who played a key role in it? And I would even quote some of the papers here. It is my duty to defend the man who is not living with us. It is the duty of every Indian to defend the man who stood with India, who stood for secularism and who stood for Hindu-Muslim harmony. *(Interruptions)* Please listen to me. I have been sitting here. I have with me the publication called 'Eminent Parliamentarians Monograph Series, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, Lok Sabha Secretariat'. In one of the articles that was written by Prof. Rasheeduddin Khan who is a moderate and a well known scholar-like figure, he said this and I quote

"Accession to India by the Maharajah was more an act of compulsion due to the belligerency shown by Pakistan, than an act reflecting either his conviction, patriotism or foresight. On the contrary it was Sheikh Sahib's consistent stand that British colonialism, Dogra feudal oppression and Muslim separatism from the national mainstream, are the three main and inter-linked enemies of the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

That is the result. I am now coming to Mr. Mehar Chand Maharajah who was a great friend of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. ...*(Interruptions)* Please bear with me. Mr. Mehar Chand Maharajah was the Prime Minister of Kashmir for a long time. He has written a book. The name of the book is, I remember, 'Looking Back'. In that book, he has referred to the role of Sheikh Sahib. What he said was, Mr. Mehar Chand Maharajah and Maharajah Hari Singh went to see the Prime Minister of India, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and asked the support of Jawaharlal Nehru to send army to intervene against the Pakistanis. Panditji was a little bit hesitant because of the international niceties. Then in the next room, Sheikh Sahib was there. Sheikh Sahib wrote a note and sent to Panditji. He had said, "You act immediately." That is what he had said.

I may be permitted to quote further from the same book because I am duty bound to bring this information to the notice of this august House. This was written by Dr. Sushila Nayar, on 'Sheikh Abdullah - Sher-E-Kashmir'. It has been published by the Parliament Secretariat. This is what Dr. Sushila Nayar said and I quote:

"I was present when Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru came to Gandhiji to seek his advice. Gandhiji asked him whether the people of Kashmir had also agreed to the accession and asked for India's intervention. Nehru said, yes, the National Conference and Sheikh Abdullah, its leader, had also asked for India's help and had accepted accession to India to get that help. Gandhiji was a believer in non-violence. He told Nehru, "You know my way of thinking. But that is not your way. As head of the Government, you must send the necessary help to Jammu and Kashmir." On 27th October, 1947, the Maharajah accordingly signed the Instrument of Accession and on the same day Indian troops were air-lifted to Srinagar."

Is it not Sheikh Abdullah Sahib's stand?
...(Interruptions) I hope that the hon. Prime Minister will allow me some more time to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : No. Please conclude now.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : I am concluding. Just on one more point I want to speak.

In the same way, Gandhiji had also said. Shri Jagmohan has made some unsavory statement yesterday. ...(Interruptions) I know what he said yesterday. In the same book, I quote it is said :

"Deeply impressed by this great achievement of the people of the State, Gandhiji observed in his prayer speech on 1st November, 1947 :

Sheikh Abdullah represents non-Muslims as well as Muslims. It is on the Kashmir soil that Islam and Hinduism are being weighed. If both pull their weight correctly and in the same direction the chief actors will cover themselves with glory. My sole hope and prayer is that Kashmir should become a beacon light to this benighted sub-continent."

This is what Gandhiji had said. May I ask Shri Jagmohan, were you not the Governor of Kashmir in 1984? Your dismissal of a duly elected Government was the watershed in worsening the situation in Kashmir. I would say to Shri Jagmohan that the migration of Kashmiri pundits had taken place when he was the Governor for the second time. Were you not responsible for the repression, I would like to know the number of the massacred innocent Kashmiri people during his Governorship.

19.00 hrs.

And he is coming here and saying: We are giving them 100 percent assistance from Plan funds and 60 percent from Non-Plan funds. Do you think that Kashmiris can be purchased by giving them financial assistance? Do you think they can be enslaved? Are they not the people with self-respect? Are they not having *Kashmiriat*? They have their self-respect as much as the Tamilians have, the Andhriles have, the Keralites have, the Assamese have. The people in this country have self-respect. There is unity in diversity. The people of Kashmir say : We want autonomy. We want self-respect. They want *Kashmiriat*. We are to respect their feelings. Why do you love them?

Mr. Jag Mohan and other people should think that Kashmir can be won by compassion, love and affection. The people of Kashmir stood by India like a rock. Therefore, you cannot forget that. Whoever

speaks about Kashmir, he must always bear in mind that Kashmir is not a communal issue. Kashmir is an integral and inalienable part of this country. Everybody in this country, irrespective of religion, region and caste, whether he is a Hindu or Muslim or a Christian, will stand for that...(Interruptions) Mr. Prime Minister, this country will be with you on Kashmir...(Interruptions) I am wishing you all the best. Thank you very much.

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) : Sir, my name has been mentioned. I would like to make the point very clear. What he is quoting is his opinion. What I quoted was from the documents...(Interruptions) Before I speak, they know what I am going to speak. So, the truth is bitter. They will never be able to swallow it. The issue is that I quoted the documents of 1948 which are recorded contemporaneously about the attitude of Sheikh Abdullah in 1952-53.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, you have made your point.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : No, Please let me remind him about Adlai Stevensen Papers. St. Leoy Henderson reports and other documents. Does he mean that in 1953, Panditji imprisoned him without Sheikh's conspiracy? Was he not looked in Kashmir conspiracy? What have all the cases shown? Was this Plebiscite Front Organisation? Who organised it? I should tell him E. Ahamed that it was Sheikh's compulsion because Jinnah and others never wanted Mr. Sheikh Abdullah. Therefore, he had come here.

In 1946, Mr. Jinnah had given the clear signals to Chaudhury Ghulam Abbass Hussain and said: He is your leader and not Mr. Sheikh Abdullah. Mr. Sheikh Abdullah knew that he had no future in Kashmir. He did it because of his own circumstances. I would remind him what Panditji wrote. Mr. Sheikh Abdullah himself had written a book about Panditji. He says : Panditji was like an *Arya Samaji*. He was like this.

I have quoted the full text. He is misrepresenting the facts. I have quoted the documents. I have quoted the United States' Papers. I would say whatever it means...(Interruptions) He has proved where the problem lies. These are the people who have created the problems...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Two minutes please.

(Interruptions)

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL (Ernakulam) : Sir, I do not beg for time.

MR. SPEAKER : I know. I did not get a slip that you wanted to speak. You have just come. You gave me a slip just now. That is why I am saying that. Had

I got a slip from you, I would have given you the time. But I am going out of the way of allow you. It is not a question of begging. Do not say like that.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL : Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to say a few words in a few minutes.

Sir, for your information I would like to say that I am an independent Member. We have had very lengthy discussion on this very subject. The whole country is looking at us as to what we are going to do with this problem. Sir, you may remember that Mr. Jagmohan was referring to Article 370 in his speech but I was looking at the President's address of 26th May, that is, their own policy. They referred to Jammu and Kashmir in paragraph 14. There is no word about Article 370 in that President's Address. This is the greatest hypocrisy and deceit as far as BJP is concerned.

Secondly, Mr. Jag Mohan was telling to the House about one more point. Under Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir indulges in corruption, nepotism and maladministration. May I ask him one question? What were you doing for the last six years when you were the Governor of that State?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAG MOHAN : I prevented that totally.. *(Interruptions)* . You asked me a question and I am giving you the reply You see the documents of that period...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL : Why are you disturbing me? Sir, you were here in the House.. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Why don't you listen to me? This is a serious matter. Let us find out a national solution to this. Why do you indulge in allegations and counter allegations? We are no going to get a solution in this fashion. Let us be constructive in a debate like this.

MR. XAVIER ARAKAL : Mr Speaker Sir, thank you for your constructive instruction. I hope all the Members will be following that direction.

We had Lok Sabha elections there. What was the verdict? Seventy to eighty percent of the people had cast their votes. What for? Can the hon. Members of Opposition explain it? What is the desire of that part of the people of Jammu and Kashmir? Why did they cast their vote? For the last seven years, we did not have a democratic Government there. They were opposing election. He referred to the innocent killings, murders, etc. What happened in the streets of Bombay? There also innocent people were shot down. What for? Anywhere in India, a drop of blood of a human being, a citizen, is our own blood. That belongs to you and me. How many widows are weeping, Sir? Are you to find a solution to that

problem or not? ...*(Interruptions)*... That is why, we said that autonomy should be given to Jammu and Kashmir. The hon Member referred to the Instrument of Accession of 26th October, 1947. What does it say, Sir? Basically, three points were there, that is, external affairs, defence and communications. Are they not entitled to some sort of autonomy based on that sacred document and covenant? Will the Opposition object to a sacred document which has spelt out three basic conditions for the joining of the Union of India? What is wrong in that? Now, some Members were saying that they did not go for that agreement. Are we going to march to Pakistan annulling 1947 Agreement? Are we going to march to Bangladesh? Is that your philosophy? Every document executed by the Government after 1947 is sacred. It is a monument and we respect it. That is how we say that autonomy should be given to them.

The hon. Member was saying that the question of autonomy should be decided and spelt out in this very House.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chapra) : Does autonomy mean the separation of this country?

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL : You please wait. Maybe, you are a new Member.

Sir, there is another very important point. Shri George Fernandes in 1988 said...*(Interruptions)* that the real problem of Jammu and Kashmir was the alienation of the people of that State from the rest of the India. Who did that? The then Governor B.K. Nehru said that there should be a dialogue between the people of India and Kashmir. He refused to bend under the instructions of the Central Government at that time. But somebody took that dirty job and dismissed Shri Farooq Abdulla. Why did you do that? Now, you profess that the power to exercise article 356 should be curtailed. What is your morality to say that? What right have you got to say so when you yourselves have indulged in such sort of an action? Is it not the inmorality of the BJP?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) . It is totally incorrect.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH (Seoni) What is the use of talking like this. It will convey wrong message to the people.

[English]

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL : That is why I say that there should be a meaningful dialogue with the people of Jammu and Kashmir...*(Interruptions)* The hon Prime Minister has said that there would be

elections in Jammu and Kashmir in the month of either September or October.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Sir, he is taking of...(Interruptions)

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL : Sir, this process of a dialogue between the people of Kashmir and the rest of India should be started.

I take another objection to what some hon. Members say. There should not be any identity, any nationality as far as India is concerned. That is wrong. India is full of nationalities, cultures, sub-cultures. Unity cannot be achieved in all respects. No, it is not possible.

Therefore, I submit that this Resolution extending the period of President's Rule is a welcome move. Simultaneously, real and concrete steps should be taken for initiating a meaningful dialogue, based on understanding and assimilation of the will and desire of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, with the rest of India without delay.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA) : Respected Mr. Speaker, Sir, while moving the Resolution for the extension of President's Rule for a short period, even though it has been mentioned in the Motion 'for six months', I assured the House, while moving the Motion for consideration of this august House, the elections would be held either in September or in the first week of October.

Sir, I heard the former Governor of Jammu and Kashmir and the hon. Member of this House who spoke about several events of the past history. We have come to the stage of handing over the State to its elected representatives. Debating on the past history starting from 1958 to what happened till 1996 is not going to bring any peace in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. It is only a futile exercise, an exercise of showing our talents as to who knows better about the past events. That is not going to bring any solution. I do not want to deliberate particularly about the past events.

This is the first time that I visited Kashmir. I have never been to Kashmir earlier, let me be very plain and frank. When I decided to go to Kashmir last time on night of my journey the Emergency was declared. I then cancelled my air-ticket and went back to Bangalore.

During my visit I tried to meet a cross section of people. My purpose of visit was to have a spot study of the natural calamity and to discuss with the officers about the quantum of loss caused by the floods. At the same time, I had given indication to the officers and the Governor that I was equally anxious to meet all political party leaders, if they really wanted to

meet me. There was no special invitation offered to them. Sir, I am happy to inform the House that all political parties, including the National Conference, collectively met me and their unanimous demand was that early election should be held in Jammu and Kashmir. Of course, one of the political parties did try to impress upon me on this autonomy factor. In the same meeting where all the political parties were represented including the BJP, they all agreed that the question of autonomy which is mentioned in the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front should not be discussed at that stage.

Let us first go to election. We want early peace. We do not want to allow the neighbouring country to again play with the lives of the people of Kashmir. I would like to mention what they said. They said, "We are a part and parcel of this country. We are an integral part of this country. We do not want to again give scope to the external forces to spoil the atmosphere here."

Sir, there are some forces which tried to propagate and present a distorted picture to various other countries that the parliamentary election that was held in Jammu and Kashmir was not free and fair. They want to create this impression in the international world. I would like to compliment the previous Government and its decision to hold the election even when some of the political parties wanted to boycott them. It is one of the best decisions that they had taken. I must compliment the people of Kashmir and at the same time I must also compliment the administrative machinery and the Army people who created a congenial atmosphere for a heavy turnout at the polling booths. I do not think any sensible man can call this election a farce or an election that was not free and fair.

Sir, I would like to inform the whole world, through this House, a propaganda being made by the divisive forces that it was only a manipulated election. I would say that it was not so.

Sir, in Baramulla Parliamentary constituency, the turn-out was 46.63 percent. In Srinagar Parliamentary constituency, the turn-out was 41 percent. In Jammu Parliamentary constituency, the turn-out was 48 percent. In Ladakh Parliamentary constituency, the turn-out was 83.26 percent. In Anantnag Parliamentary constituency, the turn-out was about 51.14 percent. In Udhampur Parliamentary constituency, the turn-out was 53 percent. This is a clear indication to the whole world that people want their own Government today. Let us have a frank analysis of all these things.

I would like to ask a very senior Leader and a former Governor - for whom I have got a great respect

- what happened in Gujarat. In Gujarat, in the last Parliamentary election, the polling was hardly 39 per cent. But here is a case where, in no Parliamentary constituency, the polling was less than 42 per cent or 45 per cent. This itself is a clear indication that the people want their own Government. So, we wanted that election to the State Assembly is held as early as possible. I am not interested in who is going to win, which Party is going to participate, and what will be the type of combination. Let me be very plain on this issue. Whether you are going to win or the Congress is going to win or the Janata Dal is going to win, that is not my concern. My concern is that elections must be held and the power should go to the people. Then, the question of autonomy will be discussed with the elected representatives. That is the right method. With whom should the Central Government discuss now? I cannot act according to the taste of individual political Parties. The Central Government will discuss about the quantum of autonomy and some other allied issues with those people who get the people's mandate. You know how they felt during the discussion which they have had with me. Your own Party Leaders were there. When I was discussing with them, they started telling me so many things viz. how they have been treated on the developmental side and so on. I will tell you that they have realised today the amount of sufferings the common man had to undergo who used to earn his bread through tourism. Today, the common men are in the streets. They are jobless. Their living conditions are very bad. They have honestly realised that they want normalcy. They want to go back to the old Kashmir. It has got its own pride. People want such an atmosphere. The railway-line from Udhampur to Jammu, the power projects and so many other projects have been stopped due to various reasons

Sir, this Government is prepared to give maximum weightage to see that the people should feel that this Central Government is not going to discriminate, so far as Kashmir is concerned. Whatever may be the financial constraint, I am going to start this process. I tell you very frankly I have given this assurance

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : At the same time there should be no discrimination between Ladakh and Leh

SHRI H D DEVE GOWDA : All right there is no question of discrimination between Jammu and the Valley of the Hindu Pandits and the Muslims. They have been like one family. I was astonished and happy to hear, I do not want to claim that I know everything about the culture of the Kashmiri people, how they have come up. The Muslims today have

stopped eating beef. They treat the cow as a sacred animal. That is the tradition. Hindus will not eat pork. They themselves have said this in my presence. I am so much amazed. I will tell you how they have come up. Do you know, we have destroyed the culture, the old tradition and the bondage between the two communities, we mean, the politicians. I do not want to go back to the past. I only promised this august House that I will try my best to have free and fair elections. This is all what they want.

So far as the omission and commissions in the electoral process i.e. in the voting list etc., are concerned, I have told the Governor, the Chief Secretary and other officers to see that proper media coverage is given in the electronic media as well as the newspapers, etc., requesting those people who have not registered their names in the voters list to take advantage of this opportunity and get themselves registered. I asked the Governor to get two or three lakh more forms printed and given to various political parties

Some of the militant youths have approached me. They are also prepared to participate in the elections and they tried to explain certain problems. Of course, when they met me, the Governor was also there with me, there was no question of any secret meeting. I asked the Governor to sit by my side. I told them to first go before the people, show their sincerity to the people and if the people voted for them, then they will also be called for discussion as far as autonomy and other issues are concerned

There is a change of hearts. Even some of the youths, who were earlier misled by the neighbouring country, have realised this and wanted to see that they should cooperate for normalcy in the entire Jammu & Kashmir State.

In certain areas certain omissions and commissions are there about constituencies etc. All these things are there. I cannot set right all these things before September. It will take time and that is why let us hold the election as it is.

Later on, in subsequent years, when the elections are going to be held, all these things can be looked into by the coming elected Government. Sir, as I have already promised, I will write to the Election Commission. It is they who have to fix the date. The Government of India will make all necessary arrangements. We will make security arrangements for Doda District or any other disturbed area. We will give maximum protection and will see there is a heavy turn-out in the coming election.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : How will you ensure the migrated persons to vote?

SHRI H D DEVE GOWDA : This issue was raised in the meeting of all senior leaders of Parties

Including Shri Vajpayee. I am telling you there are about 96,000 voters. This time, in the Parliamentary election, about 30,000 people have voted. There were some confusions at that time as to who was to certify that they were the migrants. We have also simplified the postal votes. There will be no question of any hurdle. We have simplified and everybody who wants to vote through postal ballots, will be accommodated. There will be no question of any problem even for those people.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Unless you give them a chance, how will they vote? For example, they are sitting in Delhi. They cannot go to Kashmir Valley to fill up the forms for the inclusion of their names. You have to do two things. You give them the option in Delhi. They may fill up the form and you get it verified. That is number one. The postal ballot will not serve the purpose. Why do you not create polling booths for them in Delhi or Calcutta or Chandigarh or wherever they are? Let them go and cast their votes. Out of 93,000 only 23,000 cast their votes.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Where to create the polling booths, how many polling booths, in which area whether it is outside India or outside Kashmir, those are left to the wisdom of the Election Commission. It is not for me to say Your point also will be well-taken. I am not going to argue. It is left to the Election Commission so far as creating the polling booths outside Kashmir or inside Kashmir is concerned. I cannot encroach upon the rights of the Election Commission. I would only make a suggestion.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : We want their involvement in the election and also a free and fair election.

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister has well-taken the point.

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN (Tripura East) : You can conduct first round in Delhi, second round in Jammu and the third round postal ballot in Srinagar. We would very much like to have the election on that method.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : That you know it much better. You have gone by that method. Kindly take the House into confidence about your talks with the militants also. You have said it on the floor of the House that you have talked to the militants. Which were the militant groups that had talked to you? What were the talks? You have talked to the militants but you have not talked to the families affected by terrorists. Coming from the Prime Minister that he had a meeting with them is a very serious matter. Please take the House into confidence.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I cannot talk to the individual families.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : But you have talked to the militants. What was the talk? What was the issue?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : At least you must appreciate that after nine years, a Prime Minister has taken the courage to go there.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : We appreciate that.

MR. SPEAKER : I think it is already 7.30 p.m. It is enough.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : You are talking about autonomy. What do you mean by autonomy?

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Whatever autonomy will be given, it will be within the framework of the Constitution.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think we have to go into all these details.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I only assure this august House including our friends on the other side that I will try my best to have a free and fair election and I will take steps to hold the elections in the month of September, if possible, or in the first week of October. With this assurance, I request all of them to give their unanimous support for the Resolution.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the Resolution regarding approval of the continuance in force of the proclamation dated the 18th July, 1990 in respect of Jammu & Kashmir, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 18th July, 1996, moved by the Prime Minister, to the vote of the House.

The question is

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the proclamation dated the 18th July, 1990 in respect of Jammu & Kashmir, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 18th July, 1996."

The motion was adopted.

19 35 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE: APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY GENERAL, LOK SABHA

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have one announcement to make. Hon. Members may be aware that in 1990 a Committee of eminent parliamentarians

had recommended that the post of Secretary-General, Lok Sabha is to be held by an officer of the rank and status of the Cabinet Secretary. This recommendation has been accepted by the Chair. This is also consistent with general international practice.

I am happy to announce that I have appointed Shri S. Gopalan, currently Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, as the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha. He is the seniormost amongst the serving Secretaries to the Government of India. He has had 36 years of diversified and distinguished career. I have great pleasure in placing Shri S.Gopalan at your service.

I also place on record on my behalf and on behalf of the House, our deep appreciation of the services rendered by Shri S.N. Mishra, Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat, who has been officiating as Secretary-General with effect from 1-1-1996. Now the House stands adjourned till 11 a.m. on July 15, 1996.

19.37 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, July 15, 1996/Asadha 24, 1918 (Saka)
