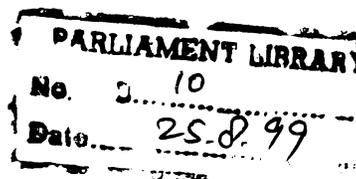


LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Second Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. IV contains Nos. 21 to 30)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

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CONTENTS

(Twelfth Series Vol. IV Second Session 1998/1920 (Saka)

No. 29, Friday, July 24, 1998/Sharavana 2, 1920 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
OBITUARY REFERENCE	1
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
* Starred Question Nos. 542, 544-546	2-21
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
* Starred Questions Nos. 543, 547-561	21-36
Unstarred Questions Nos. 5403-5632	36-256
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	256-259
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	260-262
DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193	264-306
Increasing Atrocities on Women - Contd.	
Shri Sharad Pawar	264-269
Shrimati Bhavna Devrajibhai Chikhalia	270-271
Shri Somnath Chatterjee	271-274
Prof. A.K. Premajam	274-277
Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan	277-281
Shrimati Reena Choudhary	281-283
Shri K.P. Munusamy	283-285
Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik	285-289
Dr. Beatrix D'Souza	289-291
Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	292-294
Shrimati Kailasho Devi	294-297
Shri T.R. Baalu	297-299
Shrimati Bhavna Kardam Dave	299-302
Kumari Kim Gangte	302-303
Dr. Prabha Thakur	304-306
BILLS INTRODUCED	306-308, 342
(1) Patents (Amendment) Bill	306-307
(Amendment of Section E. etc.)	

By Shri Chandrashekher Sahu

*The Sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(2) Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, (Amendment of the Schedule) By Shri Vilas Muttemwar	307
(3) Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of Section 11) By Shri Ravi Sitaram Naik	307
(4) Patents (Amendment) Bill, (Amendment of Section 53) By Dr. Saroja V.	307-308
(5) Medical Profession (Regulation) Bill By Dr. Saroja V.	308
(6) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Insertion of new article 16A) By Dr. Saroja V.	308
(7) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Insertion of new article 75A, etc.) By Shri Madhukar Sirpotdar	342
 CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL (Amendment of Article 15 etc.) - Contd. Motion to consider	 308-342
Shri G.M. Banatwalla	308-312
Shri Chaman Lal Gupta	312-315
Shri Raja Paramasivam	315-316
Shri Kharabela Swain	316-319
Shri D. Venugopal	319-321
Shri Mohan Singh	321-324
Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta	325-328
Shri Prabhunath Singh	328-330
Shri E. Ahamed	330-335
Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma	335
Prof. Jogendera Kawade	336-337
Shri B.M. Mensinkai	337
Shri Shailendra Kumar	337-338
Shri S. Mallikarjuniah	338-340
Shri N.K. Premchandran	340-342

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, July 24, 1998/Shravana 2, 1920 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

Mr. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, Shri Vijayasinhrao Ramrao Dafle.

Shri Vijayasinhrao Ramrao Dafle was a Member of the Third Lok Sabha representing the erstwhile Miraj Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra during 1962-67.

Earlier, he was a Member of the erstwhile Bombay Legislative Assembly during 1952-62.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Dafle was a well-known active social and political worker. He worked for imparting free primary and secondary education and almost free medical aid to the people of his State and donated liberally towards several charitable and social institutions in the country.

A courageous man as he was, Shri Dafle joined 'Navdal Army and participated in the Second World War during 1944. He was awarded a honorary rank of Lieutenant-Commander in the Indian Navy as a mark of appreciation of his services to the Armed Forces of India.

Shri Vijayasinhrao Ramrao Dafle passed away on 12th July, 1998 at Sangli, Maharashtra at the age of 89.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed soul.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, the Government assured the House that it would table the Jain Commission Report by the end of this Session. But yesterday, the Cabinet took a decision of appointing a Group of Ministers to examine both the Report and the Action Taken Report.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, you can raise it during the Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. PRABHA THAKUR (AJMER): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter ...*(Interruptions)*

In spite of statement made by the Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, we have come to know from today's newspapers that tabling of the Jain Commission Report on Rajiv Gandhi assassination, is being deferred

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, please take your seat. Q. 542, Shri R. Sambasiva Rao.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Stock Exchange

+

*542. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a rapid increase in the price of certain scrips at the bourses recently;
- (b) if so, the reasons for manipulation in price of certain scrips and the details of these scrips;
- (c) whether the Security and Exchange Board of India has conducted any investigation into the price rigging at the bourses and the payment crisis;
- (d) if so, whether the Government have received the report;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the action proposed to be taken to avoid such rigging in future in order to safeguard the small investors from price manipulations?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA):
(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) : Noticeable increase in prices has taken place in the scrips of BPL Ltd., Videocon International Ltd., Sterlite Industries Ltd., Pentafour Software Ltd. There are several factors which influence the prices in the stock market. These include expectations of the investors regarding the performance of the corporate sector and the economy in general, perceptions of the investors about economic policies of the Government, developments in the international capital market, speculative activity etc. The principal considerations of Government and the stock market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is to ensure that the stock markets operate in an orderly and transparent manner in full compliance with the rules and the regulations of the regulator. The movement of Stock Indices since May 1998 is given in the Annexure.

(c) and (d) SEBI has initiated investigations into the suspected price manipulation in the scrips mentioned at (a) above. The investigations are still in progress.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Annexure

Movement of stock indices since May 1998

Date	BSE Sensex	NSE-50
1	2	3
04/05/98	4135.81	1185.15
05/05/98	4147.29	1168.10
06/05/98	4069.79	1172.45
08/05/98	4022.20	1161.55
12/05/98	3945.13	1132.25
13/05/98	3782.76	1094.10
14/05/98	3897.94	1118.65
15/05/98	3849.80	1110.10
18/05/98	3908.48	1119.80
19/05/98	3924.42	1121.75
20/05/98	3956.93	1141.30
21/05/98	3908.79	1126.15
22/05/98	3897.10	1126.55
25/05/98	3908.11	1122.95
26/05/98	3875.06	1104.45
27/05/98	3777.19	1090.95
28/05/98	3721.93	1075.55
29/05/98	3686.39	1063.15
01/06/98	3642.68	1053.75
02/06/98	3573.21	1019.60
03/06/98	3597.98	1033.90
04/06/98	3546.21	1027.00
05/06/98	3417.89	993.50
08/06/98	3416.73	968.60
09/06/98	3468.07	995.05
10/06/98	3311.41	962.90
11/06/98	3335.76	961.35
12/06/98	3347.41	971.15

1	2	3
15/06/98	3152.96	916.80
16/06/98	3161.08	910.10
17/06/98	3400.95	976.50
18/06/98	3292.33	956.15
19/06/98	3143.10	913.25
22/06/98	3078.51	880.20
23/06/98	3037.34	875.60
24/06/98	3143.64	908.50
25/06/98	3208.54	932.15
26/06/98	3168.82	924.35
29/06/98	3289.56	949.10
30/06/98	3250.69	941.65
01/07/98	3230.60	942.25
02/07/98	3180.73	919.90
03/07/98	3089.02	900.55
06/07/98	3178.31	918.75
07/07/98	3195.94	944.15
09/07/98	3331.98	961.05
10/07/98	3401.74	980.15
13/07/98	3322.17	964.35
14/07/98	3371.50	967.35
15/07/98	3365.72	971.40
16/07/98	3488.77	1004.05
17/07/98	3470.80	1000.95
20/07/98	3384.75	977.30

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the probe launched by the SEBI would also look into what prompted the upsurge in the stock prices and how the brokers have built up the positions in the selected markets, and whether the action taken by the concerned Stock Exchanges was adequate or not, to stop rigging and payment crisis. I would also like to know whether the special margins imposed by the Mumbai Stock Exchange were suddenly withdrawn. What steps are being taken by the SEBI to regulate the trade through imposition of margins and force the participants to settle the deals early?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, as the reply to the question clearly states, it was noticed that there were four scrips where undue volatility had taken place on certain days and weeks in the stock-market in Mumbai.

This raised questions about the validity of these increases in prices and the volatility noticed therein and then this matter came to the notice of the regulator namely, the SEBI. They ordered an inquiry into this matter. Now even pending inquiry into the matter, a number of steps have been taken by SEBI to ensure that such volatility does not take place. For instance, on the 15th June, SEBI imposed two additional margins on outstanding trading positions. SEBI imposed an additional 10 per cent margin on incremental carried forward position and 5 per cent margin on concentrated position. If the carried forward position in any stock at the end of the settlement exceeded 3 per cent of the total number of paid up share, a margin of 10 per cent was to be levied for every increase of one per cent or part thereof on incremental basis over and above the existing carried forward margin. Another margin amount of 5 per cent on the outstanding position in individual stocks is to be levied. For this computation, the following three slabs of concentration have been introduced:

- (a) Where concentration in any one security is more than 50 per cent of a broker's total outstanding position;
- (b) Where concentration in any two securities taken together is more than 65 per cent; and
- (c) Where concentration in any three securities taken together is more than 80 per cent;

The idea is to ensure that a member spreads his exposure across all scrips so that there is no manipulation and also he is not hurt if the scrips record excessive sale.

These are the steps which SEBI has introduced even pending inquiry into this matter.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: I would like to know whether bailing out process at Mumbai Stock Exchange is a part of manipulation and also whether the brokers and the persons behind this were identified and appropriate action against them taken under the SEBI Act.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: As I have already stated, the matter is still under inquiry by SEBI as to whether the Mumbai Stock Exchange or any one in the Mumbai Stock Exchange had any role to play and whether the Mumbai Stock Exchange discharged its responsibilities... (*Interruptions*)

The Mumbai Stock Exchange, whether it played the role it was supposed to, whether surveillance mechanism was in place, all these are matters which are under inquiry by the SEBI and we will be in a position to proceed further in the matter after the inquiry is completed.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: But it is clearly shown from the Mumbai Stock Exchange itself. Initial action can be taken.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ups and downs is a common feature in the stock markets. It has been observed that after the Harshad Mehta scam, share prices suddenly crashed. At that time also this enquiry was done. After that, when nuclear tests were conducted, the share prices declined again. Through you, I want to know from the

hon. Minister as to what steps the Government are taking to prevent the recurrence of such incidents? In this regard, the Minister had stated that some cracks appeared after the nuclear tests. I would like to know about the concrete steps the Government would like to take to improve the market situation so that small entrepreneurs could get the opportunity to make progress?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that fluctuations do take place in the share market and these fluctuations within limits are a common phenomenon in the share market. If there is too much fluctuation, a system called the circuit breakers is there to counter the situation. If there is a spurt or fall in the market, there is a system to warn which becomes effective automatically, but even under this system also, it is possible that if some persons intend, they can raise the value of some shares gradually over some weeks and this very tendency came to our notice or was detected by the SEBI that shares of some companies were very high and when depreciation started there was crisis. I am satisfied that nowhere payment crisis arose because our stock exchanges are capable of avoiding payment crisis and there are provisions for dealing with such a situation. But like a regulator, the Comptroller's role is that he should ensure that market does not undergo too much appreciation or depreciation and for this purpose, there are a number of rules and regulations.

The second question of the hon. Member was as to which cement we would apply to fill the cracks appearing after nuclear tests. I would like to inform the House that no cracks have at all appeared. If there is some scratch we have the solid cement in the form of nation's strength to fill all cracks.

[*English*]

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I wish to put a supplementary. The hon. Finance Minister has observed that a noticeable increase in the prices has taken place in the scrips of certain corporate bodies. We know that the unusual increase in the capital market certainly reflects in the economy as a whole. As a result, prices in the general market increase. In this background, may I know from the hon. Minister which are the specific steps taken by the Government to arrest the price rise in the common market and in the general economy as well?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: The purport of his question is not very clear to me. Does he mean arresting the price rise of scrips of the Mumbai Stock Exchange or the general price rise?

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: It is about the general price rise because it is reflected in the general economy.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: First of all, I would like to say that there are various factors which determine the movement of share prices. It is basically propelled by one single word in the English language which is called "sentiment. There are a whole lot of factors which contribute to that sentiment. They could be internal. They could be economic. They could be political and they could be international. Yesterday, the Sensex crashed by over 100 points because there were some developments in Japan. So, there are various factors which

are influencing the sentiment in the market. The Sensex goes up and down in response to that sentiment. It is not always correct to say that it is related to or reflective of the fundamentals of the economy. It is often completely divorced from the fundamentals. They work according to their own little world. The economy works according to its own momentum. So, there is not always a correlation.

As far as the general prices are concerned, we have had discussions in this House on that on a number of occasions. I do think it is related directly to this question. So, I save the time of the House by preventing myself from answering that question.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister said that enquiry has been initiated. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when this enquiry is going to be completed? Brokers like Harshad Mehta create hurdles for small people investing in shares. Have the Government formulated any scheme to check persons like Harshad Mehta and remove the difficulties of small investors?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a well known fact that in 1992, an infamous scam took place and a Parliamentary Committee was constituted to enquire into this scam. I had also the opportunity to be a member of this enquiry committee. This committee presented its recommendations before the Parliament and the Government took number of steps on the basis of these recommendations so as to check recurrence of such a scam. The present scam cannot be compared with that scam in anyway. Because of the steps taken on the basis of the recommendations now we immediately identify such circumstances and take immediate action. In the middle of last month, around 15th June the SEBI started the enquiry and before coming to the House I asked the SEBI as to how much more time they would take? They have informed that they would complete the enquiry in six to eight weeks. After that steps as would be deemed fit would be taken.

[English]

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Sir, this Harshad Mehta phenomenon had occurred in spite of the Finance Department, in spite of the Department of Banking, in spite of the Vigilance Department and in spite of the Income Tax Department. After that phenomenon, again there is some irregularity.

Therefore, in view of all this, is the hon. Finance Minister contemplating to take some drastic steps so that such phenomenon is not repeated in future?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that the 1992 Securities Scam took place despite the fact that there were a number of measures, laws and rules in position. But this is a constant battle which goes on between those who frame the rules, the laws and implement them, and those who want to violate them. There is a constant struggle which is going on. People are there who would like to skirt around, find out the loopholes and take advantage of them. But I would like to assure the hon. Member, as I have just now said,

that a number of very strict measures have been put in place after the 1992 Securities Scam and especially, after the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. I would like to assure the House that what has happened now, is a very very small-scale operation but to make sure that even these things do not take place in the stock market, the SEBI has already started enquiry, and I can assure the House that we shall not only make systematic improvement but we shall also take the severest steps against the wrong-doers in this particular case.

[Translation]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we see that during the last three years while raising money through market, number of issues is decreasing and the money is also decreasing. It is a matter of concern that industry is not getting money from banks because there is credit squeeze in banks. The previous Governments effected control on the money to be given to industries by the banks so as to lower the supply of money for controlling inflation. Now where they would get it from for their working capital. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government feels that presently there is a need to give some encouragement to the money market?

[English]

If the Government says that we should encourage them, then what are the steps the Government is taking so that more issues can come in the market, more money can be raised and some kind of respite can be given to the industries?

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two types of markets — primary market and secondary market. So far we were discussing secondary market and this question is also related to secondary market. Under secondary market shares are listed at Mumbai Stock Exchange; their transaction takes place everyday, their rates fluctuate. The question raised by the hon. member is related to primary market, because issues coming in primary market are brought by companies in the market after full disclosure on the basis of which they try to raise money.

Sir, both the questions of the hon. Member are correct. During the past years, on the one hand industries did not get support from banks which they were supposed to get and on the other hand, the primary market also remained down. It is a matter of concern. That is why, while making my budget speech I raised this issue and said that today our country needs to restore the faith of small investors in the capital market and we should persuade and encourage them to invest their money in stock market without any apprehension and fear. There are a number of provisions for this. We are considering all remedial measures to safeguard the interests of small investors.

Exemption from Income-tax to ITI

*544. SHRI DINSHAW PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from any of the State Government for exemption from payment of Income-tax for investment towards setting up of infrastructural facilities for private ITIs;

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

(c) whether there is any plan under consideration of the Government to revise the provision of section 80-IA of Income-tax Act, 1961; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE): (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reference has been received from the Addl. Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat forwarded by Shri Y.K. Alagh, ex-Minister of State for granting income tax exemption to investment made for setting up infrastructure facilities like private ITIs under the provisions of section 80-IA of the Income-tax Act.

The Government have considered the suggestion.

The provisions under section 80-IA are meant to give incentives to the development of basic infrastructure like roads, highways, etc. power, telecommunication, mineral oil and not to the tertiary or secondary activities like the training or employment of personnel.

(c) The proposals for revising the provision of section 80-IA are contained in Finance Bill (No. 2) of 1988. However, there is no proposal with regard to the specific suggestion of the Gujarat Government referred to in (b) above.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI DINSHAW PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister is reading out the reply. My question is whether the Minister has received any proposal from any State Government for the exemption of income tax on investment made by the private ITIs, for setting up infrastructure facilities like school, library, sports-complex, industrial shed, computer centre etc. All the students do not get admissions in the ITIs run by the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you also reading?

SHRI DINSHAW PATEL: Since the Minister is reading out the reply, I will also read out the question. Mr. Speaker, Sir, as all the candidates don't get admission in the Government ITIs, they seek admission and receive training in the Private ITIs. Today, our youth do not have any job opportunities. It

has become all the more difficult to get jobs with the raising of retirement age from 58 to 60 years by the Government. As such, what steps are proposed to be taken by the Government to extend assistance and give tax relief on the setting up of infrastructure facilities by the private ITIs?

[English]

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN: Sir, the question relates mainly to Section 80 IA of the Income Tax Act which is giving exemption to infrastructure development.

In accordance with the recommendations contained in the Rakesh Mohan Committee on Infrastructure to inspire investor confidence in the infrastructure sector, this benefit under section 80 IA for infrastructure was created in the Ministry of Finance. The Rakesh Mohan Committee's recommendation is for power, telecommunication, area development, etc. But as far as ITI is concerned, social infrastructure, particularly human resource development, was not considered for fiscal benefit, as in urban and semi-urban areas such an activity is a commercially viable proposition.

Provisions under section 10 (22) [now proposed section 10 (23C)] exempt from tax any income from a university or such educational institutions existing solely for educational purposes and not for purposes of profit. Therefore, institutions registered under the Societies Registration Act prefer to avail this benefit where the object is solely for the advancement of education. Such being the case, this ITI, particularly in Gujarat where the former Minister has applied to the Minister of Finance, does not come under infrastructure development. It is a commercially viable unit. Therefore, it will not come under 80 IA of the Income Tax Act.

[Translation]

SHRI DINSHAW PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question relates to the private sector. My point is that Government ITIs are getting all sorts of facilities but they can not accommodate all the students, hence, the students will have to receive training in the private ITIs. Unemployment has become a big problem. The Hon'ble Minister has stated that the Government of Gujarat has sent a letter to him. I want to know as to when this letter was received? He made a mention of Prof. Alagh also. There are number of private ITIs functioning in the country in addition to Gujarat. Today, unemployment poses a big problem in the country. About 7 lakh educated youth and over 13 lakh less educated people are without jobs in Gujarat at present. About 2 crore youth are jobless at present in the whole country. Unemployment is a major problem. My point is what assistance the Government propose to extend to these youth to enable them to start their own business by receiving training in welding, binding, computer, Litho-machine and other trades from private ITIs. My second point is what demand has been made in the letter sent by the Government of Gujarat; when this letter was written and whether the Government has given reply to the Gujarat Government's letter and if so, what are the details of the reply given?

[English]

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN: Sir, the hon. Member has raised a matter relating to a letter written by ... (Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI DINSHAW PATEL : Mr. Speaker Sir, I had asked a question about giving assistance to private ITIs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, this is a specific question on giving exemption to the private ITIs.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN: Sir, whether it is private or Government, an ITI is an ITI. It is not concerned with infrastructure development. Any ITI is ITI whether it is Government or private. No exemption will be given under 80-IA. If you want to know the letter, date etc., I can read it out as to what the Gujarat Government had written and what the Central Government had replied.

SHRI A.C. JOS: The question is regarding infrastructure development. In the second part of the answer, the hon. Minister has stated that incentives will be given to infrastructure, like roads, bridges etc. My demand is that it should include airports also. In my constituency, Mukundapuram, at Nedumpassery, the construction activity of Cochin airport is nearing completion. We have to import aero bridges for the airport from China. Many things are to be imported. The airport is owned by a private company sponsored by the Government of Kerala. So, it cannot be said that it is purely a private company. My question is this: If the Airports Authority or that private company applies for import of aero-bridges, will the hon. Minister consider giving exemption for infrastructure facilities?.... (Interruptions)

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN: Sir, the main question is concerned with the ITIs. Under 80-IA airports are included in the definition of infrastructure facility. According to the Financial Bill (No.2), the condition is that it must have started during 1994-95. For that, the exemptions will be given and the Government will consider it.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister is talking of new perspective under the industrial policy and about exim policy on import-export. But while replying to the debate and the questions, he says that as regards making provisions for giving exemptions under income tax laws to promote private entrepreneurship, the issue of employment is of lesser importance. Through you, sir, I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the Government propose to give income tax exemptions to the private entrepreneurs for setting up ITIs on the lines the NGOs are given such tax exemptions?

[English]

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN: Sir, I have never said that the issue of employment is unimportant to this

Government (Interruptions) But this question pertains to ITIs. I have never said that. Rakesh Mohan Committee has given the following recommendations. According to that Committee's recommendation, infrastructure is covered under the 80-IA. But that does not mean that we are considering the employment issue as unimportant one. But infrastructure for ITIs does not come under 80-IA.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make this point clear that a little bit of confusion is there since we are linking it with a particular section 80-IA of income tax Act. The Government are of the view that tax exemptions being given under section 80-IA of this Act cannot be extended to the Private ITIs. However, there are other sections under this Act which give tax exemptions to such institutes, as the hon'ble Minister already said and this budget and Finance Bill which were being discussed also provide for certain exemptions for educational institutes. I want to make it clear that if an ITI imparting such trainings approach us for getting certain exemptions and facilities, it would be taken into consideration.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question has been asked in the context of Gujarat only by a Member of Parliament from Gujarat and reply too has been given in the context of this state only. Through you, sir, I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether requests from other States have also been received for tax exemption under section 80-IA of this Act for the industrial training institutions in other states?

In reply to part B of my question, the hon. Minister just stated that they do not treat employment as a secondary issue but in the written reply, it has been stated—

"The provisions of section 80-IA of the Act aim at providing infrastructural facilities to roads, highways, power and mineral oil etc. and not the tertiary or secondary activities like the training of personnel and employment."

I want to ask why a major problem like unemployment has been relegated to a secondary position in the written reply. I want to know whether it would be expunged from the records and whether the Government propose to give tax exemptions under section 80-IA to such institutes, if they make such a demand and give a boost to employment opportunities?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a supplementary question. Dr. V. Saroja.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: I have asked about other States also.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If the Hon. Minister likes to respond to it, he can.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN: No other State has applied for it.

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir if there is any mistake in Hindi translation, that has to be corrected since the English version of the draft says:

[English]

"...and not to the tertiary or secondary activities like the training or employment of personnel."

[Translation]

We are of this view that tertiary or secondary activities are in no way less important. Hence I want to make it clear that such an impression might have been created by the Hindi translation of the draft, however the govt. do not accord less importance to employment in any way.

[English]

DR. SAROJA V.: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the provisions under Section 80 I(A) are meant to give incentives to the development of basic infrastructure like roads, highways, etc. In order to avoid traffic congestion at Chennai Metropolitan City, will the Government of India come forward to provide road flyovers or bridges over the Buckingham Canal? Is there any proposal which the Government of India has received from the Government of Tamil Nadu?

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise out of the main question. Mr. Minister, do you want to reply?

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN: Sir, I can reply.

According to Finance Bill (No.2) of 1998, the inland waterways and inland ports had been included for the purpose of getting these benefits. If it is for the Buckingham Canal and if any proposal comes for development of infrastructure, it will be examined and considered.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I am a little confused. So, I would request the hon. Minister to clarify the position.

So far as I know, the ITIs throughout India are functioning on a set pattern. I do not know whether there is any infrastructural development which is involved for any one of these categories. As I understand, Section 80 IA of the Income Tax Act deals with another matter. They do not mean that exemptions are granted for development of infrastructure; and infrastructural development is meant for some other purpose. So, this exemption is not applicable to ITIs and more especially, for private ITIs. How did the Government consider the suggestion made by the Minister from Gujarat? It has been written in the answer that there was a proposal from the Minister from Gujarat and the Government did consider it. How did the Government consider it and what was the consideration.

So far as I know, there are entirely different matters; and Section 80 IA is not applicable to the ITIs.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN: The hon. Member has asked the main question as:

"Whether the Union Government have received any proposal from any of the State Government for exemption from payment of Income Tax for investment towards setting up of infrastructural facilities for private ITIs."

The answer given is that the Gujarat Government has approached the Ministry and thus, we have replied to it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: What was the reply given? Did you consider it favourably or did you explain the position? This is what I would like to know from you. What was the stand of the Government in response to the Government of Gujarat?

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN: ITI is producing only skilled labourers. It is not for infrastructure development at all. ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, he has not answered my question. My question is very simple. What was the attitude of the Government in response to the communication of the Government of Gujarat?

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN: I think the hon. Member is confused....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: What was the response? This is my question. But he has not answered by question....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.S. RAO: The hon. Minister is good enough to give incentives for highways, ports, etc. I just wish to know from him on one point. Coal washeries are equally important. By encouraging coal washeries in this country, you can make the railways free, the roads free, and pollution free thus reducing the cost of transport also. A lot of unwanted and undesirable coal need not be transported all over again. I wish to know from him whether these incentives will apply to coal washeries also so that they can be encouraged in a big way.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN: I want to tell all the hon. Members that giving incentives to the development of infrastructure under Section 80-IA came according to the Report of the Rakesh Mohan Committee. It is to inspire the confidence of the investors that incentives are given. Therefore, power, rail, road, etc. come under that Section.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Coal Washery is also part of power. So, it may also be considered.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN: Coal is a part of power. So, it may also be considered.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Is it that 'it may be considered' or 'it will be considered'?

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN: It may be considered. It is because he has not included coal washeries whereas he has included power. Without coal, there is no power.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO: If it is not included, will you kindly include that also? It is because coal washeries are very important and are part and parcel of it. I would like to know on this point from Shri Yashwant Sinha.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: According to the list that we have, coal washeries are not included as part of infrastructure. But the hon. Member has made an excellent suggestion for action which we will take note of.

[Translation]

SHRI P.S. GADHVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to this question it has been said in part (C) that an amendment in section 80 IA has been proposed in the Finance Bill, 1998. However, there is no proposal regarding above mentioned special training of Gujarat Government. Hon'ble Minister has informed that he is going to include the suggestion regarding training in the amendment of the Finance Bill.

[English]

I want to know whether this is right or whether what he says is right. The hon. Minister has told that they are going to think of an amendment in the Finance Bill. But they are denying it here. What is the correct position? I would like to know it from the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Actually, this is not a supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI P.S. GADHVI: But this was the intention of Gujarat Government and now in the reply to the question it is being said that there is no proposal regarding special suggestion given by Gujarat Government for training.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Would the Minister like to reply?

MR. KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN: The main question deals with ITIs. So, his supplementary does not arise from the main question.

Automobile Units

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*545. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Automobile units set up with foreign collaboration have failed to meet their export commitments;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to enforce this commitment?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Government had taken a decision on 26th June, 1995 that the foreign joint venture companies which had obtained permission for establishment of production facilities for passenger cars should enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the DGFT specifying, inter-alia, their projected export earnings from the export of intermediate and final products of the company. No minimum export commitment was stipulated by the Government and the joint venture companies with foreign collaboration were required to give their own projections regarding exports over a period of five years. The first licence for import of CKD/SKD kits was to be given to such companies only on signing the MoU and the subsequent licences, after the first year, were to be issued on the basis of the progress achieved by these companies in relation to their own projections regarding exports etc. Accordingly, six joint venture car manufacturing companies signed MoUs in 1995 and were granted licences for the import of CKD/SKD kits. When the export performance of these companies was assessed it was found that only two out of the six companies had achieved their export projections. Keeping this in view and with a view to bringing about uniformity and transparency, a new policy was announced vide Public Notice No. 60 dated 12.12.1997 stipulating that all these companies would sign fresh MoUs committing themselves to achieving, inter-alia, a broad neutralisation of foreign exchange in terms of balancing the actual CIF value of imports of CKD/SKD kits/components and the FOB value of exports of cars and components over the period of MoU. The period of export obligation as per the fresh MoU is to begin from the third year of commencement of production. The MoU is to be enforced through the import licensing mechanism. The MoU signing companies are required to submit annual reports to the DGFT and the joint annual review of the progress made in this regard would be undertaken by the Ministry of Commerce, Deptt. of Industrial Policy and Promotion and the Deptt. of Revenue. If the stipulated conditions in the MoU are not fulfilled, the companies continue to remain within the ambit of MoU and further import licences can be denied to such companies by the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to my question the Hon'ble Minister has said that six car exporting companies of joint venture had signed MoU in 1995 and they were granted licence to import CKD/SKD kits. When export performances of these companies were assessed, it was found that out of those six companies only two could achieve their export targets.

I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to what are the names of those two companies which have achieved the export target and what are the names of the remaining four companies which have failed to achieve the said target. I also want to know whether the companies which have been granted licence, was for the whole country or for a particular area?

[English]

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: Sir, the joint venture companies, which have failed to fulfil the obligation, are in this list. I am going to lay it on the Table of the House.

The difficulty is that practically no joint venture company producing automobile passenger cars has been able to fulfil the obligation. Therefore, we had to devise another method in 1997 under which a periodical review was taken by the Joint Committee regarding the value of components, etc., imported by the company and to what extent they have been able to export.

Even if they are able to neutralise it, we would be very happy. But it is a matter of regret that, so far, no company has been able to fulfil that obligation.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not got the reply to my question. I had asked as to what are the names of those four companies which did not achieve the estimated target of export, but the Hon'ble Minister has not given any reply to that.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask about it in the supplementary also.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has said in his reply that :

"If the terms and conditions as given in the Memorandum of Understanding is not fulfilled, the companies will continue to be within the purview of MoU and the Government may refuse to grant export licence to such companies in future."

My second supplementary question is which are those companies whose licences have been cancelled and the and what is the number thereof.

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that the licence of no company has been cancelled. I said that a Joint Committee would review the matter every year. The companies have expressed their inability in fulfilling all the terms and conditions. The MOU will continue and there is no question of cancelling the licence.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, six different companies were granted licences under joint venture. At the same time, an exercise had been going on since 1995. More or less, three years are over. By granting these licences, what has been achieved by our country? How many unemployed people have got employment because of this joint venture? While inspecting their progress, if they have not at all come up to the mark as joint venture companies, why have these companies not been able to achieve the desired results?

At this particular rate of progress, are these companies going to survive in future? While reviewing this situation

properly, what action does the Government propose to take in view of unemployment in our country in future?

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: I am not in a position to give you the exact figure in regard to how many unemployed people were given employment. For that, I want a notice. If the Hon. Member has another question, I will certainly give the information.

So far, the policy of the Government has been that it is not with a view to earn foreign exchange only that they have permitted the joint venture.

But if we do not permit the manufacture of passenger cars, then we have to import. That means, there would be a big outgo of foreign exchange. The idea is that at least, the car manufacturing companies would meet the requirement of foreign exchange by exporting the finished goods. As I said, it is going to continue like this for quite some time unless we are in a position to compete with other joint venture companies in other countries.

Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Member about one more thing and that is, these companies are facing several problems, particularly in regard to excise duty, customs etc. These matters are being discussed and I am hopeful that we are going to solve them.

[Translation]

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister had taken a decision on 26 June, 1995 under which car companies were given permission to manufacture and export cars. In one of the clauses of MOU it is provided that they will have to particularly mention the estimated export income. I want to know from the hon'ble Minister as to how many companies have given the details of their estimated income or amount of income out of those six companies which were given permission to manufacture cars. It has been mentioned that permission to facilitate production was sought and they will have to give details of the estimated export income from the export of finished products at the time of filing the return and they will have to state as to how much the company earned from that. I want to know whether the above said six companies have given the details of income? If they have not done so, what action has been taken against them?

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: It is compulsory to do so. Those who do not do so we will surely take action against them. It means the companies who fail to fulfil this, they would not be given permission to import.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the MOU was signed in 1995 and as the hon'ble Minister has admitted that only two companies have fulfilled the export obligations and the rest did not. There were four major reasons to grant permission to these companies. Firstly, to create competition in automobile industries, secondly to provide low cost quality cars to the people. Thirdly, to improve the balance of payment situation in the country and boost the inflow of foreign exchange. For this, these companies put the condition that the major portion of the cars which they would manufacture here, would be for export. This condition they did not fulfil.

When they did not fulfil that condition then after two years i.e. the condition which was imposed in 1995 was changed in December 1997. The reasons cited for the change was that after three years of production, even those three years are complete now but the hon'ble Minister is now saying that the excise duty had increased during this period. I can vouch on the basis of the information that in the name of giving incentive to automobile sector, excise duty has been continuously decreased in the past five Budgets and has been brought down from 35 per cent. Except the present budget, previous five budgets have followed this pattern.

I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister that the companies which are not fulfilling export obligation, does the Government propose to impose any penalty against them as you have said that you would only examine periodically. Besides, I also want to know whether the Government propose to encourage these companies to manufacture medium category vehicles like trucks apart from small cars?

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: The Government would certainly consider.

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT: Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to know whether the shortfall in the production in automobile industries is due to shortcomings of the Government or the administration or whether the industries are not having proper infrastructure?

[English]

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: I am sorry, Sir, I could not understand the question. Would you please repeat it?

[Translation]

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT: I want to know whether the shortfall in production is due to lack of coordination between the Government and administration of the industry or whether the industries were lacking proper infrastructure?

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: There are many reasons for this General industrial recession is also one of the reasons, lack of purchasing capacity is another reason and lack of raw material is also one of the reasons. I cannot say that certainly this one or that one is the reason.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Is it a fact that the foreign exchange outgo, for the collaboration with the foreign companies to manufacture motor cars, is much more than the foreign exchange we earn from exporting the motor cars?

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: Sir, I have already said, there are cases where the passenger motor car companies, that is, joint ventures have not been able to fulfil the obligation. Our aim is to at least neutralise from exports by earning foreign exchange to the extent we spend on importing the components. We have not been very successful in that till now.

Duplicate Share* Certificate

*546. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have completed the investigation into the printing of Duplicate Share Certificates by leading industries in the country;
- (b) If so, the findings of the investigation; and
- (c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against the persons found involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) :
(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

- (a) Government have not undertaken any investigation into the printing of duplicate share certificates by leading industries in the country. However, SEBI conducted an inspection of the books of accounts, records, documents and computer data of M/s Reliance Constancy Services (RCS), Registrars and Share Transfer Agents to M/s Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) to inquire into the issue of duplicate share certificates of RIL by RCS.
- (b) The Inspections Reports of SEBI contain, inter alia, the following main findings:
 - (i) A total number of 4.89 lakh duplicate shares were issued by RCS during the period April 1990 to October 1995. RCS by issuing some duplicate share certificates while the original share certificates were in existence, may have violated provisions of Section 84 of the Companies Act.
 - (ii) RCS, by not transferring and delivering the shares lodged by some investors before April 1, 1994, within two months, may have violated provisions of Section 113 of the Companies Act, 1956;
 - (iii) RCS, while acting as Registrars to the Issue and Share Transfer Agents to RIL, has violated the SEBI (Registrars to an Issue and Share Transfer Agents) Regulations.

(c) **Action by SEBI:** SEBI has suspended the certificate of registration granted to RCS under the SEBI (Registrar to an Issue and Share Transfer Agents) Rules and Regulations, 1993 with effect from February 1, 1997 to July 31, 1997 (the date of expiry of the validity of the certificate of registration) subject to the condition that from October 17, 1996 till January 31, 1997, RCS will not take up any work as a registrar to an issue and share transfer agent of any company other than seven principals who appeared before SEBI. RCS, after the expiry of the suspension period, ending on July 31, 1997 did not apply for renewal of registration as Registrars to an issue and Share Transfer Agent. Further, SEBI has amended the SEBI (Registrars to an Issue and Share Transfer Agents) Regulations 1993 to provide for an arms length relationship between an issuer and the Registrar to an issue.

Action by Department of Company Affairs: Department of Company Affairs (DCA) has initiated appropriate follow up action under the Companies Act, 1956 for dealing with the lapses and irregularities that have been detected in the inspection report.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now we discussed regulation of share market, rampant irregularities and fluctuations in share market. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any enquiry has been conducted regarding issuance of duplicate share certificates by big industries? If so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a full enquiry was conducted in case of duplicate share certificates issued by Reliance Industries Limited and a final action was taken thereon in 1996. A new section 13(A) has been added to SEBI Act as a preventive measure suggesting that there should be a distance between issuers and company. The branch of the same company should not undertake the same work. This was decided as a policy and the Act was amended.

12.00 hrs.

SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA: Whether the Government are aware that a number of small units printed and sold off someone else's share certificates on their behalf. This incident took place in my Parliamentary Constituency Porbandar (Gujarat). Therefore, I would like to know whether the Government have taken any stringent steps against such people?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a provision of issuing duplicate share certificates in companies Act because sometimes the need of duplicate share certificates arises. But if duplicate share certificates are issued violating rules and regulations and the same is brought to our notice, action is certainly taken on it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Prices of Coal

*543. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government have decontrolled the prices of various grades of coal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which the price of coal has gone up as a result thereof;
- (d) the estimated extra amount received so far by the coal producing companies as a result thereof,

(e) whether the Government propose to decontrol the production of coal to open more competition in this sector; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to fully decontrol the coal industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) The prices of coking coal and A, B and C grades of non-coking coal were deregulated from March, 1996 and the prices of Grade D of non-coking coal were deregulated from March, 1997.

(c) After partial deregulation of the prices, CIL has revised its prices w.e.f. 1.4.96, 20.10.96, 1.4.97 and 1.10.97. The average price of coal as fixed on different dates is given below:

Date of effect of revision	Average price of CIL coal (Rs. per tonne)
01.04.96	469.02
20.10.96	498.54
01.04.97	553.37
01.10.97	559.02

(d) The total estimated extra receipts by CIL in 1996-97 was Rs. 1357 crores and in 1997-98 Rs. 2267 crores.

(e) and (f) The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 has been amended in June, 1993 to provide for coal mining for captive consumption. Companies engaged in production of iron and steel, power, cement and other end uses as Government may notify from time to time, can mine coal for their own use. Further, the need to obtain an industrial licence for coal mining, under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 has been done away with. These steps have been taken to enable more competition in the coal sector.

Sick Industries

*547. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases of industrial sickness referred to BIFR and the number of cases on which decision has been taken;
- (b) whether the cases for revival of Talchar Fertilizer Corporation and Choudwar Textile Mill are pending with BIFR;
- (c) if so, the present status of these two industries; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken for revival of these industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that since its

establishment and upto 30.6.1998, 3241 references from sick industrial companies were received under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act 1985. 2254 cases were registered by BIFR out of which 1683 cases have been disposed off.

- (b) No, Sir.
(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Participation of Private Sector in Tourism

*548. SHRI A.C. JOS:

SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Tourism Policy with a thrust to encourage participation of private sector and better co-ordination between various connected Ministries has been mooted by the Government;

(b) If so, the total flow of foreign tourists into the country during the year 1997 and during the first six months of the current year;

(c) whether with better co-ordination and provision of more facilities, more and more tourists are likely to be attracted to India; and

(d) If so, the steps being taken by the Government to provide better facilities to the foreign tourists in India?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The foreign tourist arrivals into the country during 1997 were 2.37 million and during the first six months of the current year were 1.14 million.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The steps being taken by the Government to provide better facilities to foreign tourists in India include improvement of the Infrastructural Facilities, product Development, Effective Marketing better facilitation and Human Resources Development.

Agricultural Export Policy

*549. SHRI K. P. NAIDU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of long term agricultural export policy of the country; and

(b) the list of high priority sectors which qualify for automatic approval by the Foreign Investment Board for Foreign Equity upto 51%?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The policy of the government regarding exports of agricultural products is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximising farm incomes and earning foreign exchange. Export regime in respect of agri-

cultural products has been liberalised. Very few items are now either prohibited for exports or their exports are restricted or are subject to quantitative ceilings. Major items for which the exports are banned include wheat and wheat products and sugar except under preferential quota to the EU/USA.

(b) The list of high priority sectors in the area of agricultural production, plantations and manufacture of food products, which qualify for automatic approval by the Foreign Investment Board for Foreign Equity upto 51% is given below:

Agricultural Production: Agricultural production not elsewhere classified (n.e.c); Certified high yielding hybrid seeds and synthetic seeds.

Plantations: Plantation n.e.c.; Certified high yielding plantations developed through plant tissue culture.

Manufacture of Food Products: Preparation and preservation of meat; Preservation of meats except by canning; Processing and canning of meat; Manufacture of dairy products; Manufacture of milk powder, ice-cream, powder and condensed milk except baby milk foods; Manufacture of baby milk foods; Manufacture of butter, cream, ghee, cheese and Khoya etc; Manufacture of pasteurised milk whether or not in bottles/polythene packs etc. (plain or flavoured); Manufacture of other dairy products n.e.c.; Canning and preservation of fruits and vegetables; Sun-drying of fruits and vegetables; Artificial dehydration of fruits and vegetables Radiation preservation of fruits and vegetables; Manufacture of fruit/vegetable juices and their concentrates, squashes and powders; Manufacture of sauces, jams, jellies, and marmalades etc; Canning of fruits and vegetables; Fruit and vegetable preservation n.e.c.; Processing, canning and preserving of fish, crustacea and similar foods; Grain milling; Flour milling by power machine; Other grain milling and processing activities n.e.c.; Production of common salt; Manufacture of cocoa products and sugar confectionery (including sweetmeats); Manufacture of cocoa products, starch and its derivatives, food products n.e.c; soya texture proteins, soya protein isolates, soya protein concentrates, other specified products of soya bean, winterised and deodorised refined soyabean oil.

[Translation]

Non-Performing Assets

*550. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the non-performing assets of Indian Banks were about 17% of the total loans granted in 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above percentage is comparatively much higher than that of the foreign banks;

(d) if so, the average percentage thereof in Hong Kong, Korea, Taiwan, Japan, America and England, separately; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Gross Non-performing assets (NPAs) amounting to 17.84% of the gross advances as on 31.3.1997 relate to the loans sanctioned till 1996.

(b) The net NPAs of the public sector banks and foreign banks for the year ended 31.3.97 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The performance of the public sector banks cannot be compared with that of foreign banks, keeping in view the geographical spread of the branches of public sector banks throughout the length and breadth of the country, categories of customers served, obligation to lend in rural areas as well as the extent of modernisation achieved by the public sector banks.

(d) and (e) Estimates of percentage of net NPAs in Hong Kong, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, USA and England have been reported to be low. Indications available after the East Asian crisis point to a much higher existence of NPAs in some of these countries as compared to estimates earlier available. It may also be mentioned that the practice relating to classification of NPAs is not common to all countries.

Statement

Non-performing assets of public sector banks and foreign bank. as on 31.3.97

Public Sector Banks

Name of the Bank	%age of net NPAs to net advances
1	2
State Bank of India	7.30
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	7.96
State Bank of Hyderabad	11.42
State Bank of Indore	11.29
State Bank of Mysore	10.96
State Bank of Patiala	5.88
State Bank of Saurashtra	6.47
State Bank of Travancore	8.82
Total for State Bank Group	7.70
Allahabad Bank	14.84
Andhra bank	4.10
Bank of Baroda	8.94

	1	2
Bank of India		6.52
Bank of Maharashtra		9.66
Canara Bank		9.32
Central Bank of India		14.40
Corporation Bank		3.63
Dena Bank		9.40
Indian Bank		25.24
Indian Overseas Bank		7.64
Oriental Bank of Commerce		5.64
Punjab & Sind Bank		12.04
Punjab National Bank		10.38
Syndicate Bank		7.53
UCO Bank		13.73
Union Bank of India		6.98
United Bank of India		18.70
Vijaya Bank		9.56
Total for Nationalised Banks		10.07
Total for Public Sector Banks		9.18

Foreign Banks

Name of Bank	% of net NPAs to net Advances
1	2
American Express Bank	3.26
ANZ Grindlays Bank	0.30
Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank	1.54
ABN Amro Bank	0.42
Arab Bangladesh Bank(*)	Nil
British Bank of the M.E.	6.46
Barclays Bank	5.10
Banque Nationale de Paris	Nil
Banque Indosuez	6.75
Bank of America	0.07
Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.	17.36
Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait	9.36

1	2	<i>[English]</i>
		Financial Assistance to the States
Bank of Nova Scotia	7.46	*551. PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
Bank of Ceylon	4.78	(a) whether some States including Jammu and Kashmir are facing financial crunch;
Bank International Indonesia (*)	Nil	(b) if so, whether these States have approached the Union Government to overcome their problem;
Citibank N.A.	0.63	(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Union Government thereon;
Chase Manhattan Bank	Nil	(d) whether wasteful and lavish spendings have also been found as a cause for such a crunch;
Commerzbank	Nil	(e) if so, the details thereof;
Credit Lyonnais	0.43	(f) the immediate financial assistance sought by each State; and
Chinatrust Commercial Bank (*)	Nil	(g) the reaction of the Union Government in regard thereto?
Cho Hung Bank (*)	Nil	THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA):
Commercial Bank of Korea	Nil	(a) to (c) (f) and (g) Some States have passed through periodic Ways and Means problems. The position of cash balance and overdrawals, if any, of State Governments varies from day to day and State to State.
Dvpt. Bank of Singapore	5.61	The Ministry of Finance have received requests from some of the State Governments for financial assistance. The requests are of the following types:
Deutsche Bank	1.77	(i) To help the State Governments in meeting the cost of revised pay scales of their employees.
Dresdner Bank	Nil	(ii). To help the State Governments to tide over Ways and Means difficulties and to get over their overdrafts; and
Fuji Bank Ltd.	Nil	(iii). Other requests like write off and deferment of their loan repayment liability to Government of India, and additional plan assistance.
Hongkong Bank	3.14	As regards the request for financial assistance for pay revision, the concerned State Governments have been conveyed the view that Government of India is not in a position to give any additional financial assistance and that they would have to raise the resources to meet the additional financial requirement, if they go in for pay revision.
ING Bank	Nil	Ways and Means Advances have been given to 9 (nine) State Governments for clearing their overdrafts. A Statement thereon is attached.
Krung Thai Bank P.C.L.	Nil	Issues relating to loan deferment/write off fall within the purview of the Eleventh Finance Commission.
Mashreq Bank	22.84	(d) and (e) The States are autonomous under the Constitution and the financial management of the States is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments for which they are responsible to their respective legislatures.
Oman International Bank	5.33	
Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation	Nil	
Sanwa Bank Ltd.	0.22	
Sakura Bank Ltd.	1.10	
Standard Chartered Bank	2.86	
Societe Generale	4.53	
Sonali Bank	Nil	
Siam Commercial Bank PCL	Nil	
State Bank of Mauritius	30.72	
Total	2.50	

(*) These banks were set up during 1996-97.

Statement*Ways & means advances given by Government of India*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Amount of Ways and Means advance released	Date of Release
1.	Andhra Pradesh	388.00	1.7.98
2.	Himachal Pradesh	100.00	28.5.98
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	80.00	7.4.98
4.	Manipur	65.00	5.5.98
		—	
5.	Mizoram	27.50	29.4.98
		34.50	26.6.98
6.	Nagaland	170.00	14.4.98
7.	Rajasthan	104.00	20.4.98
8.	Punjab	76.00	16.7.98
9.	Sikkim	20.00	22.4.98

Free Import Licence to Multi-national Tea Companies

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

- the number and details of foreign multinational tea companies given free import licences;
- the impact of this on the indigenous tea companies; and
- the steps taken by the Government to save the domestic tea industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) Tea is in the Restricted List of imports, and it is not permitted to be imported except against a licence. However, import of all items in the negative list is allowed against Duty Free Licences if such import is necessary for export production. In the same manner, import of tea has been allowed duty free for the purpose of blending and re-export, that is, in value added form, either through ECU/EPZ units or under Duty Exemption Scheme, subject to the exporter offering a minimum value addition for the export product.

2. During the Period 1997-98, 7 Duty Free Licences for a CIF value of Rs. 13.91 crores with an export obligation of Rs. 35.22 crores and during the period 1998-99 (April-till date), 7 Duty Free Licences for a CIF value of Rs. 21.68 crores with an export obligation of Rs. 56.32 crores in the form of blended tea in consumer packs have been issued in favour of M/s. Lipton India Exports Limited, Calcutta.

3. Since import of tea has been allowed for export production, it will not have any adverse impact on the indigenous tea Companies.

Government's Stake in IFCI

*553. SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the stake of Government organisations in the Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited has gone below 48 per cent instead of Government's commitment to maintain 51 per cent holding in IFCI; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to retain the control on IFCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The shareholding of the Government and Reserve Bank of India owned/controlled organisations such as Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), nationalised banks, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC), subsidiaries of GIC, State Bank of India (SBI) and subsidiaries of SBI in the erstwhile Industrial Finance Corporation of India was about 86%, as on 30.06.1993. As on 31.3.1998, these organisations had a holding of 51.69% in the Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited, a company constituted under the Companies Act, 1956.

*[Translation]***Use of Hindi**

*554. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindi Officers are not being promoted in banks and vacant posts of Hindi Officers are also not being filled;

(b) the names of the banks which are not following the order of the Reserve Bank of India in this regard and the action being taken by the Government in this direction;

(c) whether the modern equipments such as computer etc., in the Devnagri script are not being used since entries in the files are made in Roman/English; and

(d) if so, the time by which the remedial measures are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) Public sector banks have framed their own promotion policies, based on guidelines issued by the Government from time to time, for promotion of their officers, including specialists, viz. Hindi officers, Law Officers etc. The banks take necessary steps to fill up any vacancy that may arise, either by promotion or by direct recruitment, as applicable. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently advised the public sector banks to comply with the observation of the Committee of Parliament on Official

Language to form an official language cadre and fill up the related vacancies. RBI co-ordinates the review meetings through the Official Language Implementation Committee of public sector banks, from time to time. In one such review meeting a few posts were found vacant, as on 31st March, 1998, in Andhra Bank, Allahabad Bank, Corporation Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, Central Bank of India, Dena Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank, Bank of India, State Bank of India, UCO Bank, Vijaya Bank, State Bank of Travancore and State Bank of Mysore. The banks have been advised to take necessary steps to fill up the vacant posts by promotion or direct recruitment as per requirement.

RBI and some of the public sector banks have reported that bilingual software i.e. English and Hindi is being used in computers, and bilingual word processors are used by some of the banks. The Indian Banks' Association has advised the public sector banks to develop bilingual software for data processing for banking transactions.

Hindustan Engineering Corporation Ltd.

*555. SHRI RAMTAHAL CHAUDHARY:

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the value of goods sold by Hindustan Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi during the last three years;

(b) the names of the departments to whom these were sold alongwith the quantity of goods sold to each department;

(c) whether the quality of the items sold by the HEC is not upto the mark;

(d) if so, whether the orders were placed to the private firms instead of HEC as a result thereof;

(e) if so, whether responsibility has been fixed in this regard; and

(f) is so, the details thereof and action taken by the company to improve the quality of their product?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT):
(a) Value of goods sold by Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi during the last three years:

1995-96	Rs. 21,129 lakhs
1996-97	Rs. 24,917 lakhs
1997-98	Rs. 21,628 lakhs

(b) Details of department-wise break-up of goods sold by value are given below:

	(Rs. in Lakhs)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Steel/SAIL	8158	9181	7546
Mining/CIL	7386	8611	9505
Railways	599	1832	723
Power	900	250	172
Defence	1168	788	1259
Others	2918	4255	2423
Total	21129	24917	21628

Since the items involved are heterogeneous in nature, value rather than quantity has been indicated.

(c) No, Sir. Items supplied by HEC in the above period have generally been found to be acceptable in the market. Neither has HEC been disqualified nor have any orders placed been cancelled due to poor quality of products in the last three years.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Gold Ornaments

*556. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India have achieved great success in the field of export of gold ornaments as compared to other countries;

(b) if so, the quantity of gold ornaments exported during each of the last four years; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to boost export of gold ornaments?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) The export of gold jewellery from India has shown a healthy trend over the last few years. In a period of 5 years between 1992-93 to 1997-98, exports have gone up by 117%. India has emerged as a stable exporter of gold jewellery in the world market which is evident from the consistent upward growth in the exports of gold jewellery over the last four years:

Export of Gold Jewellery

(Value in US \$ million)

1994-95	1995-96	%Growth	1996-97	%Growth	1997-98	%Growth
421.20	480.40	14.05	511.80	6.53	572.30	11.82

Source: DGCI & S

However India's share in world trade in gold jewellery is very small.

Given the vast potential in the country in terms of traditional skill and manufacturing infrastructure, gold jewellery was identified as one of the extreme focus items by the Commerce Ministry for accelerated growth. A number of innovative steps have been taken under the Exim Policy to facilitate gold jewellery export which include:

- (i) Liberalisation of import policy of gold allowing a number of banks to supply gold to the exporters which has improved the supply of raw materials considerably;
- (ii) Enhancement of competitiveness of Indian manufacturers by rationalising wastage and value addition norms;
- (iii) Simplification and streamlining of procedures with regard to personal carriage of jewellery, display of samples abroad, export of jewellery with brand names etc.

[*Translation*]

Package Tours

*557. SHRI ADITYANATH:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have announced special packages to attract foreign tourists;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the amount of foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): (a) to (c) Package tours are prepared and sold in overseas markets mainly by tour operators. Ashok Travels & Tours, a Unit of India Tourism Development Corporation and some State Tourism Development Corporations also offer package tours. New places and services are included in the packages from time to time make them more attractive.

Ministry of Tourism through its overseas offices provides information and runs publicity campaigns to position India; as an attractive tourist destination. At this state, it is not possible to estimate foreign exchange earnings from these efforts.

Shortage of Staff in Banks

*558. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is abundant staff in the headquarters, regional and zonal offices of nationalised banks whereas there is a shortage of staff in the branches of the banks in rural areas;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to post sufficient staff in rural areas and the other branches of the banks;

(c) whether the Government propose to consider to make it mandatory for the bank employees to work for a certain period in rural areas so as to avoid shortage of staff there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) Availability of officers and award staff in Headquarters as well as Regional and Zonal Offices has been reported to be adequate. While there is no report of a general shortage of officers or staff in semi-urban or rural areas, some branches/pockets are reported to experience shortage from time to time. Government has from time to time advised the banks that the branches located in the rural/semi-urban areas should be adequately staffed by implementation of rotational transfers as well as redeployment of manpower from the surplus pockets to deficit pockets. Banks have been advised to make it compulsory for the officers to work for minimum two/three years in the rural/semi-urban areas before they are considered for promotion to Senior Management Grade Scale-IV and above.

[*English*]

ADB Assistance

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

- (a) whether the Asian Development Bank has decided to provide funds for policy reform programmes in various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether from now onwards 50 percent of the ADB assistance is likely to be provided to the States;
- (d) if so, the States which are likely to be benefited by this aid; and
- (e) the total ADB loan/assistance provided during 1997-98 to the State Governments, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Under the present medium term strategy of the Bank, it intends to provide to States about 50 per cent of the total annual lending to India. The actual timing of loan assistance to States will be determined by project readiness and the strength of the reform programme.

(d) The Bank has selected Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh for loan assistance for policy reform programmes.

(e) During 1997-98, ADB has not approved loan for State level Operations.

[Translation]

Committee to inquire Losses of Coal Companies

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

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute a high level investigating team to ascertain the reasons of losses being suffered by the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries and to suggest measures for removing the managerial inefficiency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) The profit position of Coal India Limited (CIL) as a whole has been improving considerably since 1994-95. In order to improve the financial and operational efficiency of the loss making subsidiary companies of CIL, turn-around packages suggested by the company and CIL are examined in the Ministry of Coal for implementation. Managerial inefficiency is not the only reason for losses being incurred by such subsidiary companies of CIL.

[English]

Credit Flow to SSIs

*561. SHRI S.B. THORAT:

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether S.L. Kapoor Committee set up to review the working of credit delivery system for SSI units has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of important observations and recommendations made in the report;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the details of follow up action taken and the action plan prepared for 1998-99 for streamlining the credit flow to the SSI units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) As per information made available by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), S.L. Kapur committee set up in December 1997 to review the working of credit delivery system for SSI units has submitted its report to RBI on 30th June 1998.

(b) Special treatment to smaller among small industries, enhancement in the quantum of composite loans,

removal of procedural difficulties in the path of SSI advances, sorting out issues relating to mortgage of land, including removal of stamp duty and permitting equitable mortgages, allow in access to low cost funds to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for refinancing SSI loans, non-obtention of collaterals for loans upto Rs. 2 lakhs, setting up of a collateral reserve fund to provide support to first generation of entrepreneurs who find it difficult to furnish collateral securities or third party guarantees, setting up of a Small Industries Infrastructure Development Fund for developing industrial areas in/around metropolitan and urban areas, change in the definition of sick SSI units, giving statutory powers to State Level Inter-Institutional Committee (SLIIC) setting up of a separate guarantee organisation and opening of 1000 additional specialised branches are amongst significant recommendations made by the committee.

The Committee has also recommended enhancing of SIDBI's role and status to match with that of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), suggestions towards technological upgradation of various sub-sectors of SSI, granting 20 per cent additional *ad hoc* limits to SSIs from banks and setting up of a reconstruction fund with initiative and initial corpus from the Government of India and the RBI to enable branch managers to provide, if necessary, initial corpus margin money for such additional facilities earmarking atleast 40 per cent of resources of SIDBI to tiny sector, close co-operation between State finance corporations (SFCs) and public sector banks for jointly providing term loans and working capital limit to SSIs, NABARD to set up a fund similar to National Equity Fund to make facilities available to rural industrial units with project costs upto Rs. 10 lakh, appointment of separate ombudsman in each bank for grievances not covered by RBI's banking ombudsman scheme, training and motivation for staff of regional rural banks, urban co-operative banks and SFCs.

(c) and (d) RBI has reported that the recommendations of the committee need to be examined in consultation with various agencies such as Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Indian Banks Association (IBA) banks and Government departments including State Governments. RBI is taking necessary steps in this regard.

Export of Latex

5403. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to export latex to any country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been made to determine the effect of the unrestricted import of polyurethane by the latex industry in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the findings?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) The Government permits export of latex and there is no restriction on such exports. There are

however, no exports of Latex undertaken by Government to any country.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Closure of Birla Textiles, Swatantra Bharat Mills and DCM Silk Mills

5404. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of closure of Birla Textiles, Swatantra Bharat Mills and DCM silk mills functioning in Delhi have been closed since November, 1996 rendering thousands of employees jobless;

(b) whether the management of M/s Birla Textiles and other industries except Ayodhya Textiles Mills has not paid the salaries and additional retrenchment benefits of six years to the workmen;

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against the management of the said mills and to ensure payment of salary and compensation to the women;

(d) whether the Government intend to move the Supreme Court of India for reviewing its decision dated December 31, 1996, permitting relocation of textile mills beyond NCR; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA):

(a) As per information available, M/s Birla Textiles and M/s Swatantra Bharat mills were closed on 30.11.1996 consequent upon an order of the Supreme Court. As regards DCM mills, the Government of Delhi permitted the mill to close down from 1.4.1989, vide its order dated 30.3.1989.

(b) and (c) As per the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 8.7.96, M/s. Birla Textiles, Delhi informed the workmen that those who are willing to shift to the place of relocation, 'Baddi' (Himachal Pradesh) will be paid shifting bonus and those who are not willing to shift will be paid compensation as per rules, along with additional compensation equivalent to one year's wages. Out of 2522 workmen, 577 workers opted for final payment. 7 workers opted to shift to 'Baddi', and the management has paid shifting bonus to these workers. In the case of the remaining 1938 workers who have not responded to the offer made by the mill, in terms of Supreme Court directions the management is reported to have sent full and final payment through cheques to their home address, but these are stated to have been refused.

As regards M/s. Swatantra Bharat Mills, there were 2126 workers at the time of closure, i.e. on 30.11.96. It is reported that a substantial number of workers have been paid their shifting bonus.

(d) and (e) Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi filed a petition before the Supreme Court to review its order dated 31.12.96, submitting that industries which are

not relocated in National Capital Region (NCR) may be treated as closed and the workmen employed in these industries may be given compensation at par with industries which fail to relocate and decided to close. This petition was dismissed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Staff Harassment in ITDC Hotel

5405. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Women alleges rape, harassment by Hotel Kanishka colleagues" appearing in the Indian Express dated May 27, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) whether such incidents of harassment to working women in ITDC are quite common and the matter is hushed up with the help of its Vigilance and Security Division officials for their vested interests;

(d) the number of complaints of alleged harassments of all kinds to working women in ITDC have been received during the last three years ending May, 1998 along with action taken in each case; and

(e) whether Government are considering to punish the guilty officials especially the concerned officers who are fully responsible for the security of female staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The press report mentions about the repeated sexual harassment of a 24 year old woman employee of Kanishka Hotel of ITDC by certain colleagues over past two years and also that no action was taken by the Hotel Management on a complaint filed by her in August, 1996, in this regard.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Such incidents are very rare. ITDC has a strength of about 7900 employees and during the last three years only five complaints of alleged harassment to women employees were received. The complaints were examined, but a allegations were not substantiated in four out of the five cases. In the fifth case which pertains to the harassment of the women employee in Kanishka Hotel, mentioned in the Press Report; based on the investigation report, charge sheets for major penalty have been issued to two employees, one of whom has also been suspended; three senior officers have been issued advisory memos to be more careful and six employees have been admonished.

Clearance of Cheques by RBI

5406. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of days required for clearance of RBI cheques deposited in the State Bank of India Branch located within the radius of one kilometre of Reserve Bank of India;

(b) whether complaints have been received from customers of such SBI branches regarding non-clearance of cheques for even more than three to five days;

(c) if so, the number of complaints received from public/MPs about such branches, which are particularly within the radius of 2 Km. from RBI as well as Regional office during the month of November, 1997, regional office-wise; and

(d) the action taken thereon and also against the persons found guilty in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that it requires one day excluding the date of deposit of the instruments for RBI local clearing. Withdrawals are allowed after completion of cheque return discipline. However, as per instructions issued by RBI to the commercial banks in respect of local cheques tendered for collection the customer's accounts should be credited and they should be allowed use of funds latest on the third working day from the date of acceptance of the cheques at counters. These instructions are applicable to all local cheques tendered for collection.

(b) SBI has reported that no such complaints appear to have been received by them in this regard, in the recent past.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Increase in Production of Spices

5407. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has requested to the Union Government to provide financial assistance for setting up of Technology Mission for increase in the production of spices in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

NABARD Loans

5408. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD provides loan to Bachelors of Agriculture Science for setting up of their own enterprises; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is a refinancing agency providing refinance assistance to commercial banks, cooperatives and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). It does not provide any special loans to Bachelors of Agriculture Science directly for setting up of entrepreneurial activities. However, NABARD provides soft loan assistance for margin money by way of refinance assistance to the prospective entrepreneurs who have requisite talents and traits of entrepreneurship but lack monetary resources of their own for setting units/ implementing projects under NABARD refinance scheme for non-farm sector and innovative, high-tech projects, export oriented units and agro processing schemes covered under the farm sector.

[English]

HDFC Activities

5409. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) has diversified its activities; and

(b) if so, the details of areas in which the HDFC has diversified its activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

500 Rupee Notes

5410. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several nationalised banks still continue to refuse to honour notes of a certain series in the denomination of Rs. 500, despite clarification by the Reserve Bank of India; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government against such nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Some instances of banks desisting from accepting the older notes of Rs. 500/- have come to the notice of RBI.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has, on 18-6-98, instructed all the Nationalised banks to accept Rs. 500/- Notes in all the series from any member of the public across the counters. Whenever any specific instance of refusal to accept such notes by any bank is brought to the notice of the Reserve Bank of India, fresh directions are issued immediately to the branch/bank concerned to accept these notes.

Import of Gold

5411. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JHANJHARPUR):

SHRI SITARAM YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have enhanced the customs duty for 1998-99 on import of gold;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the likely impact of such enhancement on the import of gold in the country;

(d) whether the Government are reconsidering to bring the customs duty at par with the previous years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR, M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Government have enhanced Customs duty on import of gold from Rs. 220 per 10 gms. to Rs. 250 per 10 gms. vide Notification No. 28/98-Customs dated 2/6/98.

(c) to (e) It is unlikely that this enhancement would have any major impact on the import of gold. There is no proposal before the Government for reconsideration of this duty increase.

[Translation]

Financial Crisis in Handloom Industry

5412. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether handloom industry is facing financing crisis;

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

(c) the number of persons engaged in this industry have committed suicide due to financial crisis; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) NABARD under its concessional refinance scheme provides credit to the eligible handloom agencies to meet their working capital requirement. According to the information received from NABARD, the level of credit limit sanctioned has gone up from Rs. 492.37 crores in 1992-93 to Rs. 743.18 crores in 1997-98. Besides, the Government has been providing financial assistance to the eligible handloom agencies under various ongoing schemes for development of handloom sector and welfare of the weavers. The financial assistance provided under various schemes to the eligible handloom agencies during 1992-93 to 1997-98 is Rs. 1086.91 crores.

(c) No such report has been received from State Governments.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Development/Welfare Schemes for Tripura

5413. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Tripura has sought financial assistance/approval of Central Government for Hank Yarn Price Subsidy Scheme, H.D.C./QDU proposal for release of subsequent instalments against the eligible Handloom Development Centres/Quality Dyeing Units, Jute project, Margin money for below poverty line weavers, Marketing Development Assistance for Primary Weavers Coop. Societies, Construction of Marketing Complex, submitted during 1996-98, and

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

THE MINISTER FOR TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) The Government of India is providing Central assistance to various State Governments including Government of Tripura under various Handloom Schemes. Formulation and submission of project proposals by the State Governments and the sanctions thereto by the Government of India is a continuous process. Based on the viable proposals received from Government of Tripura, Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 139 lakhs was provided during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98. The State Govt. has been advised to reformulate and resubmit such project proposals which have not been found to be viable or did not conform to the guidelines of the scheme.

Development of Coffee and Tobacco

5414. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes and programmes formulated and the places identified/selected by the Coffee Board for development of coffee plantations and development of Tobacco cultivation by Tobacco Board in Orissa so far;

(b) the funds provided for these schemes for research and development alongwith extension so far;

(c) whether some private agencies have been given lease by the Government of Orissa for cultivation of Coffee and Tobacco in recent years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The Coffee Board has identified about 11,000 ha. of area in Koraput, Ganjam, Phulbani and Keonjhar Districts of Orissa for coffee cultivation, out of which an area of 1600 ha. has already been brought under coffee cultivation.

During the Ninth Five Year Plan, the Coffee Board has been implementing a Special Package Scheme for coffee

development in Orissa under which a subsidy of Rs. 15,000 per ha. is being given to coffee growers. The balance amount of Rs. 15,000 is met by the beneficiaries themselves.

Under the plan scheme "Development of New Areas for FCV Tobacco", Tobacco Board in collaboration with M/s. ITC Ltd. has identified light soil areas of Rayagada district of Orissa State as suitable for production of semi-flavourful tobacco.

(b) For development of coffee in Orissa, the Coffee Board on an average spends Rs. 40-50 lakhs and Rs. 10-12 lakhs per annum on R&D and extension activities respectively.

Tobacco Board has so far provided a subsidy of Rs. 7.30 lakhs for construction of 106 barns in Rayagada district of Orissa since 1993-94.

(c) and (d) Government is not aware of the private agencies having been given land on lease by the Orissa Government for coffee or tobacco cultivation. However, over 175 ha. of land has already been brought under coffee cultivation and 300 ha. of land under tobacco cultivation by private entrepreneurs in the State.

KVIC Centres

5415. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up new Centres of Khadi and Village Industries Commission in the country during 1998-99; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to set up new Centres of Khadi and Village Industries Commission in the Country during 1998-99.

(b) In view of reply at (a), Question does not arise.

Reclamation of Abandoned Mines

5416. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of abandoned opencast mines have been reclaimed and the number of abandoned O.C.P. are still to be reclaimed; and

(b) whether the reclamation is being done in the on-going projects (O.C.P.) in the portion of void area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Details of abandoned open cast mines which have been reclaimed/partially reclaimed and which are still to be reclaimed are as under:

Company	Abandoned OCP Reclaimed/ Partially Reclaimed	Abandoned OCP still to be reclaimed	Remarks
1	2	3	4
ECL	1. Nabakajora/ Ghanashyam	1. Nimcha	
	2. Ratibati	2. Sreepur	
	3. Purushottampur	3. Alkuba Gopalpur	
	4. Mahabir	4. Dabor	
	5. Kenda/Dobrana	5. Palasthali	
	6. Dhandadih	6. Kapasara	
	7. Poidihi	7. Pusai	
	8. Dalmiya	8. Lalmatia	
	9. Dalurbandh		
	10. Gangaramchak		
BCCL	—	1. Tasra OC 2. Bera OC	Can not be reclaimed due

1	2	3	4
		3. Jhunkundar OC	to the presence
		4. Basdeopur OC	of virgin lower
		5. Laxmi OC	seam, yet to be
		6. Kankani OC	exploited.
CCL	1. Gidhania OC		
	2. Rauta OC	—	—
	3. Semwa OC	—	
	4. Pure Dhori OC		
	5. Sugia OC		
NCL	1. Gorbi OC	—	—
SECL	1. Chachai	1. Domnara	—
	2. Jarwahi		
NEC	1. Munshi OC	—	—
WCL	1. Shivpuri-I	2 (two) OCPs	—
	2. Shivpuri-II		
SCCL	1. Bellampalli-OC	Nearly 40% of void area (18.33 ha.) is backfilled and plantation has also been undertaken in 63% of backfilled area.	
	2. Jawaharkhani-OC	Two blocks have been completely backfilled and are under process of reclamation.	
NLC	There are no abandoned open cast mines in Neyveli Lignite Corporation.		

(b) Yes, Sir. In Coal India Limited (CIL) backfilling is being done in the on-going opencast projects in the voids except where there are virgin lower coal seams to be exploited later on. Out of 11 opencast projects of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), backfilling is in progress in the decoaled areas of 7 opencast projects. Plantation has also been carried out in some of the on-going OCPs where backfilling has reached planned heights/ground level. In Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) also, reclamation is being done in the portion of void area.

Provision of Infrastructural Facilities in Ajmer

5417. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of infrastructural facilities like provision of low-budget accommodation, etc. made available by the

Government at Ajmer (Rajasthan) which is one of the important and large pilgrim centre;

(b) whether any project has been formulated by the Government for development of infrastructural facility in Ajmer;

(c) if so the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to consider any new project for Ajmer, particularly on the occasion of 786 "Urs" of Khawaja Gharib Nawaz this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) The projects financed by the Union Ministry of Tourism for providing tourism infrastructural facilities at Ajmer since 1991-92 include the following:

1. Yatrika
2. Pilgrim Sheds at Vishram Sthali.
3. Public conveniences at Vishram Sthali.
4. Extension of Tourist Bunglow.

(b) to (d) The projects identified at Ajmer for Central financial assistance during 1998-99 are the following:

1. Upgradation of RTDC tourist complex at Ajmer.
2. Renovation of Toilets and Development of Lawns at Akabar-Ka-Quila, Ajmer.

Visit of Finance Minister Abroad

5418. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times he visited abroad since April, 1998 and number of times his predecessor visited abroad during Eleventh Lok Sabha;

(b) the details of the countries visited alongwith the number of persons accompanied with him and the amount spent in each visit;

(c) whether report in respect of each visit has been submitted;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA):
(a) to (e) The Finance Minister has been on official tour abroad twice since April, 1998. During these visits, 5 officers accompanied him during the visit to U.S.A. and U.K. and 3 officers accompanied him during the visit to Switzerland. The details regarding expenditure incurred is awaited from the Embassies concerned.

The details regarding the visits abroad of the previous Finance Minister are being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Waiving of Loans

5419. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of bad-debts written off by different nationalised banks, cooperative banks and rural banks, separately, during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the amount against the weaker sections and farmers written off and the amount due against others including corporate sector; and

(c) the money accrued to these banks due to impounding non-operational accounts such as demise of account holders without nomination and other such means, during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The data reporting system of Reserve bank of India (RBI) does not generate information in the manner asked for. RBI have reported that on the basis of information collected by them, the amount of bad debts written off by nationalised banks, co-operative banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) for the year 1996-97 is indicated below:

(Rs. in crores)

	1996-97	1997-98
Nationalised Banks	1608.79	N.A.
Co-operative Banks	2.10	10.10
Regional Rural Banks	43.49	39.95

The amount of Rs. 1608.79 crores indicated above in respect of nationalised banks includes the amount of Rs. 151.82 crores written off under agricultural and Rs. 519.50 crores under non priority sector advances. The amount written off under non priority sector advances include industry, trade/business and other non-priority sector. The amount written off in respect of co-operative banks and RRBs as furnished by NABARD is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Cooperative Banks	RRBs
1996-97	2.10	42.82
1997-98	1.01	38.81

(c) RBI has reported that the Scheduled Commercial Banks maintain data on unclaimed deposits which have not been operated for ten years and above. The details of such unclaimed deposits for the year ended 31.12.1996 and 31.12.1997 in respect of nationalised banks are furnished under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year ended	Amount
31.12.1996	140.91
31.12.1997	262.71

As reported by NABARD, the information in regard to co-operative banks and RRBs is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Co-operative Banks	RRBs
1996-97	6.96	0.62
1997-98	6.80	1.09

The liability of the banks to return the amount of balances of deposits continues till demand for the return of the same is made and the balances do not become property of the banks merely by reason of lapse of time.

PSUs Headed by IAS

5420. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of Central Public Sector Undertakings which are headed by IAS or Allied Service officers alongwith their tenure:

(b) the details of officers holding PSUs posts on regular full time basis and other holding concurred and/or temporary charge; and

(c) the steps, if any, contemplated by the Government to debureaucratise PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) and (b) Details of the number and the names of Central Public Sector Undertakings which are headed by officers of the Indian Administrative Service or Allied Services on a regular basis and on additional/current charge are furnished in the Statement based on readily available information.

(c) Board level appointments in PSUs are made on the basis of the recommendations of the Public Enterprises Selection Board. Officers of All India/Group A Central Services applying for such posts are taken ordinarily on permanent absorption basis, unless, keeping in view the needs of the PSU, the nature of activities of the organisation or the non-availability of the candidates for the post, etc., exemption is granted from the permanent absorption. In view of this, no steps are contemplated or considered necessary to debar officers belonging to Organised Group A Services from manning posts in PSUs.

Statement

Name of the PSUs headed by officers of IAS and other Allied Services.

S.No.	Name of the PSU	Name of the post	Name of the person	Tenure
1.	National Seeds Corporation	Managing Director	Ms. Deepika Padda, IAS [BH-74]	w.e.f. 13.6.94 to 12.6.1999.
2.	Central Cottage Industries Corpn.	Managing Director	Ms. Anita Choudhary, IAS [HR-76]	w.e.f. 30.8.96 to 6.8.99.
3.	National Textiles Corporation (HC) Ltd.	CMD	Shri K.K. Mishra, IAS [KTK-67]	w.e.f. 14.7.97 to 13.7.2001.
4.	Indian Airlines	Managing Director	Shri P.C. Sen, IAS [MP-67]	w.e.f. 1.3.94 to 28.2.99.
5.	Rural Electrification Corpn.	CMD	Shri Divakar Dev, IAS [UP-66]	w.e.f. 15.7.97 to 14.7.99.
6.	Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.	CMD	Shri H. Mishra, IAS [MP-68]	w.e.f. 10.12.96 to 9.12.2001.
7.	North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom Development Corpn.	Managing Director	Shri Lalhuma, IAS [NL-74]	w.e.f. 6.12.97 to 15.12.2002.
8.	National Textiles Corporation [WBAB&O] Ltd.	CMD	Shri B. Mahapatra, IAS [WB-73]	w.e.f. 3.10.97 to 2.10.2002.
9.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forest Plantation Development Corpn. Ltd.	Managing Director	Shri B.S. Sajwan, IFS [AGMUT-76]	5 years or till the date of his superannuation, whichever event occurs earlier (order issued by EO's office on 17.1.97).
10.	Food Corporation of India Ltd.	Chairman	Shri B. Narasimhan, IAS [GJ-64]	w.e.f. 11.2.98 to until further orders.
11.	India Trade Promotion Organisation	Chairman	Shri Yogesh Chandra, IAS [UP-62]	w.e.f. 5.11.97 till the date of superannuation or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Officers of IAS and other Allied Services holding additional/current charge of the post of CMDs/MDs etc. of Central PSUs

S.No.	Name of the PSU	Name of the Post	Name of the person	Tenure
1.	MMTC Ltd.	CMD	Sh. Nripendra Mishra, Additional Secretary in M/o Commerce.	w.e.f. 13.2.98 upto 12.8.98
2.	Spices Trading Corporation	CMD	Sh. C.R. Chikkamath, IAS, Director (Auction), Tobacco Board.	Nine months or till the appointment of a regular incumbent, whichever event occurs earlier.
3.	National Film Development Corpn.	MD	Sh. Raghu Menon, IAS [NL: 74]	Three months w.e.f. 4.5.98
4.	National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd.	CMD	Sh. V.K. Mutreja, Director, Deptt. of Heavy Industry.	Until further orders (order issued by EO's office on 15.7.98)

Cooperative Formation Scheme for Manipur

5421. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are considering for extending financial support in the form of loans/grants for the current financial year to the individual weaver instead of insisting for cooperative formations in Manipur; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA):
(a) and (b) The Government provides financial assistance under various handloom schemes mainly to the State Handloom Corporations, Apex Weavers Cooperative Societies and Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies based on the viable proposals received from the State Government concerned, including the State Government of Manipur. No proposal is under consideration of the Government to provide financial support in the form of loans/grants to the individual weaver in any State including Manipur during the current financial year.

Purchase of Flats by RBI

5422. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India had purchased 45 flats in Parel, Mumbai in 1997;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted for fixing the purchase rates of these flats;

(c) whether any committee was appointed by the bank to finalise this transaction;

(d) if so, the composition of the committee;

(e) whether similar yardsticks are used in evaluating other purchases also; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that a building Sub-Committee was constituted with following composition:

- (i) Two members of the Central Board of the bank; one of them nominated as Chairman of the Sub-Committee.
- (ii) Deputy Governor & Executive Director in charge of Premises Department as members;
- (iii) Four eminent outside technical experts as members; and
- (iv) Chief General Manager in Premises Department as Member Secretary.

A Technical Committee inspected the properties and submitted the report. Thereafter for the purpose of finalising the rates, a negotiating Committee comprising the Executive Director, the Legal Adviser in charge of Legal Department and two other officers was constituted who fixed the purchase rates after negotiations with the builders who had given quotations.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The various yardsticks used in evaluating other purchases are:

- (1) Site inspections by technical staff of the bank;
- (2) Memorandum put up to Building Sub-Committee for their advice;
- (3) Inspection of offers by Technical Members of the Building Sub-Committee;
- (4) Memorandum put up to Committee/Central Board of Directors for final clearance and sanction of expenditure.

Pay Scales of LIC

5423. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the pay scales in the Nationalised Banks, General Insurance Companies and LIC is same at present;
- (b) whether the wages of Class III and IV staff of Banks were increased earlier but not in the Insurance Sector;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to remove the disparity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) No, Sir. Pay scales of LIC and LIC are different from Nationalised Banks.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) It has been decided by the Govt. to give additional 2.3% wage increase to the insurance sector employees as was given in the banking sector.

Central Excise and Customs Commissionerate Office

5424. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the demand for establishment of Central Excise and Customs Commissionerate Office at Nasik is pending with the Union Government for a long period of about 15 years;
- (b) if so, the reasons for delay in taking the decision in this direction;
- (c) whether the Government is now keen towards the demand of tax payers of Nasik for establishing of such Commissionerate Office at Nasik;
- (d) if so, the time by which Commissionerate Office is likely to be established there; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (e) Some Associations of commerce, industry and employees have represented for establishment of Commissionerate of Customs and Central Excise at Nasik. Presently Nasik has two Division level offices of Customs and Central Excise department and an office of Additional Commissioner of Central Excise. Creation of a Commissionerate depends upon number of factors such as revenue collection, physical jurisdiction, workload etc. The Government has no proposal under consideration for creation of Commissionerate at Nasik at present.

IND Bank

5425. SHRI D.S. AHIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that Ind Bank a subsidiary of Indian Bank is returning the amount of investment to the investors before maturity period;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) the amount returned to the investors so far and the criteria fixed for returning the amount;
- (d) the number of pending cases as on date and the reasons for their pendency;
- (e) the time by which all the cases are likely to be cleared; and
- (f) the effect on the goodwill/credibility of the bank as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. Pursuant to the guidelines made by Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Ind Bank Merchant Banking Services Ltd. (Ind Bank), which is a subsidiary of Indian Bank, has stopped accepting deposits from public, as they cannot engage in Fund based activities. Further in the wake of directions issued by RBI, revising the criteria for acceptance of fixed deposits from public, relating it to the credit rating and networth of the companies, Ind Bank's eligibility has been reduced. Ind Bank has to bring down the excess deposits before 31.12.2000. Ind Bank has sent a communication to its deposit holders to send their Fixed Deposit receipts duly discharged well in time. As reported by Indian Bank, an amount of Rs. 6.93 crores has so far been returned to the depositors who have given their consent for repayment before maturity dates. The bank has further reported that repayments are processed and despatched immediately and no cases are pending. Since all the deposits were and are being paid promptly, the goodwill and credibility of the subsidiary has not been adversely affected.

Price of Rubber

5426. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the cost of production of natural rubber since 1980 onwards;
- (b) whether the minimum support price for rubber has been fixed during any of these years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the price for this year has been fixed; and
- (e) if so, how much?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) The cost of production of Natural Rubber

is not ascertained every year. However, the Government of India have fixed/revised Benchmark Price for Natural Rubber based on cost of production in the following years:

Year	Benchmark Price RSS-IV Grade (Rs./100 kg.)
February 1986	1650
May 1987	1700
September 1988	1780
January 1991	2145
January 1993	2345
February 1994	2490

(d) and (e) Based on the Report of the Cost Accounts Branch of the Ministry of Finance, the process of revising the Benchmark Price for Natural Rubber is underway.

[Translation]

Afforestation Programme by SECL

5427. SHRI LARANG SAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the areas where the afforestation work has been undertaken by the SECL and the names of undertakings engaged in this work;

(b) the latest position of the work done so far;

(c) whether the said afforestation work has been done in accordance with the terms and conditions laid down in the contract; and

(d) if so, the basis on which the payment is made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Afforestation work is undertaken on external/internal overburden dumps, vacant lands, avenues in and around colonies/infrastructure by South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL). The agency executing this job, since 1990, is Madhya Pradesh Rajya Van Vikas Nigam Limited (M.P.R.V.V.N), a Government of Madhya Pradesh undertaking.

(b) Since its incorporation, SECL has planted 183.5 lakh saplings.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Final payment is made on the basis of joint inspection by officials of SECL and M.P.R.V.V.N. and survival rate of 90% at the end of the third year. If survival is less than 90%, then pro-rata deductions are made.

[English]

Funds for Spinning Mills by Financial Institutions

5428. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sought financial assistance from IFCI, ICICI, IDBI and other financial institutions for setting up of new grass root spinning mills in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the spinning mills for which assistance has been sought; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that Government of Maharashtra has not sought any financial assistance from Financial Institutions (FIs) for setting up new grass root spinning mills directly. However, both IDBI and Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd., (IFCI) have received applications/ inquiries from co-operative spinning mills which proposed to have equity assistance from Government of Maharashtra. In accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligations as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the unit-wise details cannot be divulged.

(c) IDBI has reported that in view of the defaults committed by a large number of co-operative spinning mills to FIs, it was decided by the FIs that financing of new co-operative spinning mills would be considered only after the dues in respect of existing co-operative spinning mills are cleared either by the units themselves or by the State Government who have guaranteed the loans.

OECF Assistance for Irrigation Projects of Karnataka

5429. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought financial assistance from OECF, Japan for several irrigation projects:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government forwarded the requests to OECF;

(d) the time by which the aid from OECF is likely to be obtained; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Rounding off Paise to the Nearest Rupee

5430. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had issued orders for rounding off paise to the nearest rupee about ten years back but the same has not been implemented so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Orders for rounding off Government transactions were issued in June, 1986. These orders have been implemented through amendment to Central Government Account (Receipts & Payments) Rules.

(b) and (c) Does not arise. However, these orders are being brought to the notice of all concerned, once again.

Tobacco Cultivators

5431. SHRI SODE RAMAIAH:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to help the Tobacco cultivators of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka;

(b) whether the Tobacco cultivators of Karnataka are facing the shortage of fertilizer;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide the adequate quantity of fertilizer to the tobacco cultivators?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Some of the steps taken to help the Tobacco cultivators of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, inter-alia, include:

(i) providing financial assistance for use of approved seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, irrigation equipments, suckercides and roof insulation of barns;

(ii) supply of seeds/seedlings of highyielding and disease resistant varieties of FCV/Burley tobacco;

(iii) supply of tarpaulin at subsidised rates for storage of cured leaf;

(iv) co-ordination with Central Tobacco Research Institute for evolving high yielding disease resistant varieties;

(v) pest and disease control through fumigation of nurseries;

(vi) encouraging use of sprinkler irrigation system;

(vii) improving curing and storing facilities;

(viii) arranging supply of inputs such as coal (for curing), fertilisers, and suckercides;

(ix) conducting analysis of soil and water samples to advice farmer on its suitability for growing tobacco;

(x) training and exposure of farmers to latest research findings/improved package of practices; and

(xi) enhancing exports of tobacco and tobacco products by reorientation of the domestic production of tobacco to meet changing international needs, enhancement of quality and productivity levels, monitoring and strict control of pesticide residues, aligning grading to international standards, and permitting imports for product development.

(b) to (d) There was shortage of Sulphate of Potash (SOP) fertiliser during the month of May and June, 1998. On persuasion of the Tobacco Board, Indian Potash Ltd. has imported SOP. With the arrival of 10,000 tons of SOP at Chennai on 13.7.98 and its subsequent transportation to Mysore has eased the situation.

DGS & D Rate Contract

5432. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the items available in the market are at lower rates than DGS & D rate contracts;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith criteria being adopted for settlement of rate contract and the manner in which it is ensured that the rates are lower;

(c) whether the Government are aware that some corrupt practices are prevailing in DGS & D;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) DGS & D Rate Contract prices are valid for a year or two and applicable uniformly throughout the country for the period. Prices of such items in the open market are, however, not static nor uniform.

DGS & D has more than 250 items in the Rate Contract list at present. The occasional prevalence of comparatively lower prices in the open market for similar items available on DGS & D Rate Contract, cannot be totally ruled out.

As per the procedure and instructions for finalising the Rate Contracts, quotations are invited in response to specific tenders which are widely published and circulated. The rates received are examined taking cognisance of the prevailing market rates, variations in the cost of raw material, taxes and duties, published price indices of finished product/raw material and the rates allowed in the previous Rate Contract. Besides, "Fall Clause" condition ensures that the selected supplier cannot sell or offer the item to others at lower than the Rate Contract prices. The right to foreclose the Rate Contract in the event of lower market trend is also available.

(c) to (e) As and when specific complaints are received, these are duly enquired for appropriate action, DGS & D organisation has a Grievance Cell for redressal of public grievances. Besides Government has appointed Vigilance Officers and has recently approved "Citizens' Charter" enabling

members of the Public access to information and for resolution of complaints.

Trade Agreements

5433. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives to share details of all the trade pacts/agreements entered into with various countries with the domestic industry and Trade Sector to facilitate well planned and focussed activities for achieving desired results;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) whenever any trade pacts/agreements are entered into, concerned domestic industry and trade sector are involved to meet the commitments given therein. To operationalise such agreements/pacts, Joint Commissions/Joint Trade Committee meetings are held, in which the concerned industry/trade sector are fully involved at the preparation and follow-up stage. The involvement of the trade and industry has become an integral part of any trade facilitation meetings so as to have right focus in determining the right direction and composition of trade to bring optimal result.

Bank Fraud

5434. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Bank fraud involving pilferage of over Rs. 500 crore, in Allahabad Bank and United Bank of India has been unearthed;

(b) if so, findings of the Inquiries conducted into the matter and the persons apprehended in connection therewith; and

(c) the action taken against those found involved in the fraud?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) (b) (c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that no case of fraud amounting to Rs. 500 crores involving Allahabad Bank and United Bank of India as mentioned in the Question has been reported. However, a fraud involving Allahabad Bank, United Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, State Bank of India and Punjab National Bank with an aggregate amount of about Rs. 52.37 crores has been reported to have occurred in the Calcutta branches of these banks in the accounts of individuals belonging to a Group. The fraud has been reported to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) who have initiated investigations and during the

course of investigation searches of residential premises as well as office premises of the accused persons including the Directors of the Group of Companies involved were conducted. The banks have identified the officials for involvement in the fraud and also for other procedural lapses. Departmental proceedings have been initiated against concerned officials by the banks after segregating charges in consultation with CBI. Wherever considered necessary, the officials were also placed under suspension.

Customs Duty Evasion

5435. SHRI C.D. GAMIT:

SHRI VINOD KHANNA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a group of 20 Trading companies including Ahmedabad based Adani Group, Inter-continental India etc., have indulged in questionable export-import deals.

(b) whether these companies are indulged in large scale duty evasion consequent to adoption of over invoicing/under-invoicing of exports and imports respectively, made by them under Duty Exemption Entitlement Certificate (DEEC) Scheme;

(c) whether in the process, there has been a tax evasion order of Rs. 600-1000 crores over five years;

(d) if so, whether Government has initiated any action to book the companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. 14 out of the group of the 20 Trading Companies including Ahmedabad based Adani Group have come to the adverse Notice of Customs Department for indulging in Questionable export-import deals.

(b) M/s. Ganpati Group of Companies have resorted to over invoicing of export in two cases to avail undue benefit under Duty Exemption Entitlement Certificate (DEEC) Scheme. M/s. Adani Export Ltd. and M/s. Gujarat State Industrial Corporation have resorted to under invoicing of imports under Duty Exemption Entitlement Certificate Scheme in one case. In addition, in ten cases involving five companies have indulged in over invoicing/under invoicing of export and import respectively.

(c) The total amount of Custom duty involved in the cases mentioned in part (b) above is Rs. 33.30 crores and these cases have been booked during the financial years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Adjudication proceeding under the Customs Act, 1962 have been initiated in all the cases mentioned in part (b) above. In Six of these cases Show Cause Notices have

been issued; remaining cases are under investigation. In Six cases offending goods worth Rs. 1.38 crores have been seized. In three cases the DGFT authority have been asked to cancel advance licences issued to the party. Pending adjudication/investigation, an amount of Rs. 3.69 crores has been realised.

**Khandesh Spinning and Weaving Mill, Jalgaon
(Maharashtra)**

5436. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal from employees and workers union to run the Khandesh Spinning and Weaving Mill, Jalgaon in Maharashtra on cooperative basis;

(b) if so, whether the proposal is economically viable;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the State or Rashtrya Girmi Kamgar Union for financial assistance for rehabilitation of Khandesh Mill, Jalgaon;

(d) Whether the Union Government are ready to provide share capital; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) As per information available, State Government of Maharashtra has received a proposal to run the Khandesh Spinning and Weaving Mill, Jalgaon in Maharashtra on cooperative basis. The subject matter pertains to the State Government.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Textiles has also received a request on behalf of Shree Madhukarra Chaudhari, Chairman of the Mill's Workers Cooperative Society, in which it has been suggested that the Union Government may support the State Government with financial assistance so that the mill could be restarted.

The Union Government in the Ministry of Textiles does not provide share capital in such cases.

Head Office of Syndicate Bank

5437. SHRI H.G. RAMULU: Will Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to shift the Head Office of the Syndicate Bank from Manipal to Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Board of Nationalised Banks

5438. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JAHANABAD):

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the bank-wise details of the tenure of boards of Nationalised Banks ended;

(b) whether any board of nationalised bank is working on extended period and if so, the names of such banks; and

(c) the number of Chairman of nationalised banks facing allegations and such allegations are being investigated by CBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The Board of Directors of the nationalised banks, comprising whole time Directors and part time Directors are continuing entities and vacancies that arise are filled from time to time. At present there are eight vacancies of whole time Directors (i.e., Chairman and Managing Directors and Executive Directors). Besides, most of the part time Non-Official Directors have recently completed their tenure and are continuing in their positions pending appointment of successors in accordance with the provisions of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980. Action has been initiated for filling up the vacancies/appointment of successors.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is received.

[*English*]

Jewellery Showroom in Delhi

5439. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation Limited had planned the Jewellery showroom in Delhi, tank to store alcohol in Kandla and warehouse in Moscow and abandoned all of these after sinking huge funds;

(b) if so, the amount involved therein;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action against the Board Members; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Sir, MMTC is planning to open a jewellery show room in Delhi. The proposal to acquire a tank in Kandla to store alcohol was abandoned since the proposal was not economically viable. The warehouse in Moscow in operation since January, 1995 was closed on 31.10.97 on the directions of the Governments.

(b) Hiring charges for the tank in Kandla amounted to Rs. 31 lakhs and lease rent for the warehouse in Moscow was Rs. 43.76 lakhs.

(c) and (d) These were commercial decisions. The Sale Purchase Committee (SPC) of MMTC had taken a decision on 30.4.1997 to de-hire the tank. As regards the warehouse in Moscow, the Government had on 7th August, 1997 decided to close MMTC's operations in Moscow after the STC subsidiary is established to avoid duplication of expenditure.

[Translation]

Use of Hindi

5440. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BAINDA:

SHRI ADITYANATH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the advertisement and application forms of nationalised Banks and other Government Undertakings as well as the renewal forms of LIC are published in English only;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to publish advertisement materials and policy renewal forms in Hindi as well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that advertisements and applications forms of nationalised banks are published in both languages i.e. Hindi and English. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has also informed that all advertisements for publicity are published in Hindi, English and regional languages and advertisements for vacancies are published in bilingual forms. However, advertisements for loss of policies being at the cost of policy holders are given in one language only i.e. Hindi or English or any regional language and renewal notices are sent in English or bilingual proforma.

(c) LIC has further reported that they have already sent bilingual proforma to all its zonal offices with a request to arrange for software and printing forms in bilingual format and also to arrange for training of the staff and officers who have not already undergone training.

[English]

Grant to Katihar Jute Mill

5441. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have granted Rs. 5 crores to Katihar Jute Mill;

(b) whether this amount is meant for revival of this mill;

(c) if so, whether the Government have since released the amount; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Ministry of Textiles have not granted Rs. 5 crores to Katihar Jute Mill.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Re-Organisation of Ministry

5442. SHRI VAIKO:

DR. SUGUNA KUMARI:

SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) has outlined a 4-point strategy for organisational restructuring of the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A multi point strategy for reorganisation and restructuring the Ministry of Commerce was made by the Confederation of Indian Industries. These involve a number of action points, such as outlining export and import strategies, building international networks, managing and leveraging International Trade Policy etc. to make India a powerful exporting nation.

(c) The present structure of the Ministry is constantly under review and is found to be flexible lending itself to optimal performance in the era of globalisation.

Outstanding Arrears

5443. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of arrears outstanding against the Government of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has made any representation in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the quantum of interest being paid by the State Government yearly on these arrears?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Government of Andhra Pradesh has no arrear liability to Ministry of Finance.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

CBI ENQUIRY

5444. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the enquiry had been conducted by CBI in respect of Central Excise and Customs of Ahmedabad, Rajkot and Vadodra;

(b) if so, the details of such enquiry together with amount involved in the racket detected in this regard;

(c) whether no action has been taken on the said report by the Government and the Department; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not taking any action thereon together with the names and addresses of the guilty persons of this racket?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Agro-Based Industries

5445. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the details of the agro-based industries proposed to be set up with Central assistance during 1998-99, State-wise, particularly in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) provides project based financial assistance for development of village industries (VI) under its purview, including agro-based industries. As such, the number of projects to be set up during 1998-99 financial year depends upon the receipt of the project proposals from the entrepreneurs and their acceptability by the banks.

Village Industries processing cereals, pulses, fruits, vegetable and milk are important agro-based industries under the purview of the KVIC.

KVIC has proposed to set up one project for fruits and vegetable processing and milk based industry in addition to the following projects agreed under processing of cereals and pulses in Orissa State during 1998-99:

Paddy Units	36
Rice Mill	6
Dal Mill	5

KVIC has also approved agro-based village industries units in the Budget of Orissa State Board under its continuation programme as per the details given below for the period 1.04.98 to 30.09.98. Further proposals from the Orissa State Board are yet to be received.

(a) Village Oil Industry	45
(b) Processing of cereals and pulses:	
Masala	150
Bakery Units	130
Atta Chaky	150
Papad Units	150
Noodles	10
Poha, Murrura	100

Public Investment in Infrastructural Development

5446. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public investment in the infrastructural sector has been on the decline during the last ten years;

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

(c) whether there has been a corresponding increase in private investment in these sectors;

(d) if so, the sector-wise details thereof;

(e) whether India has not been able to attract sufficient private investment in these sectors even after liberalisation of the economy; and

(f) if so, the measures being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Public investment in major infrastructure sectors, as per Central Plan Outlay given in the Expenditure Budget has increased from Rs. 10,583 crore in 1988-89 (RE) to Rs. 37,369 crore in 1998-99 (BE). Annual average growth in Central Plan Outlay for the last ten years works out to 25.3 per cent. The Table below gives figures of Central Plan Outlay for major infrastructure sectors for 1988-89 (RE) and 1998-89 (BE):

Table: Central Plan Outlay

	(Rs. Crore)	
	1988-89 (RE)	1998-99 (BE)
1. Power	4164	10906
2. Railways	3850	9500
3. Ports and Light-houses	496	960
4. Roads and Bridges	379	2231
5. Telecommunication	1694	13772
Total	10583	37369

(c) to (e) Private investment (foreign and domestic) in infrastructure has shown an increasing trend over the recent years. Over the period 1st August, 1991 to 31st March, 1998, the power sector has witnessed aggregate FDI approval of Rs. 2,55,68 crore. In telecommunications, FDI worth Rs. 30,725 crore has been approved over the same period. Approvals for air/sea transport and ports have been Rs. 2,490 crore. These account for 37 per cent of the total FDI approvals during the period. The domestic private investment in infrastructure sectors has also increased substantially. Over the period August, 1991 to May, 1998, total private investment in telecom sector in terms of IEMs and LOIs has been Rs. 14,648 crore. In transportation, IEMs and LOIs resulted in an aggregate investment of Rs. 22,060 crore over the same period.

(f) Policy is to step up public sector investment and to facilitate private investment in infrastructure projects. In 1998-99 Budget, Plan Outlay for Key infrastructure sectors of Energy, Transport and Communication has been increased by 35 per cent from Rs. 45,252 crore in 1997-98 (RE) to Rs. 61,146 crore in 1998-99 (BE). The Union Budget, 1998-99 has also introduced measures for facilitating private investment. These include permission for 10 per cent of new accretion to provident funds to be invested in private sector securities, extension of fiscal incentives available for infrastructure industries to inland waterways and inland ports, enhancing investor confidence in power sector by establishing Central and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions and providing a guarantee scheme to cover dues from SEBs and designating one nodal officer to help processing and implementation of large projects etc.

[Translation]

Scheme for Production of Silk

5447. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are implementing any scheme for boosting silk production in Uttar Pradesh; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the details of the areas selected for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to supplement efforts of the State Sericulture Department, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a large number of schemes/projects/programmes for promoting development of all the 4 types of silk. These includes schemes for extension of R & D training, infrastructure extension support to the sector through a new work of CSB units and implementation of certain development/investments/financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericulture practices for production of quality silk. Besides CSB also takes up specific sericulture project like World Bank assisted NSP, Action Plan for the North Eastern States, Poorvanchal Sericulture Development Project etc., in association/collaboration with the States. As far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned some of the specific projects taken up by CSB are as follows:

- (i) A Poorvanchal Sericulture Development Project is being implemented jointly with Department of Sericulture, Government of Uttar Pradesh in the 3 districts of Uttar Pradesh viz. Varanasi, Ghazipur and Bhadohi at a total cost of Rs. 5.64 crores over a period of six years between 1993-94 and June, 1999. The project envisages raising of 3000 acres of mulberry plantation in the above 3 districts and an incremental raw silk production of 77.1 MT per annum by the end of the project period.
- (ii) Under the National Sericulture Project which was implemented in the districts of Dehradun, Saharanpur and Haridwar infrastructure facilities were created such as basic seed farms, silkworm seed production centre, cocoon markets, demonstration cum training centre, etc.
- (iii) To boost silk production 34 catalytic development schemes have been sanctioned for the IXth Plan period.

[English]

Settlement of Irrecoverable Debt Cases of Banks

5448. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has decided to appoint Judges to enquire into the settlement of cases of Banks involving irrecoverable debts from the borrowers;
- (b) if so, the total number of such cases;
- (c) the total amount involved; and
- (d) the steps being considered to recover the debts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that six public sector banks have set up Settlement Advisory Committee each consisting of a retired Judge of High Courts as Chairman, a retired banker and General Managers of the banks as members to advise their Boards/Management Committees in the matter relating to one time settlement. The committee is advisory in nature.

(b) and (c) RBI has reported that the data monitoring system does not generate information in this regard.

(d) Reserve Bank of India/Government of India/Banks have taken number of steps not only to check the fresh incidence of NPA but also to ensure recovery of NPAs. These are:

- (i) All public sector banks have documents of loan recovery policy prepared and duly vetted by Board of Directors
- (ii) Banks have been advised to reduce their NPAs through negotiated settlements to ensure maximum

recovery at minimum expenses. However, in this regard precaution is to be taken while arriving at compromising level has also been laid down.

- (iii) Recovery Cells have been set up at Head Office under a General Manager and branch-wise targets have been set up by banks. Performance of branches in recovery is monitored by Head Office on monthly basis and Board of Directors are kept informed of the progress on quarterly basis.
- (iv) Debt Recovery Tribunals at Calcutta, Delhi, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Guwahati, Jaipur, Patna and Jabalpur and an Appellate Tribunal in Mumbai have been set up to assist speedy recoveries of bank dues.
- (v) Compilation and circulation of list of defaulters/suit filed account of Rs. one crore and above to all banks and Financial Institutions.
- (vi) The Board of Directors reviewed top 300 NPAs with special reference to the system prevailing in the banks to fix staff accountability.
- (vii) Banks may, if they so choose, set up Asset Reconstruction Companies.

[*Translation*]

PAN

5449. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to exempt some categories of people from mandatory requirement of getting PAN (Permanent Account Number);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) There is no proposal to exempt any class or category of persons from applying for allotment of Permanent Account Number (PAN) under the new series if such persons are otherwise, required to apply for the same in accordance with the conditions laid down in sub-section (1) of section 139A of Income Tax Act, 1961.

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

Expansion of Tea Board

5450. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of tea produced by the Tea Board;
- (b) whether the Tea Board proposes to expand its sales outlets in the country; and

(c) if so, the details of such new places, where the Tea Board proposes to open its branches during 1998-99, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Tea Board is a promotional organisation set-up for development of the tea industry. The Board is therefore not directly involved in operations like commercial production and sale of tea.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Revolving Credit Card Facility

5451. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Master Card and Visa Cards issued by the Canara Bank in Karnataka and number of such cards issued in Bangalore city;
- (b) whether revolving credit facility to these card-holders has been discontinued;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to reintroduce the above facility.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): Canara Bank have furnished the following information:

(a) Total number of Visa and Master Cards issued by Canara Bank in Karnataka is 29843 (Twenty nine thousand eight hundred and forty three). Number of such Cards issued in Bangalore City is 17654 (Seventeen thousand six hundred and fifty four).

(b) and (c) Canara Bank's Visa Card is only a charge card and no revolving facility is given right from inception. In respect of Master Card, 623 Card holders in Karnataka and 479 in Bangalore City are enjoying credit facility. Wherever credit revolving facility is offered, the same is being continued even now. However, due to software problem, from October 1997 Mastercard is being issued as charge card and no revolving facility is given.

(d) Bank has initiated action to develop new software.

[*Translation*]

Cement Industry

5452. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the cement industry manufacturing spurious cement has been unearthed in the industrial estates on the Gorakhpur road in Deoria, Uttar Pradesh;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT):
 (a) No such complaint has been received by the Government of India.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Retirement Age of NTC Employees

5453. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the retirement age of the employees working in the National Textile Corporation has been raised from 58 to 60 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the employees of NTC are treated as the employees of the Public Sector Undertakings; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA):
 (a) and (b) In so far as NTC(HC) and its 9 subsidiaries are concerned, the retirement age of their employees has been raised from 58 to 60 years as per Government decision conveyed to NTC by the Department of Public Enterprises.

(c) and (d) The employees of NTC are treated as employees of Public Sector Undertakings.

[English]

Purchase of Helicopters by CIL

5454. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has purchased a helicopter during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the company from which it has been purchased and the price thereof;

(c) whether quotations were called from any other manufacturers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Agriculture Export

5455. DR. SUSHIL INDORA:

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to keep five per cent of the total agriculture production for exports every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether foodgrains are also imported for domestic use;

(d) if so, the rationale behind keeping five percent of total agriculture produce for export; and

(e) the manner in which the country would be benefited by this export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The policy of the Government to permit exports of agricultural products is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximising farm incomes and earning foreign exchange. Export policy is being constantly revised and export regime in respect of agricultural products has been liberalised. Very few items are now either prohibited for exports or their exports restricted or are subject to quantitative ceilings. Major items for which the exports are banned include wheat and wheat products and sugar except under preferential quota to the EU/USA.

[English]

Foreign Tours of ITDC Officers

5456. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) sends its officers on training to foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria for selection of these trainees;

(c) the purpose for which the officers are sent abroad and for how many days;

(d) the details of officers sent on deputation/training by ITDC during the last five years, giving the status thereof;

(e) whether persons other than those who have no connection with hotel industry have been selected and sent on deputation/training in the recent past; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for their selection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. With a view to upgrade knowledge and skills of human resource for improving the product and services in the competitive environment, on-the-job training is provided through various Executive Development Programmes including nomination for training abroad. The selection of officers for training abroad is made on the basis of professional requirements,

availability of courses and training programmes. The duration of such training programmes vary from course to course as designed by the course conducting agencies.

(d) to (f) ITDC is a multi-activity organisation and officers

from different disciplines including non Hotel disciplines are nominated for training abroad from time to time keeping in view the suitability and utility of the course for the Corporation. A statement showing details of the officers deputed for foreign training, during the period 1.4.93 to 30.6.98 is attached.

Statement

Statement showing particulars of the officers nominated for training abroad during the period from 1.4.93 to 30.6.98

Sl. No.	Name, Designation and (Discipline) of Officer	Period & (Country) of Training	Training subject and (discipline) to which it relates
1	2	3	4
1993-94			
1.	Shri ON Verma, Sr. Vice President, (Corporate Services & HRD)	27 Sept. to 09 Oct. 1993 (USA)	Privatisation Management & Implementation (General)
1994-95			
2.	Mrs. I Malik Executive Housekeeper (Hotels)	20—24 June. 94 27 June—1 Jul. 94 (USA)	Decision Making in Marketing and Strategy (Hotel Sales)
3.	Mr. M.S. Manchanda General Manager (Hotels)	20-24 June 94 27 June—1 Jul. 94 (USA)	Hospitality—Financial Management, Operational Decision Making (Hotels)
4.	Mr. SC Chhatwal Director (Finance)	11—29 Jul. 94 (USA)	Public Enterprises Restructuring and Privatisation (Finance)
5.	Mr. MD Kapoor Vice President (Hotels)	13-27 Mar. 95 (Holland)	Total Quality Management and ISO 9000 Quality System (Hotels)
6.	Mrs. Sheba Samuel Manager (Hotels)	25 Feb—23 Mar. 95 (UK)	Spring Board Women Development (General)
7.	Mrs. Seema Chandra Chef (Hotels)	-do-	-do-
1995-96			
8.	Mrs. Kusum Malik Executive Housekeeper (Hotels)	12—16 June 95 19—23 June 95 (USA)	Customer Value & Front Office Management (Hotels)
9.	Mrs. Vineeta Gogia Sr. Manager (Hotels)	17—21 Jul. 95 (USA)	Food Service Facility: Development and Design (Hotels)
10.	Mr. Kuppuswami Rao Manager (Hotels)	12—16 June 95 19—23 June 95 (USA)	F & D Management & Hotel Computing System (Hotels)

1	2	3	4
11.	Mr. R K Maggo Sr. Manager (Hotels) 1996-97	10—14 Jul. 95 (USA)	Training & HRD Skills (Hotels & HRD)
12.	Mr. ML Jain General Manager (Hotels)	15 Apr-03 May 96 (UK)	Managing Change in Organisation (General)
13.	Mr. Ajit Kumar Manager (Hotel Sales) 1997-98	3-28 June 96 (USA)	International Aspects of Tourism (General)
14.	Mr. JM Chaudhary Sr. Executive Chef (Hotels)	20 Apr.—6 May 97 (France)	Training in French Cuisine (Hotels)
15.	Mr. Rajan Loomba Sous Chef (Hotels)	-do-	-do-
16.	Mrs. Madhuri Verman Executive Housekeeper (Hotels)	16—20 June 97 23—27 June 97 (USA)	Managing Service Quality: The Human Dimension (Hotels)
17.	Mr. Rakesh Mehra General Manager (Hotels)	23—27 June 97 30 June—4 Jul. 97 (USA)	Managing Service Quality: The Human Dimension (Hotels) Managing People: Enhancing Effectiveness (General)
18.	Mr. Jawahar Lal Parwani General Manager (Hotels)	23-27 June 97 30 June—4 Jul. 97 (USA)	Managing People: Working Smart (General) Strategic Hospitality Management (Hotels)
19.	Mr. Rajiv Makin Resident Manager (Hotels)	-do-	-do-
20.	Mr. NKA Balal General Manager (Hotels) 1998-99	28 Jul.—1 Aug. 97 Singapore	Hospitality Management (Hotels)
21.	Mrs. Kanchan Prasad Sr. Executive Development Co-ordinator (HRD)	08—12 June 98 15—19 June 98 (USA)	Essentials of HRD (HRD) Managing People: Enhancing Effectiveness (General)
22.	Mr. Sanjay Mukherjee General Manager (Hotels)	29 June—3 Jul. 98 06—10 Jul. 98 (USA)	Planning for Profit (General) Marketing Management (Hotels & Hotels Sales)

1	2	3	4
23.	Mr. Amitabh Bose Executive Manager (Hotels)	29 June—3 Jul. 98 06-10 Jul. 98 (USA).	Strategic Hospitality Management Strategic Marketing in Hospitality Industry (Hotels)

Note: In a service industry it is necessary that officers from different disciplines dealing with operational activities and policy matter are exposed and kept abreast with the changing developments, strategies, technology etc. by proving them suitable on the job training.

Disinvestment of NIDC

5457. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Industrial Development Corporation Limited is being considered for the "Strategic Sale" under the Disinvestment/Joint Venture;

(b) whether officers including CMD and part time Directors have visited foreign countries in connection with Disinvestment/Joint Venture; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the total expenditure incurred therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) A decision has been taken 'in principle' by the Government to convert NIDC into a Joint Venture Co. by inducting a partner(s) capable of providing financial and technical inputs with a view to strengthen the company.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

The tour was undertaken in June '97 to visit some of the major Consultancy companies in U.K. and Canada, with a view to strengthening tie-ups for strategic alliances, long-term cooperation and formation of Joint Venture with NIDC. The total expenditure incurred on the tour was approx. Rs. 5.30 lakh.

Fatehpur Sikri

5458. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to improve tourism in Fatehpur Sikri at Agra;

(b) whether any proposal is pending for consideration of the Union Government to start Sound and Light Programme there; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANAG): (a) to (c) The Union Ministry of Tourism sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 15.15 lakhs to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh during 1992-93 for flood-lighting of Fatehpur Sikri. A project proposal for providing Sound and Light Show at Fatehpur Sikri has been

identified for providing Central financial assistance during 1998-99.

I.T. Dues

5459. SHRIMATI RANI CHITRALEKHA BHONSLE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details and the number of income tax payers against whom income tax to the tune of five lakhs, ten lakhs, fifteen lakhs, seventy five lakhs and 1 crore is outstanding for the last five years;

(b) the action taken against such payers to recover the amount of income tax under Income Tax Act;

(c) the amount of income tax recovered as a result thereof;

(d) whether any person was penalised under Income Tax Act;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons for not taking said action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR, M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) According to the data available with the department, details showing the number of cases where the amount of demand is over Rs. 1 lakh upto Rs. 10 lakhs; over Rs. 10 lakhs upto Rs. 1 crore and over Rs. 1 crore are enclosed as Statement-I. The statistics relating to the number of income tax payers against whom income tax to the tune of five lakhs, fifteen lakhs and seventy five lakhs is not readily available. The efforts made and time needed for collection and compilation of this data and its details would not be commensurate with the objectives sought to be achieved.

(b) The recovery of tax is a continuous process involving detailed statutory, procedures. These include charging of interest, levy of penalty, attachment of bank accounts, attachment and sale of movable and immovable properties etc. Periodical review and monitoring of cases involving high demands are made by higher authorities on a continuous basis and necessary instructions are issued from time to time for effecting the recovery of taxes.

(c) The amount of Income-tax recovered as a result

of action taken against tax payers as in Annexure-I is not readily available and has to be collected from field formations spread all over the country. The efforts made and time needed for collection and compilation of this data would not be commensurate with the objectives sought to be achieved.

(d) and (e) The details of coercive measures taken under the Income-tax Act during the last three years are enclosed as Statement-II.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Amount-wise break-up of outstanding cases

	As on 31.3.94	As on 31.3.95	As on 31.3.96	As on 31.3.97	As on 31.12.97
Over Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 10 lakhs	115703	65438	145942	111583	137689
Over Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 1 crore	9301	8377	9073	10541	10504
Over Rs. 1 crore	1099	1225	1990	2075	2033

Statement-II

Co-ercive measures, taken for collecting of recovery of taxes

Attachment of Movable Properties

Fin. year	No. of cases	Approx. Value (Rs. in crore)
1994-95	2229	49.55
1995-96	2107	98.07
1996-97	2405	133.17
1997-98 (upto Dec. 97)	1527	327.43

Attachment of Immovable Properties

Fin. year	No. of cases	No. of imm. prop. (Rs. in crore)	Value
1994-95	3642	4763	439.27
1995-96	3295	4483	449.35
1996-97	3364	4848	514.36
1997-98 (upto Dec. 97)	2752	4092	409.55

Sale of Movable Properties

Fin. year	No. of cases	No. of properties (Rs. in crore)	Value
1994-95	6	7	0.21
1995-96	27	24	1.65
1996-97	9	16	0.09
1997-98 (upto Dec. 97)	12	53	0.28

Sale of Immovable Properties

Fin. year	No. of cases	No. of properties (Rs. in crore)	Value
1994-95	31	149	0.31
1995-96	20	19	3.39
1996-97	11	12	0.20
1997-98 (upto Dec. 97)	8	8	1.27

Cases in which Receiver Appointed

Fin. year	No. of cases	Value (Rs. in crore)
1994-95	22	5.68
1995-96	17	1.31
1996-97	34	12.86
1997-98	23	23.40

(upto Dec. 97)

Defaulters Against whom Arrest Proceedings Initiated

Fin. year	No. of cases	Value (Rs. in crore)
1994-95	125	13.88
1995-96	194	3.90
1996-97	206	3.80
1997-98	38	12.05

(upto Dec. 97)

Defaulter Committed to Prison

Fin. year	Number
1994-95	Nil
1995-96	13
1996-97	112
1997-98	Nil

(upto Dec. 97)

Pending Unsettled Claims

5460. SHRI S. S. OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unsettled claims in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under his Ministry have increased steeply during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of such pending claims for over one year to two years, two years to three years and above and the total amount involved in these claims;

(c) the number of cases referred for Arbitration, Undertaking-wise;

(d) the details of cases settled during the above period year-wise and Undertaking-wise; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]***Pension Scheme in Banks**

5461. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Pension Scheme has been launched in the public sector banks; and

(b) if so, the time by which the above scheme is proposed to be introduced in the regional rural banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In respect of Regional Rural Banks, the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 framed under the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 has become applicable with effect from 16.11.1995.

*[English]***NRE Account**

5462. SHRI P. SANKARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance/eligibility criteria given by Reserve Bank to Distt. Central Co-operative Banks to maintain NRE account has not benefited the Kerala State due to stipulation that level of individual deposits should be 50% as in Kerala the level of individual deposit is only 30% of working capital;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to advise RBI to consider the Primary Societies Membership also for reaching the 50% as the Primary Societies are members of Distt. Central Co-operative Banks; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]***Cement Plants**

5463. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cement plants functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of plants have been closed and the number on the verge of closure;

(c) the reasons for closure; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for revival of such plants?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT):

(a) There are 108 large cement plants functioning in the country. State-wise break-up of these is given in the enclosed Statement. State-wise break-up of mini cement plants is not being maintained centrally.

(b) and (c) Ten large cement plants are reported closed/not working due to various reasons such as technological obsolescence and economic non-viability. Information in respect of plants which are on the verge of closure is not being maintained centrally.

(d) The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units including those reported on the verge of closure. These, inter-alia, include guidelines of Reserve of Bank of India to Banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units and setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, National Renewal Fund, National Equity Funds, etc.

Statement

State-wise number of cement plants functioning

Region/State	Number of plants
1	2
Northern Region	
Punjab	1
Delhi	1
Himachal Pradesh	3
Jammu & Kashmir	1
Rajasthan	15
Uttar Pradesh	5
Total-Northern Region	26
Eastern Region	
Bihar	6
Orissa	3
West Bengal	2
Assam	1
Meghalaya	1
Total-Eastern Region	13
Southern Region	
Tamil Nadu	10

1	2
Andhra Pradesh	19
Karnataka	7
Kerala	1
Total-Southern Region	37
Western Region	
Maharashtra	5
Gujarat	10
Madhya Pradesh	17
Total-Western Region	32
GRAND TOTAL	108

Carpet Technology Institute

5464. SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project for setting up a Carpet Technology Institute in Bhadohi district of Uttar Pradesh was submitted to the Union Government during November, 1993;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that State Government have already made available 10 acres of land to this institute in 1990, even then the institute has not started functioning;

(c) whether Government are creating posts for the institute to enable it to start its functioning; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The project for setting up a Carpet Technology Institute in Bhadohi district of Uttar Pradesh was cleared by the Union Government in 1982-83 and the Uttar Pradesh Government had provided land measuring 42,457 Sq. mtrs. for the said purpose.

(c) and (d) The proposal for post creation is presently undergoing the due process for obtaining approval.

FDI in States

5465. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JAHANABAD):

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major portion of Foreign Direct Investment cleared during the period from January, 1993 to January, 1997 has been received by only such five States which are already industrially developed;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to provide additional incentives for Foreign Direct Investment in selected industrially backward States;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the share of foreign direct investment in India is less than one percent out of the total investment made by the major investors like USA and Japan at the world level and they prefer to make investments in other countries in Asia Pacific Region;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) the reasons for such wide gap between the amount cleared for foreign direct investment and the actual investment made in India; and

(h) the steps being taken by the Government to reduce this gap?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT):
(a) and (b) The States of Delhi, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, in that order, account for the major portion of FDI approvals made during Jan, 93 to Jan, 97. The State-wise details of FDI approved during the period are given in the enclosed Statement.

Decisions on intended investment locations within India by foreign investors are inter alia dependent on factors such as degree of development of industrial and financial infrastructure, the potential size of market, the skilled human resources and natural resources of the States and the various fiscal and other incentives provided by the State Governments.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has already put in place several schemes that support and promote investment in industrially backward districts, which inter alia include the Growth Centre Scheme, the Transport subsidy scheme, Income tax Relief etc.

(e) and (f) Foreign Direct Investment is a function of several factors such as general economic conditions, technology related issues, labour related issues, taxation related

issues, Government Policy related to creation and operation of FDI projects, availability of infrastructure, size of market, cultural proximity etc. Considering the fact that economic liberalisation in India took place in mid-1991, whereas, it had taken place much earlier in certain other countries of the Asia Pacific Region such as China, Malaysia and South Korea, the growth rate of FDI in India in the five year period post liberalisation (1991) has been higher than the growth rate of the average developing country.

In so far as FDI investment into India from USA and Japan is concerned, USA ranks first in the total FDI approvals made since liberalisation, accounting for around 25% and Japan ranks fourth accounting for 4.25% of the total FDI approvals granted during Jan. '91 to June '98.

(g) and (h) The inflows to approval ratio in FDI varies from sector to sector. Whereas, in certain sectors such as electronics (including computer software), transportation and services, the realisation rates have been around 30 to 40 percent, the same has been below 10 percent in certain other sectors like power and telecommunications, which account for nearly 50% of the total approved amount. The time lag in inflows against mega projects is usually longer because of several factors that the external to the basic FDI regime such as acquisition of land, obtaining various statutory clearances typing up funding arrangements etc. which are time consuming. Besides, international factors such as global market conditions and trade fundamentals, which determine major investment decisions, are also responsible to some extent.

With a view to facilitating FDI inflows, prior approval of RBI for FDI proposals under automatic/FIPB route has been dispensed with and Indian companies have been given general permission under FERA to receive inward remittance of foreign exchange, subject to the condition that they file the required documents with RBI within 30 days of issue of the shares.

Statement

*State-wise break up of foreign collaboration & foreign direct investment proposals approved during
(January, 1993 to January, 1997)*

State	No. of Approvals			Amt. of FDI Approved (Rs. Crore)	% to Total
	Total	Tech	Fin		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	420	143	277	2475.65	2.55
Assam	10	6	4	1.50	0.00
Bihar	67	42	25	127.45	0.13
Gujarat	519	297	222	3328.13	3.43
Haryana	398	146	252	1727.93	1.78
Himachal Pradesh	67	48	19	71.12	0.07
Jammu & Kashmir	1	0	1	8.01	0.01

1	2	3	4	5	6
Karnataka	653	255	398	5446.22	5.60
Kerala	93	38	55	474.29	0.49
Madhya Pradesh	157	75	82	4321.13	4.45
Maharashtra	1304	530	774	13046.18	13.43
Meghalaya	1	0	1	2.50	0.00
Nagaland	1	1	0	0.00	0.00
Orissa	75	28	47	3781.29	3.89
Punjab	100	39	61	1247.86	1.28
Rajasthan	176	65	111	583.23	0.60
Tamil Nadu	767	269	498	5306.76	5.46
Tripura	1	0	1	0.68	0.00
Uttra Pradesh	357	173	184	2287.02	2.35
West Bengal	255	92	163	5204.38	5.36
Andaman & Nicobar	5	0	5	0.98	0.00
Arunachal Pradesh	2	0	2	11.06	0.01
Chandigarh	14	2	12	72.46	0.07
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	46	32	14	63.83	0.07
Delhi	486	53	433	17153.45	17.65
Goa	67	33	34	274.49	0.28
Pondicherry	52	22	30	252.90	0.26
Daman & Diu	16	9	7	5.72	0.01
Others (States not indicated)	2090	884	1206	29895.00	30.77
Total	8200	3282	4918	97171.22	

Employees in Coal Mines

5466. SHRI PUNNULAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of workers employed in different coal mines of Coal India Ltd.;

(b) the number of sanctioned posts lying vacant at present;

(c) whether any action has been taken to fill up the said vacancies;

(d) if so, the details of the recruitments made from the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(e) whether there is any provision in the recruitment rules of CIL for recruiting local people in the coal mines;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the number of posts meant for Scheduled Castes

and Scheduled Tribes are lying vacant presently, category-wise and subsidiary-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) As reported by Coal India Limited (CIL), the total number of workers including executives employed in the different coal mines under various coal companies of CIL as on 1.4.1998 was 6,05,641.

(b) and (c) A total number of 3857 posts have been identified as vacant for the year 1998-99. The vacancies are filled up in phased manner to the extent possible through re-deployment and transfer of workers from within the company and through inter-subsidiary transfers. However, posts in the statutory and essential categories which cannot be filled in through these methods are filled up by direct recruitment.

(d) During the calendar year 1997, i.e. 1.1.1997 to 31.12.1997, a total number of 224 Scheduled Castes and 219 Scheduled Tribes candidates were appointed in CIL as a whole.

(e) and (f) There is no specific provision in Coal India Ltd., rules for recruiting local people, but in the case of employment of non-executives in CIL, the local employment exchange are approached by notifying such vacancies to them.

(g) The number of posts lying vacant in CIL as a whole in Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes categories are 919 and 1183 respectively. The company-wise and grade-wise details are given as under:

Company	Scheduled Caste					Scheduled Tribe				
	Grade					Grade				
	A	B	C	D	Total	A	B	C	D	Total
ECL			20		20			5		5
BCCL				4	4				4	4
CCL		2	26		28		3	13		16
NCL			4	2	6			29	18	47
WCL			11		11		4	21		25
SECL		6	59		65		10	136		146
MCL		6	128	332	466		6	170	496	672
CMPDIL			3		3					0
NEC/CIL					0			1		1
CIL HQ	277		18	21	316	255		6	6	267
TOTAL CIL	277	14	269	359	919	255	23	381	524	1183

[*English*]

Health Resorts

5467. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "New Tourism Policy to focus on health resorts, pilgrim centres" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated June 27, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which this new tourism policy is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the details of the funds allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The said policy, inter-alia, includes:

(i) Improvement of infrastructural facilities at Pilgrim Centres and promotion of adventure tourism and natural health resorts in the country.

(ii) Integrated development of such centres with close cooperation of the Ministry of Surface Transport, the Railways, Ministry of Civil Aviation and others who have linkages with Tourism.

(iii) Peoples participation in the development and distribution of benefits of tourism down to the Municipal Committees in towns and rural Panchayats.

(iv) Preservation of the environment and refurbishment of areas surrounding monuments and heritage centres.

(v) On the basis of the recommendations of a Committee on Pilgrim Tourism, 23 pilgrim centres in 14 States and 4 circuits in U.P. have been identified for development of infrastructure to cater to the needs of domestic/pilgrimage tourists.

(c) The Cabinet has to accord final approval to the draft National Tourism Policy.

(d) No funds are earmarked in the Policy Document.

[*Translation*]

Financial Assistance for Development Projects

5468. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any proposal seeking financial assistance from international agencies of some development projects in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The details of proposals received from the

Government of Gujarat for seeking financial assistance from international agencies/countries which are under consideration are given in the annexed Statement.

(c) Six of the above proposals have been posed to the donors for funding while for the remaining proposal, comments of the Administrative Ministry have been sought.

Statement

Details of proposals received from Government of Gujarat for seeking financial assistance from international agencies/countries

S.No.	Name of the Project	Project Cost
1.	Housing Finance for Women in Gujarat	C\$ 2.00 lakh.
2.	Gujarat Water Resource Consolidation Project	Rs. 603.20 crore.
3.	National Water Management Project Phase II	Rs. 2880.00 crore.
4.	Gujarat State Highway Project	\$ 534 million.
5.	Minor Irrigation Programme	Rs. 55.00 crore.
6.	Integrated River Basin Development Plan on River Sabarmati	Rs. 13.92 crore.
7.	Hydroplus fusegates in nine ungated schemes in Gujarat.	Rs. 50.12 crore.

[English]

COFEPOSA

5469. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons and their names detained under COFEPOSA from the State of Goa for the period from January, 1995 to December, 1997, till May 1998;

(b) whether any legal proceeding were lodged against these detainees; and

(c) if so, the details of proceeding including the names of persons convicted and/or against whom fines were imposed under adjudication proceedings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) As far as State of Goa is concerned, one person, namely Shri Roy Miranda, was detained on 6.12.96 under Cofeposa Act, 1974.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Prosecution proceeding is still in progress. In the adjudication proceedings, a penalty of Rs. one lakh has been imposed.

[Translation]

Loan to Reserved Category by KVIC

5470. SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ:

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is being run by Khadi and Village Industry Commission to grant loans to the handicapped, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and low-income group persons for self employment;

(b) if so, the category-wise persons being benefited from this scheme, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any new scheme in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) KVIC provides financial assistance for implementing various schemes for development of Khadi and Village industries under its purview. KVI projects can be taken up by any category of people including the SC/ST, OBC and Handicapped. However, grant component for them is higher as compared to others.

(b) State-wise provisional details of employment under SC/ST category during 1997-98 are enclosed at the Statement. However, KVIC does not maintain State-wise data of other categories.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The SC/ST beneficiaries are concentrated in various activities of leather industry under the purview of KVIC. For this industry, KVIC has decided to implement project at location having cluster of artisans belonging to SC. Initially, it was envisaged to provide employment to 2.00 lakhs artisans most of them from SC category by setting up 200 projects. Under KVIC Margin Money scheme, an additional 5% Margin Money is being provided to the beneficiaries belonging to SC/ST, OBC, Handicapped categories.

Statement

*Statewise provisional no. of SC/ST employment
during the year 1997-98*

(person in lakhs)

Sr. No.	State/U.T.	(Lakh Persons) Total KVI Emp.	(Lakh Persons) Share of SC/ST
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.74	1.19
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	*	*
3.	Assam	1.16	0.37
4.	Bihar	3.58	1.14
5.	Goa	0.06	0.01
6.	Gujarat	1.10	0.35
7.	Haryana	0.96	0.30
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.96	0.30
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.87	0.27
10.	Karnataka	2.05	0.65
11.	Kerala	2.21	0.70
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1.29	0.41
13.	Maharashtra	4.97	1.59
14.	Manipur	0.44	0.14
15.	Meghalaya	0.13	0.04
16.	Mizoram	0.11	0.03
17.	Nagaland	0.18	0.05
18.	Orissa	2.14	0.68
19.	Punjab	1.89	0.60
20.	Rajasthan	4.20	1.34
21.	Sikkim	0.04	0.01
22.	TamilNadu	11.85	33.79
23.	Tripura	0.27	0.08
24.	Uttar Pradesh	11.93	3.81
25.	West Bengal	3.74	1.19
Union Territories			
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—
2.	Chandigarh	0.03	*

1	2	3	4
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—
4.	Daman & Diu	—	—
5.	Delhi	0.21	0.06
6.	Lakshadweep	*	—
7.	Pondicherry	0.04	0.01
		60.15	19.11

* = Less than 500.

Export of Chemicals

5471. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government contemplate to give the permission of export of certain chemicals being used for dual purposes after imposing certain conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said permission is proposed to be granted?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) The Government have permitted vide Public Notice No. 17/1997-2002 dated 22/6/98, the export of chemicals included in Schedule 3 to the Chemical Weapons Convention of the United Nations, when exported to State parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention. Such exports will be subject to the condition that the exporter of these chemicals shall notify such exports to the National Authority, Chemical Weapons Convention, Cabinet Secretariat and to the Directorate General of Foreign Trade alongwith the End Use Certificate within 15 days of the actual export.

(c) Government of India has already granted the said permission vide Public Notice No. 17/1997-2002 dated 22.6.98.

[English]

Machines for Health Care Activities

5472. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of machines purchased by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), particularly for providing health care facilities to its workers during the last three years, indicating the cost thereof;

(b) whether some of those machines are lying unutilised; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (c) It has been reported by Coal India Limited that during the last three years Mahanadi

Coalfields Limited (MCL) have purchased 19 numbers of hospital equipment at a total cost of Rs. 128.547 Lakhs. Out of these, 14 equipments are functioning and 5 are under installation.

Recovery of Loans

5473. DR. RAM VILAS VEDANTI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recovery of loans made by various public sector banks located in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in tribal and backward areas;

(b) the extent to which the recovery of loans is less or more in comparison to other States; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide more loan facilities to the tribal people of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the State-wise recovery position including for the State of Uttar Pradesh available in respect of direct agricultural advance, Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), Scheme for Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME) and Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (SLRS) and Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) are given at Statement I, II, III, and IV respectively. RBI have further reported that separate figures pertaining to tribal and backward areas are not available.

(c) In addition to the Government sponsored schemes under which persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes are eligible, local area schemes such as Ambedkar Swet Kranti Rozgar Yojana, Piggery, Goat and Sheep Rearing schemes have also been launched by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to provide more loan facilities to persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes.

Statement-I

State-wise recovery position of Agricultural Advances (direct) by Public Sector Banks as on June, 1995 (latest available).

(Amount in Rs. Thousands)

State/Union Territory	Public Sector Banks				
	Balance Outstanding	Total Demand	Recovery	Total Overdues	% of Recovery to demand
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Andhra Pradesh	25146596	16716452	10086828	6629624	60.34
2. Arunachal Pradesh	89885	18417	8220	10197	44.63
3. Assam	2127116	799759	169181	630578	21.15
4. Bihar	9606321	4580837	1730229	2850608	37.77
5. Goa	401070	209586	110961	98625	52.94
6. Gujarat	11451800	7347605	4753223	2594382	64.69
7. Haryana	7563158	4818999	3016690	1802309	62.60
8. Himachal Pradesh	934506	628186	268477	359709	42.74
9. Jammu & Kashmir	369782	274566	37394	237172	13.62
10. Karnataka	16907353	10989069	5855478	5133586	53.28
11. Kerala	8398218	4447745	3452272	995473	77.62
12. Madhya Pradesh	14258311	7282678	3806102	3476576	52.26
13. Maharashtra	18697728	11819911	6227061	5592850	52.68
14. Manipur	159586	51694	6863	44831	13.28
15. Meghalaya	137459	98421	22127	76294	22.48
16. Mizoram	35398	23443	3720	19723	15.87
17. Nagaland	322669	208127	43719	164408	21.01

1	2	3	4	5	6
18. National Capital					
Territory of Delhi	1419676	326963	144179	182784	44.10
19. Orissa	4823677	2430928	1119125	1311803	46.04
20. Punjab	14321549	9111194	6492994	2618200	71.26
21. Rajasthan	9263275	5716126	2826572	2889554	49.45
22. Sikkim	57280	28558	12256	16302	42.92
23. Tamil Nadu	25704178	15842107	11492952	4349155	72.55
24. Tripura	357341	157084	23769	133315	15.13
25. Uttar Pradesh	23087765	12010751	7617539	4393212	63.42
26. West Bengal	8098584	4103178	2120696	1982482	51.68
27. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	21679	9247	4473	4774	48.37
28. Chandigarh	1560694	966485	507376	459109	52.50
29. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	19760	10190	4026	6164	39.51
30. Daman & Diu	3159	2898	364	2534	12.56
31. Lakshadweep	3658	2694	2140	554	79.44
32. Pondicherry	402094	252715	151942	100773	60.12
All India	205751325	121286613	72118948	49167660	59.46

Statement-II

Recovery performance of all scheduled commercial banks under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for the half year ended March 1997.

(Rs. Lakhs)

Name of the State/ Union Territory	Demand	Recovery	Percentage of 3 to 2
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	4253.90	2436.42	57.3
Assam	1964.65	282.71	14.4
Bihar	3684.12	1436.15	39.0
Gujarat	1512.76	1006.17	66.5
Haryana	1857.06	1111.20	59.8
Himachal Pradesh	592.08	346.92	58.6
Jammu & Kashmir	149.00	51.38	34.5
Karnataka	3695.05	1904.62	51.5
Kerala	2674.61	1287.46	48.1
Madhya Pradesh	5136.61	1470.34	48.1
Maharashtra	7080.70	3588.22	50.7
Manipur	589.21	54.71	9.3

1	2	3	4
Meghalaya	89.47	30.11	33.7
Nagaland	234.94	8.03	3.4
Orissa	1251.93	558.76	44.6
Punjab	1744.93	1143.99	65.6
Rajasthan	1132.96	591.09	52.2
Sikkim	10.29	6.24	60.6
Tamil Nadu	4183.97	2084.69	50.1
Tripura	145.59	38.84	26.7
Uttar Pradesh	5271.23	2870.60	54.5
West Bengal	1413.46	380.56	26.9
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	16.98	7.36	43.3
Arunachal Pradesh	43.77	11.58	26.5
Chandigarh	167.75	120.94	72.1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	28.70	13.36	46.6
National Capital Territory of Delhi	507.90	230.47	45.4
Goa	184.84	122.39	66.2
Mizoram	1116.31	12.56	1.1
Pondicherry	111.91	41.22	36.8
Lakshadweep	5.20	3.92	75.4
Daman & Diu	1.90	1.25	65.8
Total	50833.68	24254.26	47.7

Statement-III

Recovery performance of all public sector banks under Scheme for Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME) and scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (SLRS) for the year ended March 1996 (latest available).

Name of the State/ Union Territory	March 1996 (SUME)				(Rs. Lakhs) March 1996 (SLRS)			
	Demand	Recovery	% 3 to 2	Overdues	Demand	Recovery	% 3 to 2	Overdues
1	2	3	4	5	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	1568.87	464.13	29.6	1104.74	15.00	6.12	40.8	8.88
Assam	205.53	23.22	11.3	182.31	NA	NA	NA	NA
Bihar	375.18	67.52	18.0	307.66	NA	NA	NA	NA
Gujarat	245.14	89.16	36.4	155.98	13.53	8.32	61.5	5.21
Haryana	352.35	133.46	37.9	218.89	19.91	10.09	50.7	9.82
Himachal Pradesh	60.36	20.39	33.8	39.97	1.65	1.06	64.2	0.59
Jammu & Kashmir	43.10	10.91	25.3	32.19	0.25	0.16	64.0	0.09
Karnataka	651.65	142.84	21.9	508.81	23.66	6.22	26.3	17.44

1	2	3	4	5	2	3	4	5
Kerala	521.63	200.60	38.5	321.03	0.04	NA	0.0	0.04
Madhya Pradesh	1760.16	368.99	21.0	1391.17	251.51	49.12	19.5	202.39
Maharashtra	1596.82	367.37	23.0	1229.45	109.44	37.94	34.7	71.50
Manipur	217.86	3.89	1.8	213.97	NA	NA	NA	NA
Meghalaya	12.55	1.50	12.0	11.05	NA	NA	NA	NA
Nagaland	11.44	0.70	6.1	10.74	NA	NA	NA	NA
Orissa	391.42	86.75	22.2	304.67	9.39	2.59	27.6	6.80
Punjab	343.64	110.85	32.3	232.79	21.01	10.47	49.8	10.54
Rajasthan	625.66	197.08	31.5	428.58	37.61	13.5	35.9	24.11
Sikkim	288.68	58.09	20.1	230.59	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tamil Nadu	1164.72	465.32	40.0	699.40	102.65	54.76	53.3	47.89
Tripura	37.83	2.84	7.5	34.99	NA	NA	NA	NA
Uttar Pradesh	2481.12	892.56	36.0	1588.56	489.61	212.52	43.4	277.09
West Bengal	755.63	144.33	15.1	641.30	1.65	0.52	31.5	1.13
Andaman & Nicobar	2.27	0.51	22.5	1.76	NA	NA	NA	NA
Arunachal Pradesh	0.22	NA	0.0	0.22	NA	NA	NA	NA
Chandigarh	12.35	3.32	26.9	9.03	0.01	0.01	100.0	0.00
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.89	NA	0.0	0.89	NA	NA	NA	NA
National Capital Territory of Delhi	63.30	11.77	18.6	51.53	7.42	4.76	64.2	2.66
Goa	17.88	11.06	61.9	6.82	6.01	2.75	45.8	3.28
Mizoram	23.52	1.50	6.4	22.02	NA	NA	NA	NA
Pondicherry	21.04	6.47	30.8	14.57	0.42	0.17	40.5	0.25
Lakshadweep	NA	NA	NA	—	NA	NA	NA	NA
Daman & Diu	2.22	1.24	55.9	0.98	NA	NA	NA	NA
Not Specified	2051.00	782.00	38.1	1269.00	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total	15906.03	4640.37	29.2	11265.66	1110.77	421.08	37.9	689.69

Statement-IV*Recovery position of public sector banks under IRDP for the year ended March 1996 (latest available)*

(Rs. Lakhs)

Name of the State/ Union Territory	Demand	Recovery	Overdues	% of Recovery to Demand
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	15412.08	3613.62	11790.46	23.45
Assam	3523.49	898.48	2827.03	19.77
Bihar	23144.41	5983.04	17161.37	25.85

1	2	3	4	5
Gujarat	7627.13	3105.51	4521.92	40.72
Haryana	4960.40	1212.06	3748.37	24.43
Himachal Pradesh	898.04	363.35	544.73	39.35
Jammu & Kashmir	257.16	90.28	166.88	35.11
Karnataka	8452.13	1682.67	4789.46	26.08
Kerala	3703.58	1839.88	1863.70	49.88
Madhya Pradesh	17774.28	4646.50	13127.78	28.14
Maharashtra	17356.06	5505.44	11850.62	31.72
Manipur	177.32	27.05	159.27	15.26
Meghalaya	195.99	38.26	157.65	19.68
Nagaland	116.14	21.64	94.50	18.33
Orissa	9970.53	2476.65	7483.88	24.84
Punjab	5133.59	1680.25	3463.28	32.73
Rajasthan	9182.97	2783.63	6419.34	30.10
Sikkim	100.87	42.95	57.92	42.58
Tamil Nadu	12290.46	4470.60	7819.88	36.37
Tripura	584.84	88.68	498.28	12.14
Uttar Pradesh	31790.70	13836.72	17954.98	43.52
West Bengal	12779.08	3883.96	8895.12	30.39
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	42.01	9.16	32.95	21.75
Arunachal Pradesh	143.01	50.38	92.63	35.23
Chandigarh	1.52	0.12	1.40	7.89
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	34.18	12.14	22.04	35.52
National Capital Territory of Delhi	69.58	15.70	53.88	22.56
Goa	172.78	78.75	94.03	45.58
Mizoram	75.79	10.96	64.83	14.48
Pondicherry	186.68	61.34	125.34	32.88
Lakshadweep	7.05	4.35	2.70	61.70
Daman & Diu	125.00	44.88	80.12	35.90
Total	184269.18	58325.86	125943.32	31.65

*[English]***Sick Steel Plants**

5474. DR. SAROJA V.: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some steel plants in the country have submitted their report of sickness to the Board of Industrial Finance and Reconstruction.

(b) if so, the details their report, both Public/Private sector-wise; and

(c) the details of assistance likely to be provided to each of such plants by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR, M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that only one public sector steel plant namely M/s Indian Iron and Steel Company limited was registered with BIFR on 30.06.1994. In the present reporting system followed in the BIFR, separate date for steel plants are not being maintained. However, steel plants are included under the heading "Metallurgy" under which 339 references, including public and private sector units, were registered with BIFR upto 30.6.1998. Status of sick industrial companies registered under the Metallurgy Sector is enclosed at Statement.

These habilitation schemes sanctioned by the BIFR include various measures like restructuring of the capital, induction of fresh funds by the promoters, including Government for public sector units, merger with other companies, change of management, reliefs and concessions by financial institutions/banks, provision for enhanced working capital and fresh term loans by banks and financial institutions, reliefs and concessions by the Central and concerned State Government in the form of rescheduling of their dues, grants from National Renewal Fund etc.

Statement

Status of sick industrial companies registered under metallurgy section as on 30.6.1998

	Private Sector	CPSU*	SPSU**	Total
1. Cases registered	327	5	7	339
2. Rehabilitation schemes	92	3	5	100
3. Winding up recommended	110	—	2	112
4. Dismissed as				
Non-maintainable	57	—	—	57
5. Other disposals	8	—	—	8
6. Pending at various stages	60	2	—	62

Note: Out of the 100 rehabilitation schemes sanctioned, 1 State PSU and 33 private companies (Total 34) have been declared no longer sick and discharged as their networth became positive on implementation of the schemes.

* CPSU = Central Public Sector Units.

** SPSU = State Public Sector Units.

[Translation]

Regional Office of Spices Board in U.P.

5475. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up regional office of the Spices Board in Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to promote the production and export of spices during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The steps taken/proposed to be taken to enhance the production and productivity of various spices during 1998-99, inter-alia, including implementation of schemes for production and distribution of quality planting material; plant protection measures; area expansion and intensive cultivation practices.

Apart from the general trade policy reforms, some of the steps taken to enhance exports of spices include abolition of cess on export of pepper (except green pepper in brine), cardamom, saffron and spice oils and oleoresins to make them price competitive in the overseas markets; implementation of brand promotion schemes like "Logo Promotion", grant of "Spice House Certificate" as a recognition of processor/exporter of quality products; setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality; technology transfer; process upgradation and product development.

Tax Holiday

5476 SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of the Gujarat Government to treat the entire taluk as a basis for determining backwardness instead of district for allowing tax-holiday has been reconsidered;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in disposal thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Suggestions from various State Governments to treat 'talukas/tehsils as a basis for determining backwardness have been considered from time to time and particularly by the Review Group to identify the backward districts for the purposes of incentives u/s 80-IA of the Income-tax Act.

(b) Suggestions have been received from time to time from various State Governments to consider 'taluka' as a basis for determining backwardness instead of district for allowing tax-holiday. The Review Study Group constituted in November, 1995 considered the same, but on the basis of the recommendation of Dr. Shanker Acharya Committee on fiscal incentives on industrialisation of backward areas, Review Group proposed to adopt 'district' as the basic unit for determining industrial backwardness as the identification of smaller units like talukas will neither be possible nor desirable.

(c) Does not arise.

*[English]***Delay in Patenting**

5477. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the steps taken to cut delay in patenting inventions and innovations of Indian scientists?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): The Government has been taken steps to reduce delay by attempting to modernise the patents system in the country. Steps are underway to modernise and strengthen the patent office through a plan which would provide the required qualified personnel, infrastructural facilities, optimisation of available resources through reorientation of functions between offices, computerisation of procedures and elimination of backlog of patent applications.

*[Translation]***Tourist Places in Delhi**

5478. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- whether Jama-Masjid of Delhi is also included in the development schemes of tourism-department;
- whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to give a facelift to Chandni Chowk for tourists which is historically important; and
- if so, the efforts being made by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): No, Sir. The scheme for development of tourists attractions are formulated by State Governments. Union Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to select projects for which State Governments seek assistance.

(b) and (c) The Government of Delhi has constituted a Task Force headed by the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Delhi to give a facelift to Chandni Chowk.

Unemployment Allowance

5479. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- whether there are thousands of unemployed youths in the country inspite of having graduation or post graduation degrees or diploma;
- if so, whether the Government have prepared any scheme to provide employment to such unemployed youths;
- if so, the details thereof;
- if not, whether the Government has any scheme to provide unemployment allowance to such youths until they get employment; and
- if so, the details thereof?

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

Loss Due to Demurrage

5480. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- the amount of loss suffered by B.C.C.L. on account of payment of demurrage during each of the last two years;
- the details of grounds on which the demurrage is being imposed;
- the total amount spent by BCCL on making of payment different demurrage during the last two years;
- the action taken against the officials found responsible for such demurrage during the last two years; and
- the measures taken to minimise the demurrage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (c) The amount paid by BCCL on account of demurrages during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 is as under:

Year	Rs. in crores
1996-97	6.43
1997-98	7.64

(b) The railways levy demurrages if wagons are not loaded within the time allowed. No specific details are indicated by the railways and delayed wagons are termed "left behind wagons" and demurrages charged.

(d) In June, 1998, action has been initiated against six officers upto the level of General Manager and chargesheets have been issued for acts of omission and commission leading to demurrages.

(e) There are several reasons why wagons may not be loaded within the time allowed. The railways have systematically reduced the time allowed for loading of wagons. Sometimes, the wagons are sent in bunches and also at odd hours. Loading is also inhibited due to inclement weather, strikes and bandhs, power failures and machinery breakdown. Appropriate measures are taken to tackle these situations.

*[English]***Setting up of Five Star Hotels by Foreign Companies**

5481. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- whether the Government have allowed certain foreign companies to set up Five Star Hotels in the country;
- if so, the details thereof;
- the location at which these hotels are likely to be set up, State-wise;
- whether the Government propose to hand-over some five star hotels to private companies to run; and
- if so, the details of the Government's policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) No, Sir. However, some foreign hotel chains have been allowed to provide technical collaboration.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Form in Income Tax

5482. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of return forms to be filled in by the tax payers to keep the accounts etc. upto date;

(b) the cost of each form;

(c) the expenses to be incurred on this account by the Tax Payers; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to minimise the forms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Various return forms are prescribed under Income-tax Act and Rules thereto depending on the status of the person and the nature of the income. The details of Income Tax Return forms are as under:

Form No.	Applicable for
1	2
ITS-1	Company
ITS-2	A person not being a company where total income includes income under the head 'profits and gains of business or profession'.
ITS-2A	A resident individual or HUF whose total income does not exceed Rs. 2,00,000/- and does not include income from 'profits and gains of business or profession' or brought forward loss or allowance except under the head 'Income from House property'.
ITS-2B	The total income for the block period under section 158BC(a).
ITS-2C	A person required to file a return under the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 139 dealing with economic criteria.

1	2
ITS-3	A Person whose total income does not include income under the head 'profits and gains of business or profession'.
ITS-3A	An assessee claiming exemption under section 11 of Income Tax Act.

In addition, separate return forms have been prescribed under other direct tax enactments such as Wealth-tax, Gift-tax, Interest-tax and Expenditure-tax.

(b) The Income-tax Return Forms are printed through various Government of India Presses and cost differs from Press to Press. The cost of form printed from different Government presses is as under:

Form No.	Cost (Press)
ITS-1	Rs. 2.72 (Nilokheri)
	Rs. 1.85 (Chandigarh)
ITS-2	Rs. 2.08 (Nashik)
	Rs. 3.34 (Temple Street, Calcutta)
ITS-2A	Rs. 1.33 (Nashik)
	Rs. 1.83 (Mysore)
ITS-2B	Rs. 0.32 (Chandigarh)
ITS-3	Rs. 1.63 (Nashik)
	Rs. 1.75 (Mysore)
ITS-3A	Rs. 2.55 (Koratty)

(c) No expenses are required to be incurred by the tax payers on this account.

(d) The Government has already announced the proposal to introduce a simple taxpayer-friendly return form to be called—SARAL applicable to all non-corporate taxpayers. SARAL would not only bring in significant improvement in the cumbersome nature of existing income-tax return forms but can also be used by various categories of non-corporate assessees.

Loan to the Tea Board

5483. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR "BIJOY":

SHRI SITA RAM YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided not to give further loan to Tea Board;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have also taken decision in cases of other Public Sector Undertakings; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith reasons in each case?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) In order to make the loan schemes of the Tea Board self supporting, the Government have decided, in principle, to allow the Tea Board to utilise the sum of the loan and interest instalments payable by the Tea Board annually to the Government, for operating the loan schemes. Under the proposed scheme, the surplus funds, if any, available with the Tea Board over and above the actual requirement for operating the loan schemes would be returned to the Government by the Board in that particular year. Likewise, in a particular year, if loan and interest payable by the Board to the Government is less than their requirement, funds to the extent of the deficit will be provided by the Government to the Tea Board by way of subsidy under Non-Plan funds.

(c) and (d) Tea Board, is a promotional autonomous organisation set up under the provisions of Tea Act, and not a Public Sector Undertaking. Therefore the decision taken in this case is relevant only to the Tea Board.

Definition of Family

5484. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JHANHARPUR):

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the definition of Family Under Section 10(5) of the Income Tax Act 1961 which stipulates the children without restriction in the number of children;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the number of children have been restricted to two while availing the LTC concession recently through amendment in Income Tax Rules;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to withdraw such a amendment made in the I.T Rules which is ultra virus of the provisions made in the Act; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN). (a) Yes Sir. However, the provision explained in section 10(5) of the I.T. Act stipulates that travel concession or assistance received by an individual and his family in connection with his proceeding to any place in India is exempt for the provisions of the I.T Act, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed having regard to the travel concession for Central Government employees. The definition of 'family' given in the Explanation below section 10(5) has to be taken in the over all context of the section and

subject to the conditions contemplated in the main section namely that the concession is available having regard to the concession granted to Central Government Employees.

(b) No, Sir. The number of children have been restricted to *two only in respect of children born after 1.10.98*. The rule excludes cases of multiple births after one child in cases of birth after 1.10.98. The rule does not apply to children born before 1.10.98.

(c) By the I.T. (First Amendment) Rules, 1998, w.e.f. 1.10.1997, the exemption is not available to more than two surviving children on an individual after 1st October, 1998. However, this sub-rule does not apply in respect of children born before 1.10.98 and also in case of multiple births after one child, in case of such birth after 1.10.98.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) On the recommendation of Fifth Pay Commission the Central Government vide notification F.No. 31011/7/97-Estt. (A) dated 20.11.1997, amended the LTC Rules and also restricted these benefits to two surviving children w.e.f. 1.10.1998 in line with the policy of propagating small family norms. These restrictions are not applicable to existing children born before 1.10.98. In light of this notification Rule 2B was amended and two children norm was incorporated therein. Section 10(5) provides for I.T. concession subject to such conditions as may be prescribed having regard to the travel concession or assistance granted to the employees of the Central Government. Under section 295 of the I.T. Act, the CBDT is conferred with the powers to prescribe such additional conditions. The rule as amended is vives, as it is made under the powers assigned to the I.T Act and further as the condition stipulated in the notification is in conformity with the concession available to the employees of the Central Government which is one of the primary stipulative under the main section.

Industrial Sickness

5485. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring about a status paper on Industrial sickness in the country;

(b) If so, the time by which such a paper is likely to be brought out and placed before the Parliament; and

(c) the interim measures taken by the Government for tackling the growing problem of industrial sickness?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units which, inter-alia, include, guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to Banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units and setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under Sick Industrial

Companies (Special Provisions) Act, National Renewal Fund, National Equity Fund, etc.

Action Plan for Development of Silk Industry

5486. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Action Plan of the Government for the development of Silk Industry in North-Eastern States, particularly in Assam; and

(b) the steps being taken for necessary research, extension, infrastructural and training support for development of sericulture in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA):

(a) and (b) In order to supplement efforts of the State Sericulture Department, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a large number of schemes/projects/programmes for promoting development of all the 4 types of silk. These includes schemes for extension of R&D training, infrastructure extension support to the sector through a net work of CSB units and implementation of certain development/investments/financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericulture practices for production of quality silk. Besides CSB also takes up specific sericulture project like World Bank assisted NSP, Action Plan for the North Eastern States, etc., in association/collaboration with the States. As far as Assam and other States of North Eastern States are concerned some of the specific projects taken up by CSB are as follows:

- (i) Under the National Sericulture Project which was implemented in two districts in Assam infrastructure facilities were created such as basic seed farms, technical service centres, Cocoon markets, demonstration cum training centre for reelers and weavers, etc.
- (ii) North Eastern Action Plan covering Assam and other States of the North Eastern region is presently under implementation which provides assistance towards increase in acreage by plantation, training to farmers, reelers, setting up of cocoon training facilities and assistance for setting up of reeling units, etc. This project is being continued during the IXth Plan period.
- (iii) Assistance is extended to the agencies for marketing various cocoons.
- (iv) Project development and domestic marketing for Eri and Muga.
- (v) Muga raw-material sale depot was set up at Guwahati.
- (vi) Besides, to boost the production of silk 34 Catalytic Development schemes have been sanctioned for implementation by the Government through Central Silk Board. Out of 34 schemes, 8 schemes have been approved during 1998-99 for being implemented in the State of Assam, viz:

- (i) Installation of Common Facility Centre.
- (ii) Enterprise Development Programmes.
- (iii) Demonstration of Systematic Plantation in Eri Food Plant and Supply of Start-up Tools.
- (iv) Augmentation of Muga Food Plants.
- (v) Providing Trainning and Start-up tools to Farmers to Practice Muga Culture.
- (vi) Crop Insurance Support for Muga.
- (vii) Pilot Scheme for Support to Private Grainures for Production of Quality Muga Seed.
- (viii) Data Base Development.

- (vii) An integrated Muga and Eri Development Project has been prepared by the Central Silk Board for North Eastern States including Assam, for implementatong during IXth Plan period at a cost of Rs. 95.00 crores out of which the Assam component is Rs. 64.00 crores.

Pilferage of Coal

5487. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

SHRI A VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to ascertain the quantity of coal pilferaged from the coal mines;
- (b) If so, the total quantity and value of the coal being pilferaged each year;
- (c) whether the cases of coal pilferage by contractors in connivance with the mines authorities have also come to the notice of the Government during the last two years;
- (d) if so, the details of such cases, State-wise;
- (e) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check the pilferage of coal from these coal mines in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) No survey to ascertain the quantity of coal pilferaged has been done by the Government since the pilferage is carried out stealthily and clandestinely by the members of public. However as per the raids carried out by security personnel as well as through joint raids with State law and order authorities, the approximate quantity of coal recovered during 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as under:

Year	Quantity in tonnes	Value Rs. lakhs
1995-96	16,000	83.00
1996-97	16,000	110.00

(c) to (e) Three cases of pilferage by transporters in connivance with mine personnel were alleged in Govindpur area, Basuria Colliery and Godhur Colliery of BCCL in Bihar. Departmental as well as police action has been taken against the concerned persons.

(f) To check the pilferage of coal, Coal India Limited has taken various steps which include the following:

- (i) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing district authorities of the same for taking preventive action.
- (ii) Installation of check-posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents.
- (iii) Construction of watch towers and providing lighting arrangements around the coal stacking area, erection of barbed-wire/wall fencing around pit head depots, static security manning including deployment of armed guards during the night hours, escorting of loaded rakes upto railway weigh bridges by armed guards and joint patrolling with Railway protection Force in the long railway tracks which are prone to wagon looting.
- (iv) Sealing of illegal mining spots.
- (v) Close coordination with RPF and district police officials and carrying out surprise checks/raids.
- (vi) Stringent action against transport vehicles caught in the act of theft or pilferage.
- (vii) Monthly review meeting with district authorities for drawing out plan to eliminate the menace, carrying out surprise checks/raids in cooperation with the State Police at sensitive points and lodging of FIRs with the local police.
- (viii) Engagement of lady security guards for preventing women and children indulging in theft/pilferage of coal, strengthening of the security discipline by reassessing the requirement of security personnel, horizontal movement of executives with aptitude for security work and inducting qualified security personnel at junior, middle and senior levels.

In the Eastern Coalfields Limited road challans on security paper having water mark has been introduced.

For strengthening the security set up, training of existing security personnel, refresher training of CISF personnel and

basic training to new recruits in security discipline is carried out at periodic levels.

Setting up of New Industries

5488. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:

SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government and State Governments have drawn up any special programme with regard to industrialisation and setting up of new industries in the country including in backward areas;

(b) if so, the details of proposals received from the State Governments, the number of industries set up so far and the number of persons employed therein during the last two years, State-wise; and

(c) the extent of financial assistance sought by the State Governments in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT):
(a) Government of India has got a scheme of Growth Centres which is implemented by the State Governments for promoting industrialisation in the country. Apart from this, there is also a scheme of transport subsidy for backward areas. A new scheme of capital investment subsidy has also been notified on 1.6.98 for North-Eastern Region. A scheme of integrated infrastructural development (including technological backup services for small scale industries to facilitate location of industries in rural/backward areas and to promote linkages between agriculture and industry) has been formulated.

(b) A statement giving the Statewise details of industries proposed to be set up in various States and employment likely to be generated for the year 1996 and 1997 is enclosed.

(c) Depending upon the financial and physical progress in the implementation of the Growth Centres by the State Governments, Central assistance for these centres is released. Since the inception of the Transport Subsidy Scheme in July, 1971 till 31.3.98, transport subsidy amounting to approximately Rs. 361 crores has been released to various States/UTs. Since the inception of the Growth Centre Scheme the total amount of Central assistance released is Rs. 253.75 crores.

Statement

State-wise details of industrial entrepreneur memoranda filed and letters of intent issued and proposed number of employment for the years 1996 and 1997.

Names of State/ UTs	Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda				Letters of Intent			
	1996		1997		1996		1997	
	Numbers Filed	Proposed Employ- ment No.	Numbers filed	Proposed Employ- ment No.	Numbers issued	Proposed Employ- ment No.	Numbers issued	Proposed Employ- ment No.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	403	50295	264	39283	50	10322	41	9152
Assam	6	888	13	1880	2	150	—	—
Bihar	44	7307	29	3713	11	7762	9	3063
Gujarat	694	100780	461	48078	31	6489	23	4814
Haryana	326	45968	242	27926	19	5342	14	8629
Himachal Pradesh	42	7431	32	4369	3	718	4	1300
Jammu & Kashmir	7	5358	10	1595	1	200	1	740
Karnataka	160	37827	138	20978	56	25826	21	10522
Kerala	80	12998	33	7545	7	1167	5	3978
Madhya Pradesh	261	41550	188	23697	13	5274	17	4542
Maharashtra	736	95555	513	75756	59	31651	29	8597
Meghalaya	6	512	2	167	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	1	240	1	220	—	—	—	—
Orissa	27	7272	36	17012	5	3934	13	4840
Punjab	187	39488	189	35105	35	15520	19	4633
Rajasthan	233	35721	211	42643	9	1248	6	280
Tamil Nadu	530	62335	377	61872	99	21455	74	14182
Tripura	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	520	81698	403	51723	90	34283	35	14220
West Bengal	232	30157	221	21735	18	6350	7	2203
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	1	149	—	—	—	—
Andaman & Nicobar	4	390	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chandigarh	9	810	1	290	—	—	—	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	127	14249	271	18182	3	810	3	347
Delhi	3	26	7	743	2	130	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Goa	54	5616	45	3589	2	94	—	—
Pondicherry	55	5866	66	5322	6	1502	—	—
Daman & Diu	77	5676	119	8053	2	632	—	—
Total	4825	696015	3873	521625	522	180858	321	96042

[Translation]

- Research to Find out Coal Reserves**
5489. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of the researches conducted during the last three years to find out the coal reserves;
- (b) whether any feasibility study has been conducted to start the coal mining projects;
- (c) If so, whether any report has been prepared in this regard;
- (d) If so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to implement this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The exploration carried out during the last three years in Raniganj Coalfields of West Bengal and Bihar, East Bokaro, South Karanpura, Auranga and Rajmahal coalfields of Bihar, Talcher and Ib Valley coalfields of Orissa, Mand-Raigarh, Hasdeo Arand, Korba, Sohagpur, Ramkola-Tatapani and Singarauli main basin of Madhya Pradesh, Wardha Valley in Maharashtra and Godavari Valley in Andhra Pradesh has established 1580 Million Tonnes, 2700 Million Tonnes and 1922 Million Tonnes of additional reserves of coal during 1997, 1996 and 1995 respectively.

(b) After getting the Geological report of regional exploration from GSI, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd. (CMPDI) identifies potential blocks for detailed exploration by drilling at closer intervals to prove coal reserves for preparation of project reports. It normally takes about four to five years time to complete detailed exploration in a block based on which project reports are prepared for investment decision considering coal demand in the area and techno-economic feasibility to start mining projects.

(c) to (e) The number of project reports prepared by CMPDIL during 1995-96 to 1997-98 are as under:

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
BCCL	10	7	4
CCL	4	4	5
ECL	7	10	3
NCL	5	2	2
SECL	7	8	4
WCL	6	5	6
Total	39	36	24

Out of 99 project reports, 34 have been sanctioned which are at different stages of implementation.

[English]

Import of Polyurethene

5490. SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN:

SHRI VAIKO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is importing polyurethene;
- (b) if so, whether the Government are aware that polyurethene is poisonous;
- (c) if so, the reasons for importing this poisonous material which is hazardous to our environment;
- (d) whether the Government propose to discontinue the import of polyurethene; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Yes, Sir. Under the current EXIM policy, Polyurethene is freely importable.

(b) As per the comments received from the Dept. of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, polyurethene is versatile materials which are used in making mattresses, autoseats, shoe soles, thermowares and used as insulating material in a refrigerator. It is also used in many other applications. The Dept. of Chemicals and Petrochemicals have also advised that as per technical information available with them Flexible polyurethene foam is non-poisonous.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

Shortage of Salt

5491. SHRI K.L. SHARMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent cyclonic storm has totally disrupted the salt manufacturing in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether the country is likely to face shortage of salt as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, the measures the Government propose to take to tide over the impending shortage of salt in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT):

(a) No, Sir. Only 12% of the area under salt cultivation in Gujarat has been fully damaged. Another 28% of the area has been partially damaged.

(b) and (c) As sufficient buffer stock of salt was available in the beginning of the year, the available stock of salt should be adequate to meet the edible and industrial requirement of salt.

Government is providing financial assistance in the form of ex-gratia and loan to the damaged salt works due to cyclone as a measure of immediate relief for reconstruction of salt works. Apart from this, increased level of assistance from the cess proceeds for developmental works has been sanctioned for the State of Gujarat. Technical assistance for rebuilding of damaged salt works on scientific lines is being rendered by the office of the Salt Commissioner. The above measures will help restoring production of salt in affected area and ensure adequate availability.

DEPB Scheme

5492. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the credit rate under Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme has been revised recently for dyed and printed fabrics/sarees made from polyester yarn and fabrics/sarees made from mixed man-made filament yarn/spun yarn;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the exporter and their associations opposed the revised rate with value cap for DEPB entitlement;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (e) The Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme (DEPB) was introduced in the Exim Policy w.e.f. 1.4.1997. Under this schemes duty credit is allowed on the basis of a fixed percentage of the FOB value of exports. The credit rates have been notified for over 1800 export items as of now. The Inter-Ministerial Committee known as DEPB Committee fixes the DEPB rates for various items taking into account the data

furnished by various Trade Organisations, Export Promotion Councils, Individual exporters relating to the CIF value of various input items which are imported as also the FOB value of the export items.

After the DEPB Scheme remained in operation for some months, it was decided to review some aspects of the said scheme so as to provide some safeguards against grant of excess credit through over-invoicing of export products. One of the revised parameters that was considered after the review was that in respect of DEPB rates of 15% and above the DEPB Committee shall examine the desirability of prescribing appropriate value cap which would act as a ceiling for grant to DEPB credit for various export products.

In the case of Dyed and/or Dyed and printed Fabrics/Sarees made from 100% Polyester Filament Yarn or from mixed Man Made Filament yarn/spun yarn, the DEPB Committee had fixed a rate of 17%.

The credit rates under DEPB schemes for Dyed and/or Dyed and printed Fabrics/Sarees made from 100% polyester Filament Yarn has been revised from 17% to 19% with a value cap of Rs. 190/- kg w.e.f. 15.4.98. Credit rate under DEPB scheme for Fabrics/Sarees made out of mixed Man Made Filament yarn/Spun Yarn has been revised from 17% to 16% with a value cap of Rs. 300/- kg. w.e.f. 15.4.1998.

Many exporters including Synthetic and Rayon Export Promotion Council, Mumbai had opposed the revised rate with value cap for the DEPB entitlement. These representations were duly examined by DEPB Committee and a hearing was given to the representative of the Export Promotion Council, the value cap for Dyed and/or Dyed and printing Fabrics/Sarees made from 100% Polyester Filament Yarn was revised from Rs. 190/- kg. to Rs. 300 kg.

Dearness Allowance

5493. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether one more dearness allowance has fallen due to the Central Government Employees due to the steep increase in the prices of essential commodities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees is revised twice a year from 1st January and 1st July payable with the salary for the months of March and September respectively. The decision regarding another instalment of Dearness Allowance effective from 1st July, 1998 will be taken well before it becomes payable in September, 1998.

Leather Industry

5494. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether new markets are being explored for the leather industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT):

(a) yes, Sir.

(b) The countries like Australia, South Africa, Middle East and Latin America have been identified as new markets to have good potential for export of leather products. The Council for leather exports have participated in various fairs held in these countries in the last three years to boost country's exports. The Council has also sponsored a market study-cum-sales team to Venezuela, Peru and Chile during 1998-99.

Inflation Rate

5495. SHRI VITHAL TUPE:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of inflation has crossed double digit despite the measures taken by the Government to control it;

(b) if so, the weekly rate of wholesale price index and consumer price index of essential commodities during the last six months;

(c) the reasons for continuous increase in price indexes;

(d) the effect of rise in inflation rate on the wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities;

(e) the steps taken to check price rise and to control the rate of inflation; and

(f) the weekly inflation rate, point to point basis during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA):

(a) The annual inflation rate based on wholesale price index (WPI) rose to 7.6% as on 4th July 1998, but the inflation rate based on consumer price index for industrial workers (CPI-IW) rose to 10.5% in May 1998.

(b) to (d) whereas the WPI is available on weekly basis, the CPI-IW is available only on monthly basis. The increase in the price of essential commodities monitored through the two indices are listed below:

1988	Index		%Change	
	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI
	(Month Av.)			
	1	2	3	4
Jan.	370	361.5	6.6	8.8
Feb.	370	356.7	6.6	6.9
Mar.	365	352.7	5.8	5.4

	1	2	3	4	5
Apr.		369	356.6	6.8	7.0
May		377	362.3	10.3	8.5
June		N.A	368.0	N.A.	9.4

N.A. = Not available.

The main reason of uptrend in prices is the sharp increase in the prices of some seasonal commodities such as vegetables, fruits and edible oils.

(e) A number of policy instruments are put into effect by the Government to bring about moderation in the growth of prices. Fiscal prudence, check in money supply growth and supply side management of wage goods are the principal instruments operated by the Government to control inflationary pressures. Government has reduced duty on import of edible oil from 25% to 15% to facilitate large volume of import to support domestic availability. Government of the NCT of Delhi has prepared a scheme to supply onions and potatoes through the retail outlets of the DSCSC, Super Bazar, NCCF, Kendriya Bhandar and Mother Dairy.

(f) The weekly inflation rate based on WPI is listed below:

	WPI	% Change
1	2	3
03/01/98	338	5.6
10/01/98	339	6.0
17/01/98	338	5.7
24/01/98	338	5.7
31/01/98	338	5.3
07/02/98	338	5.4
14/02/98	338	5.1
21/02/98	337	4.7
28/02/98	336	4.7
07/03/98	337	4.8
14/03/98	337	4.9
21/03/98	337	5.2
28/03/98	337	5.3
04/04/98	339	5.3
11/04/98	340	5.5
18/04/98	341	5.9
25/04/98	342	5.9

1	2	3
02/05/98	343	6.5
09/05/98	344	6.6
16/05/98	343	6.4
23/05/98	344	6.5
30/05/98	344	6.7
06/06/98	344	6.5
13/06/98	345	6.7
20/06/98	346	6.9
27/06/98	348	7.4
04/07/98	349	7.6

Engagement of Counsels by ITDC

5496. SHRI VISHNU DATT VAIDYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the legal counsels engaged by the ITDC and the date of their engagement and the amount paid to each counsel;

(b) the amount spent on providing other facilities, if any to each counsel;

(c) whether any counsel or any other persons have been permitted to stay in ITDC Hotels/Motels free of charge; and

(d) if so, the names of such counsel/persons and the estimated amount involved in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) ITDC engage advocates from time to time depending upon necessity for legal cases. A statement showing the names of the advocates and the fee paid to them during the last two years is attached. The advocates were not provided any other facility except payment of the professional fee plus miscellaneous expenses.

(c) and (d) During the last two years Shri Ajay Kapoor, Advocate was allowed to stay at Hotel Agra Ashok free of charge as he was required to discuss legal matters with the unit management. The total amount involved for free of charge stay of Shri Ajay Kapoor was Rs. 6275/-.

Statement

The amount paid for professional fee plus misc. expenses to the advocates during the financial years 1996-97 and 1997-98

Sr. No.	Name of the Advocate	Amount Paid (in Rs.)	
		(1996-97)	(1997-98)
1		2	3
Hotel Ashok, New Delhi			
1.	Kamaljit Singh	29,474/-	22,450/-
2.	MD Marwah	6,168/-	3,518/-
3.	GP Upman	—	6,300/-
4.	Vandana Taneja	11,400/-	3,615/-
5.	Ajay Kapur	16,700/-	8,400/-
6.	Vinod Kumar	—	1,815/-
Hotel Kanishka, New Delhi			
1.	R P Sharma	8,585/-	—
2.	K P Gupta	10,440/-	—
3.	Atul Kumar	748/-	—
4.	Kamaljit Singh	9,655/-	19,300/-
5.	MD Marwah	6,445/-	3,849/-
6.	Vijay Kapur	8,400/-	—
7.	R K Arom	—	5,500/-
8.	Y Aggarwal & Co.	—	4,500/-
9.	D P Sharma	32,950	3,200/-
Hotel Samrat, New Delhi			
1.	K P Gupta	13,770/-	2,640/-
2.	R P Sharma	950/-	—
3.	Kamaljit Singh	810/-	1,485
4.	M D Marwah	—	17,552/-
5.	NK Mishra	—	3,500/-
6.	DP Sharma	—	30,800/-
Ashoka Airport Restt. IGI, New Delhi			
1.	Kailash Sharma	2,380	—
2.	Ajay Kapur	—	8,600
Hotel Ranjit, New Delhi			
1.	GP Upman	—	6,000/-

1	2	3	1	2	3
2. Ajay Kapur	16,600/-	2,400	3. P.P. Sharma	62,000/-	60,000/-
3. A K Singh	—	31,583/-	4. S.N. Bhandari	1,225	—
4. Vandana Taneja	—	9,036/-	5. AM Singhvi	98,450/-	2,80,500/-
5. R.P. Sharma	16,595/-	—	6. Madan Gera	4,150/-	3,250/-
6. K.P. Gupta	—	3,840	7. MD Marwah	3,580/-	—
7. Kamaljit Singh	3,615	1,805/-	8. Rajiv Atma Ram	38,000/-	—
Hotel Janpath, New Delhi			9. Naresh Kumar	2,300/-	—
1. Kailash Sharma	2,380/-	2,480/-	10. JB Dadachanji & Co.	1,37,500/-	—
2. Satpal Singh	1,500/-	—	11. SP Gupta	—	5,200/-
3. KP Gupta	550/-	—	12. Vandana Lekhi	—	2,700/-
4. RP Sharma	24,750/-	—	13. Namwar Singh	—	5,500/-
5. RS Dalal	550/-	—	14. Kailash Sharma	—	2,480/-
6. P.K. Bhasin	3,200/-	—	Ashok Travels & Tours, North, New Delhi		
7. Kamaljit Singh	—	11,250/-	1. Anjana Gosain	—	42,300/-
8. Ajay Kapur	—	45,000/-	Hotel Jaipur Ashok, Jaipur		
9. Karaniawala & Co.	—	22,118/-	1. Vinendra Agarwal	10,700/-	16,200/-
10. MD Marwah	—	748/-	2. NC Jain	6,850/-	—
11. T Andhra una	—	44,000/-	Hotel Lalitha Mahal Palace, Mysore		
12. AM Singhvi	—	44,000/-	1. AS Nataraj	10,650/-	—
Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi			2. J Purushotham	750/-	3,400/-
1. Bhasin & Co.	39,600/-	15,180/-	3. S Subbakrishna	3,000/-	2,500/-
2. K.P. Gupta	—	9,600/-	4. K Kasturi	—	12,000/-
Qutab Hotel, New Delhi			Hotel Khajuraho Ashok, Khajuraho		
1. Kamaljit Singh	5,130/-	1,025/-	1. CK Modi	1,520/-	1,500/-
2. R.P. Sharma	—	39,590	Hotel Jammu Ashok, Jammu		
3. AK Raina	3,850/-	—	1. Subhash Chander	1,300/-	—
4. Avadh Behari	16,500/-	—	2. Subhash Bhat	—	2,500/-
5. K.P. Gupta	—	8,700/-	3. Naresh Kumar	—	7,250/-
6. GP Upman	—	2,000/-	Hotel Airport Ashok, Calcutta		
7. Ajay Kapur	—	8,400/-	1. S K Das	1,530/-	14,520/-
8. A.K. Singh	—	8,334/-	2. Mir dual Vardan	3,300/-	12,957/-
9. D.P. Sharma	—	4,850/-	3. MN Saha	1,500/-	1,750/-
ITDC HQRS.			4. Arunav Bhosh	12,529/-	11,781/-
1. Ajay Kapur	2,48,000/-	2,04,000/-	5. Rameshwar Bhattacharji	8,500/-	5,000/-
2. K.P. Gupta	11,470/-	12,320/-	6. A K Shaw	1,496/-	—

1	2	3
7. S K Mukherjee	1,990/-	850/-
8. D.P. Sharma	4,000/-	—
9. Arvindo Ganguly	—	2,000/-
10. A.K. Saha	—	661/-
11. Mukesh Kumar	—	1,500/-

Bharatpur Forest Lodge, Bharatpur

1. Vizzy Agarwal	4,500/-	—
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Hotel Bodhgaya Ashok, Bodhgaya

1. Rudrades	700/-	—
2. Om Prakesh	—	1,000/-
3. Uma Sankar	—	3,000/-

Hotel Kalinga Ashok, Bhubaneswar

1. A.K. Dass	5,050/-	—
2. N.K. Mishra	—	35,050/-
3. A.K. Ratha	—	4,000/-
4. D.P. Sharma	—	3,250/-

RO (West) Mumbai

1. S.N. Desai	—	27,000/-
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Hotel Varanasi Ashok, Varanasi

1. S.K. Tripathi	5,737/-	10,550/-
2. US Gupta	3,200/-	—
3. Kamla Prasad Singh	5,795/-	3,055/-
4. Shamsher Bhadur Singh	500/-	—
5. SP Srivastav	625/-	3,447
6. Ajay Kumar	—	17,300/-
7. Kailash Sharma	—	4,860/-

Hotel Agra Ashok Agra

1. P.K. Sharma	—	2,990/-
2. K.P. Gupta	—	2,640/-
3. Manoj Kumar Rastogi	—	1,250/-

[*Translation*]**Durgawati Coal Mine Project**

5497. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of Durgawati Coal Mine Project near Rajhara Coal Mine of CCL in Palamu district of Bihar is pending for approval of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the underground storage capacity of coal of the proposed Durgawati Project alongwith the area proposed to be covered under this project;

(d) whether the Government have acquired the land coming under the said project; and

(e) if so, the time by which approval is likely to be granted to the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

[*English*]**National Savings Scheme**

5498. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount collected through the National Savings Scheme from Kerala during 1997-98;

(b) the total number of agents working in the State and the amount disbursed to them by way of commission during the above period;

(c) whether the Government are aware that inordinate delay is being experienced in disbursing the commission to the Agents;

(d) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken thereon;

(e) whether the Government propose to permit the Agents to handle receipts worth Rs. 2 lakhs as against Rs. 50,000 at a time.

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government propose to introduce any new schemes under National Savings Scheme to attract depositors; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The amount collected through various Small Savings Schemes (including PPF in Post Offices) from Kerala during 1997-98 upto March, 1998 Preliminary accounts reported by the Department of Posts is Rs. 1141.82 crores.

(b) The total number of agents working in the State are 12446 and the amount disbursed to them by way of commission during the above period is Rs. 18.91 crores.

(c) No, Sir, there are no inordinate delays. Sometimes delay in settling the commission claims to agents do occur due to bunching of a large number of claims from the agents.

(d) A Committee has been constituted by the Finance Minister to examine several issues relating to Small Savings

Schemes including rationalisation of the system of payment of commission to the agents. The report of the Committee is awaited.

- (e) There is no such proposal under consideration.
- (f) Question does not arise.

(g) and (h) The Committee referred to above in part (d) of the reply is also considering this issue. The report of the Committee is awaited.

Export Credit Guarantee on Agricultural Products

5499. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the United States has stopped the export credit guarantees on agricultural products;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

NABARD Loans to A.P.

5500. SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested NABARD for sanction of Rs. 75 crores to APCOB as interest free loan to help the Cooperative societies which in turn will extend relief to farmers affected by pests, droughts, etc;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the decision of NABARD thereto;
- (c) whether the NABARD and Commercial banks propose to grant moratorium on the loans of small and marginal farmers affected by drought etc;
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that Government of Andhra Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Bank (APCOB) had requested for sanction of assistance from NABARD to extend relief to farmers affected by pests, droughts, etc. which included an amount of Rs. 75 crores as interest free loan to APCOB to meet their administrative expenses including salaries. In response to these requests, NABARD had sanctioned credit limits for an amount of Rs. 162 crores on behalf of 14 District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) for conversion of short term crop loans into

medium term loans in respect of affected farmers. Further, NABARD has extended series of special concessions in its policy and operational norms as indicated below:

- (i) Deferment of interest payable by APCOB on Medium Term Conversion (MTC) loans and on rescheduled long term loans for a period of 2 years.
- (ii) Fixing a repayment period of 7 years including moratorium of 2 years for MTC (including rephasing) loan as against the normal policy of fixing 3 year repayment schedule;
- (iii) Sanctioning adequate short term credit limits to cooperative banks to enable them to extend fresh credit to farmers;
- (iv) Allowing fresh draws to APCOB on short term credits against bank's fresh loans disbursements, despite deficit in non-overdue cover to enable replenishment of its resources;
- (v) Relaxing the norm of restricting draws upto 50% of incremental lending to enable the cooperative banks to avail more concessional refinance from NABARD.

(c) and (d) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), banks have been instructed to grant moratorium on recovery of principal and interest in respect of loans of the affected farmers for a period of 2 years and the amount not collected during these 2 years would be rescheduled for a total period of 7 years excluding the initial moratorium period of 2 years. Further, NABARD has also agreed to consider reduction in State Governments share in the conversion from the normal level of 15% to 5% and increasing NABARD's share from normal level of 60% to 70%.

Schemes for Improving Exports

5501. DR. RAVI MALLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the incentives given to the export houses in the country during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) whether any proposals are pending with the Government regarding introduction of any new schemes for improving the exports; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The Government recognised Export Houses are entitled to freely transferable Special Import Licences as a percentage of their exports on FOB/NFE basis. Such Houses are also eligible for LUT facility in lieu of Bank Guarantee while making duty free imports under Duty Exemption Scheme. The Export Houses are also granted some market development assistance.

(b) and (c) There is no specific proposal as such pending with the Government for introduction of any new scheme. However, several proposals/suggestions are received from trade and industry for promoting exports on a regular basis.

All these suggestions are processed and appropriate decisions are taken thereon after due consultations.

Workman Employees Directors of Banks

5502. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of Workman Employee Directors in various banks; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to appoint Workman Employee Director against such vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The position of Workman Employee Director is vacant in 5 public sector banks. Action has already been initiated to fill up these vacancies.

Rupees Exchange Rate

5503. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether ADB in its annual report for 1997-98 suggested that some corrections are needed in the exchange rate of Rupee;

(b) If so, the details of suggestions; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) ADB in its Annual Report for 1997 indicated as follows:

"Apart from efforts to give a boost to economic growth, particularly industry growth, economic management in 1997 was dominated by concerns over the exchange rate and, at least by the latter part of the year, by efforts to limit contagion from the Asian Financial crisis. Monetary policy was eased further in April and October 97 to encourage credit offtake and boost industry growth. However, in November, the central bank tightened monetary policy in an effort to ease pressure on the rupee. Other than the exchange rate, the adverse impact of the crisis on the economy has been limited. Given the massive devaluation that have occurred in Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand and in order to maintain external competitiveness, some correction is possibly needed in the rupee's exchange rate."

(c) The exchange rate of the rupee in India is market determined. The RBI buys and sells foreign exchange in the foreign exchange market from time to time and suitable monetary policy measures are instituted, as and when necessary, to counter speculative pressures on the exchange rate and to ensure orderly foreign exchange market conditions.

Tourist Places of Manipur

5504. KUMARI KIM GANGTE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have any plan under consideration to increase tourist facilities in the tourist important areas of Manipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government is considering to remove the prevailing Restricted Area Permit system to boost Tourism in Manipur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Task Force on North East constituted by the Ministry of Tourism has identified a number of tourist places in Manipur for development of tourism infrastructure. Accordingly, during 97-98 four projects amounting to Rs. 186.11 lakhs were sanctioned to increase tourist facilities in the State.

(c) In order to give boost to tourism, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has recently opened up certain areas for tourists in the State of Manipur.

Special Additional Customs Duty

5505. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Revenue realised from Wind Energy Sector by way of customs duty during 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

(b) the envisaged collection by way of customs duty including newly introduced Special Additional Customs Duty for 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The import data is not maintained sector-wise and, therefore, the requisite information is not readily available. The information, however, is being collected.

[*Translation*]

Closure of Private Limited Companies

5506. SHRI SADASHIV RAO D. MANDLIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of private limited companies in regard to which closure orders have been issued by the Bureau of Industrial Finance and Reconstruction (BIFR) during the last five years; and

(b) the number of companies which have filed petitions in the court against this order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that 378 sick industrial companies in the private sector were recommended by it for winding up to the concerned High Court U/S 20(1) of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA) during the last five years (1.4.1993 to 31.3.1998). However, time and labour involved in furnishing names of these 378 sick industrial companies would not be commensurate with the results to be achieved.

(b) Section 20(1) of SICA empowers the BIFR to recommend winding up of unviable sick industrial companies. The winding up recommendations are sent to the concerned High Court for necessary action according to law. The BIFR has no further jurisdiction to deal with such cases unless remanded back by the High Court. BIFR has reported that no separate data on the petitions filed by the companies in the Courts is maintained by the BIFR.

[English]

High Power Committee on KVIC

5507. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any High Power Committee on Khadi and Village Industries Commission was appointed;

(b) if so, the schemes and programmes formulated on the recommendations thereof;

(c) whether the Commission is directly providing funds to the entrepreneurs;

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

(e) whether any provision has been made by the Commission for providing loans to the women entrepreneurs also; and

(f) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per recommendations of High Power Committee, KVIC formulated a programme known as the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) for creating 2 million additional employment. As part of this programme, it also launched a scheme in the name of Margin Money Scheme for financing viable V.I. projects.

(c) Yes, Sir. KVIC provides funds to individual as well as institutional entrepreneurs for village industry projects through its Margin Money Scheme.

(d) Details of Industry-wise projects directly financed by KVIC under its village industries programme upto 30.6.98 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) There is no separate earmarking of funds for women entrepreneurs. KVIC provides additional 5% Margin Money in the case of women entrepreneurs and women institutions.

(f) In view of reply at (e) above, question does not arise.

Statement

Position of projects/funds sanctioned and disbursed as on 30.6.1998

(Amount Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of Industry	No. of Projects Sanctioned			Amount Sanctioned			Amount Disbursed		
		Instt.	Indv.	Total	Instt.	Indv.	Total	Instt.	Indv.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Rural Engg.	7	6	13	44.105	30.908	75.013	11.204	7.137	18.341
2.	PCPI	33	13	46	316.82	89.82	406.64	108.89	16.81	125.70
3	Lime	5	4	9	38.73	30.18	68.91	18.118	-	18.118
4.	Fibre	-	1	1	-	2.07	2.07	-	1.50	1.50
5.	Palmgur	-	1	1	-	3.56	3.56	-	2.195	2.195
6.	FVPI	6	5	11	79.06	24.42	103.48	29.59	10.764	40.354
7.	G&K	1	12	13	5.50	7.89	13.39	-	-	-
8.	Leather	22	4	26	11.42	5.651	17.071	-	-	-
9.	Plastic	2	3	5	27.15	24.439	51.589	-	73.84	73.84
10.	Beekeeping	-	3	3	3.55	10.99	14.54	-	2.73	2.73

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11.	CMI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.	NSI	6	2	8	36.415	4.52	40.935	13.317	-	13.317
13.	Pottery	9	10	19	56.64	49.50	106.14	5.681	6.473	12.154
14.	HMPI	7	6	13	121.10	28.90	150.00	46.64	23.05	69.69
15.	VOI	7	9	16	52.50	40.86	93.36	-	3.744	3.744
16.	Electronics	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17.	MPI	6	1	7	52.11	6.12	58.23	12.31	-	12.31
18.	FBI	-	-	-	13.50	-	13.50	-	-	-
Total		97	80	177	857.60	359.828	1218.428	245.75	148.23	393.993

Protection of Multinational Companies

5508. SHRI P.R. KONDIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

(a) Whether in the wake of widespread attack on multinationals in India, the Centre has altered the States to afford protection to all MNCs;

(b) whether the Government considers these attacks as a retaliation by the local activist groups against the economic sanctions imposed by the some developed countries;

(c) if so, the major MNCs which are under threat and whether any of these have threatened to pull out of the country if this anti-MNC belligerence persists; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to woo back the prospective for overseas investors who are now disillusioned over the recent Moody's rating?

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

Use of Low Ash Yielding Coal

5509. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of usage of low ash yielding coal in the country;

(b) the source of availability of that coal;

(c) the impact of low ash yielding coal on the atmosphere, like acid rain;

(d) whether there are any restrictions on the usage of the high yielding low ash coal in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The various usage of low ash coals in the country are:

- (i) Coal dust injection in blast furnace
 - (ii) Reduction smelting of iron ore
 - (iii) Low ash Met. coke making
 - (iv) Carbon artefacts
 - (v) Blending
 - (vi) Hydrogeneration
 - (vii) Combustion
- (b) The various sources of availability of low ash yielding coals in the country are:
- (i) Raniganj field (Samla-Jambad)
 - (ii) South Karanpura (Hutar/Daltonganj)
 - (iii) Giridih
 - (iv) Chirimiri
 - (v) Bishrampur
 - (vi) Mukum, Dilli, Joypore (Assam)
 - (vii) Kalakot, Jangalgali (J&K)

(c) Acid rain incidence is related to generation of sulphur-di-oxide during combustion which again is related to the sulphur levels in the coal and not to the ash percentage as such. Though low ash coals of Assam are high in sulphur, they are not used to an substantial extent in power generation.

(d) and (e) According to Coal India Limited there is no restriction on the usage of low ash Indian coals. Only in steel plants coal blend, SAIL has restricted the use of low ash Assam coal to the extent of 5% of coal blend for coke making.

Budgetary Support to Hindustan Photo Film

5510. SHRI M. MASTER MATHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are providing any budgetary support to the Hindustan Photo Films in view of severe financial crunch faced by the company till finalisation of Revival package for the company to meet the wage bill of its employees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) and (b) Government has provided following budgetary support to Hindustan Photo Films during the last five years:

Rs. in Crores			
Year	Plan	Non-Plan	VRS
1993-94	—	12.00	4.25
1994-95	40.54	—	5.00
1995-96	35.00	—	2.00
1996-97	6.16	29.50	1.50
1997-98	2.50	—	3.35

Wage Revision of Bank Employees

5511 SHRI DEVENDRA BAHADUR ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the wage revision of bank employees became due in September, 1997 but no action has been taken to revise the wages of the bank employees so far;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in revising their wages; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to revise the wages of the bank employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) The Sixth Bipartite Settlement on wage revision in the banking industry covered the period from 1.11.92 to 31.10.97. Indian Banks' Association and the representative Unions/Associations of Bank employees have had some rounds of discussions on the subsequent wage revision.

Increase in Non-Plan Expenditure of ITDC

5512. SHRI SURENDRAN CHENGARA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether non-plan expenditure in ITDC Units/ Divisions has increased during the last three years on accounts of entertainment expenses, foreign tours, consumption of petrol, telephones, frequent and avoidable renovations of officer's flats, staff cars, overtime and conveyance etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by ITDC to control the non-plan expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) The details of non-plan expenditure (Operating Expenditure) vis-a-vis turnover for the last three years are given below:

(Rs. in Crores)			
Year	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Total Non-plan Expenditure	226.40	236.50	255.13
Turnover	298.05	315.90	310.21
%age of non-plan expenditure to turnover	75.95	74.86	82.24

The increase in the percentage of non-plan expenditure during 1997-98 is attributed mainly to decline in business turnover due to slowing down of the economy, lower turnout of business travellers, currency crisis in South East Asian countries and a general increase in the cost of inputs. In addition, due to the revision of salaries on account of the implementation of Fifth Pay Commission recommendations and enhancement of Provident Fund and Gratuity contributions the Non-Plan Expenditure has increased.

(c) The measures taken/being taken by ITDC to control non-plan expenditure include regular monitoring/review by way of budgetary control, management information system, observation of economy in various operational areas and computerisation of activities.

Purchase of Computers by Oriental

Insurance Corporations

5513. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Regional Office of Oriental Insurance Corporation of India, New Delhi had purchased computers on higher price than that of open market price with the connivance of Senior Officers during the last three years;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon during the above period and the criteria fixed for the purchase;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(d) If so, the findings thereof and the action taken against the officials found guilty;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the misuse of public funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) The Oriental Insurance Company Limited has reported that their Regional Office, New Delhi have not purchased any computer during the last three years.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centres

5514. SHRI K.P. NAIDU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether crafts persons of Murshidabad, Nadia, Midnapore, 24 Paraganas, North and South Purulia districts are required to traverse through Calcutta to reach the Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centre located at Burdwan requiring an additional day's journey and causing loss of earning to them; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to help the craftspersons to obviate such long journeys?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) There are 47 Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centres in the country. Consequently, some craftsmen, including those in the State of West Bengal, may take longer time to reach these centres. In case of West Bengal, those craftspersons for whom Calcutta is closer, may avail of services provided by Regional Office and Regional Design Technical Development Centre, of the office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) in Calcutta. Efforts are also being made to open some more Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centre in the country. Interaction is also being held with craftspersons during tours of officials of the office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts).

[*Translation*]

Permission to Sale of Mill Land

5515. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have given permission to sell land of sick textile mills with the condition that earning therefrom proposed to be used for their revival;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith name and number of such sick textile mills granted permission so far;

(c) whether the Government are aware that some clashes occurred in Mumbai as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) As per the Revised Turn Around Strategy for the NTC mills approved by the Government in 1995, 79 mills were proposed to be taken up for modernisation at an investment

of Rs. 2005.72 crores to be raised from sale proceeds of surplus lands and other assets available with the NTC mills, mostly in Mumbai.

However, this strategy did not take off due to non-receipt of permission from the Government of Maharashtra for sale of surplus lands. The other reasons for non-implementation of the strategy was the reference of 3 subsidiary corporations of NTC to BIFR.

(c) Government is not aware of any such clashes in Mumbai in respect of NTC mills.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Grant-in-Aid from Consolidated Fund of India

5516. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States having scheduled areas under Article 244(1) has prepared schemes of development of Scheduled Tribes in that States and for raising the level of administration of scheduled areas therein to that of the administration of the rest of the area of that State and sent to the Government of India for approval under first proviso of Article 275 to receive grant-in-aid from the consolidated Fund of India;

(b) if so, the names of those States; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) No specific proposals have been received during the current year from the 8 States having Scheduled Areas: these States are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan. However, Government of India are giving grants to 22 States having tribal population including the 8 States having Scheduled Areas. These grants are given under the First Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution to meet the cost of projects for Tribal Development, and for raising the level of administration of the Scheduled Areas to that of the rest of the State. The pattern of assistance is 100% grant.

(c) Since 1997-98 a part of the funds provided under Article 275(1) of the Constitution is being utilised for the setting up of 100 Residential Schools in States and Union Territories, for tribal students, having classes 6 to 12. Also, a sum of Rs. 250 crores is being provided during the 9th Five Year Plan period to enable the tribal students to avail of the facility of reservation in higher and professional courses of education as well as in jobs at higher levels in Government and in PSUs.

Commercial Activities

5517. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have noticed considerable decline in the commercial activities/business

due to the collapse of Eastern European Socialist countries and their Socialist Governments in the past; and

(b) if so, the estimated loss due to the above facts?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The Union Government have noticed a fluctuation in Bilateral Trade due to the transitional phase of economic

restructuring in the countries of Eastern Europe subsequent to their efforts to adopt a market regulated economy.

(b) It is difficult to quantify the estimated losses in the context of economic restructuring by the countries of Eastern Europe. The detailed trade statistics is given below as per figures provided by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics.

(Value in US\$ million)

Year	Exports	%age variation	Imports	%age Variation
1990-91	314.60	—	462.13	—
1991-92	312.71	- 0.60	271.17	- 41.32
1992-93	207.41	- 33.67	299.83	10.57
1993-94	207.57	0.08	182.91	- 38.99
1994-95	155.99	- 24.85	218.41	19.41
1995-96	195.87	25.57	450.71	106.36
1996-97	187.24	- 4.41	325.96	- 27.68
1997-98	194.20	3.72	214.01	- 34.34

[Translation]

Printing of VDIS Forms

5518. SHRI ADITYANATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various forms for the Voluntary Disclosures of Income Scheme have been printed in English only not bilingually;

(b) if so, the reasons for violating the rules; and

(c) the action taken against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) No Sir. The statutory forms under the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme, 1997 to be filled up by the declarants were printed bilingually.

(b) and (c) Answers to these parts of the question do not arise in view of answer to part (a) of the question.

[English]

Khalsa Panth

5519. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme or plan to encourage tourists during the celebrations of 300 year of the foundation of "Khalsa Panth"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the provision of Central financial assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b): The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 97.64 lakhs for the construction of a Tourist Reception Centre at Anadnpur Sahib, Punjab during 1998-99.

Import of Raw Cashew

5520. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum and value of raw cashew imported during 1997-98;

(b) the countries from which raw cashew are imported;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala imported cashew during the above period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) 2,41,495 M.T.* of cashew nuts valued at Rs. 781 crores were imported during 1997-98.

(b) The major sources of imports* are Tanzania, Guinea Bisu, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Mozambique, Benin, Nigeria.

(c) and (d) The Kerala State Cashew Development Corpn. Ltd. has imported the following quantity/value of raw cashew during 1997-98 £.

- (i) 5019.245 M.T. Ivory Coast origin from West Africa @ US \$ 700/MT (i.e. Rs. 25,630/- M.T.)
- (ii) 7527.684 M.T., Guinea Bisu, Origin from West Africa @ US \$ 975/- MT (i.e. Rs. 38145/- M.T.)

* Figures in respect of (a) are Provisional and the sources is DGCI&S, Calcutta.

** Source for (b) is Cashew Export promotion Council, Cochin & Source for (c) and (d) is Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation Ltd.

- Improvement in quality of iodised salt;
- Improvement in quality monitoring mechanism at production sources;
- Creating awareness on consequences of iodine deficiency disorders and benefit of consumption of iodised salt.

[*English*]

Strike by Custom Agents Employees

5522. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the custom agents employees in Bombay went on strike in June 1998 for one week;
- (b) if so, the demands of the workers and the impact of the strike on the operation of the Bombay ports; and
- (c) the manner in which the strike was finally settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, the Customs House Agents' employees in Mumbai were on strike from 12/6/98 to 18/6/98 raising some demands regarding their service condition with their employers, as a result of which the work in ports and Customs clearance was affected. The strike was called off after the parties agreed to have the conciliation proceedings before Deputy Chief Commissioner (Labour) of the State Government.

Disinvestment of Shares

5523. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the price per share realised in all disinvestments in central public sector enterprises so far;
- (b) the total number of shares disinvested in each PSU and the total amount realised; and
- (c) the number of proceeds of disinvestment have been utilised/set apart to fund other PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) A statement is annexed.

(c) The entire proceeds of disinvestment so far has been credited to the Consolidated Fund of India. The Government has also decided that 10% of the revenue generated through Disinvestment may be kept earmarked for an investment Fund which is to be used for strengthening of Public Sector Enterprises.

[*Translation*]

Funds Received from UNICEF for Salt

5521. SHRI CHANDRASEKHAR SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount received so far from the UNICEF by the Department of Salt;
- (b) the names of items on which this amount has been spent; and
- (c) the fields in which achievements have been made by utilising the said amount?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Salt Department received Rs. 67,73,292/- from UNICEF during the period from 1993-94 to 1997-98 under the Government of India — UNICEF Work Plan on Universal Salt Iodisation.

(b) This amount has been spent on various activities/programmes covered under the following broad categories:-

- Information, Education and Communication activities;
- National/Regional/State Level meetings, seminars and workshops;
- Strengthening of quality monitoring system at production sources;
- Assistance to small salt producers by way of free supply of iodisation plants, crushers and iodising chemical (potassium iodate);
- Commissioning of studies/situation analysis on the availability, quality and prices of iodised salt in the selected States;

(c) Achievements have been made in following field by utilising the amount received from UNICEF:

- Increase in iodisation capacity and production of iodised salt;
- Increase in demand of iodised salt;

Sl. No.	Name of the PSE	1991-92		1992-93 to 97-98		
		No. of shares sold in (lakhs)	Amount Realised in (Crores)	No. of shares sold in (lakhs)	Amount Realised in (Crores)	Average Price per share in (Rs.)
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
1.	Andrew Yule	10.15	—	0.00	0.00	—
2.	Bharat Earthmovers Ltd.	60.00	—	15.00	48.27	321.80
3.	Bharat Electronics Ltd.	160.00	—	33.10	47.17	142.50
4.	Bharat Heavy Electrical Ltd.	489.52	—	280.41	309.55	110.39
5.	Bharat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	100.00	—	50.00	331.18	622.36
6.	Bongaigaon Refineries Ltd.	399.61	—	107.91	45.40	42.07
7.	CMC Ltd.	25.28	—	0.00	0.00	—
8.	Cochin Refineries Ltd.	42.19	—	0.00	0.00	—
9.	Container Corpn. of India Ltd.	—	—	149.81	113.83	75.98
10.	Dredging Corpn. of India Ltd.	4.02	—	0.00	0.00	—
11.	Engineers India Ltd.	—	—	10.78	67.53	626.43
12.	Fert. & Chem (Travancore) Ltd.	52.32	—	5.00	1.30	26.00
13.	Gas Authority of India Ltd.	—	—	285.29	194.12	68.04
14.	HMT Ltd.	42.68	—	42.28	23.38	55.29
15.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	16.69	—	0.00	0.00	—
16.	Hindustan Copper Ltd.	—	—	34.11	8.07	23.65
17.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	98.70	—	0.00	0.00	—
18.	Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	127.68	—	108.53	894.96	824.62
19.	Hindustan Phtofilms Mfg. Co. Ltd.	191.90	—	0.00	0.00	—
20.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	807.46	—	209.74	81.55	38.88
21.	Indian Oil Corpn. Ltd.	—	—	145.03	1033.65	712.71
22.	India Petro Chemicals Corpn. Ltd.	372.00	—	0.00	0.00	—
23.	IRCON International Ltd.	0.13	—	0.00	0.00	—
24.	Indian Tele. Industries Ltd.	175.38	—	17.00	15.63	91.94
25.	India Tourism & Dev. Corpn.	—	—	67.51	51.99	77.01
26.	Kudremukh Iron & Ore Com. Ltd.	—	—	61.63	11.40	18.49
27.	Madras Refineries Ltd.	193.16	—	0.00	0.00	—
28.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	1200.00	—	1256.27	2364.07	188.18
29.	Minerals & Metals Trading Corpn. Ltd.	3.34	—	0.00	0.00	—
30.	National Aluminium Co. Ltd.	351.00	—	1299.15	244.30	18.80

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
31.	National Fertilizers Ltd.	111.63	—	3.77	1.00	26.52
32.	National Mineral Deve. Corpn. Ltd.	0.00	—	21.40	17.88	83.55
33.	Neyveli Lignite Corpn.	717.91	—	325.74	70.43	21.62
34.	Oil & Natural Gas Corpn.	—	—	70.50	1056.67	1498.82
35.	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fert. Ltd.	311.36	—	102.37	30.36	29.65
36.	Shipping Corpn. of India Ltd.	522.46	—	38.64	28.08	72.67
37.	State Trading Corpn.	23.93	—	3.00	2.26	75.00
38.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	1990.75	—	2280.06	736.06	32.28
39.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	120.00	—	379.00	971.79	
Total		8721.25	3038.00@	7063.03	8209.09	

@ As in 1991-92 the shares were sold in bundles the amount realised PSU wise is not available.

Stagnation in Engineering Cadre

5524. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Group 'A' officers in Engineering Cadre recruited through Combined Engineering Services Examination who joined the erstwhile DGTD and now working in the Ministry of Industry are stagnating in the pre-revised scale of Rs. 3000-4500 for the last 15-23 years;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the 5th CPC have made specific recommendation for upgradation of 10 posts of Development Officers (Rs. 3000-4500) as Senior Development Officers (Rs. 3700-5000);

(d) whether it has also been accepted to promote CPWD engineers to the scale of Rs. 4500-5700 on completion of 13 years service in Group 'A' and it is applicable to all engineering cadres in the Government of India (Para 50-45 of Report); and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government to implement these recommendations regarding Group 'A' Engineering Cadre Officers of the erstwhile DGTD?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) Group 'A' officers in the Engineering cadre recruited through the combined Engineering Services Examination and working in the erstwhile Directorate General of Technical Development (DGTD), have been relocated/ transferred to user Ministries after the DGTD was wound up in March, 1994. Since Ministry of Industry did not have any Technical Officers, prior to the winding up of the DGTD, the Technical Officers transferred to this Ministry continue as a separate cadre governed by the separate rules for appointment/promotion etc.

(c) to (e) The 5th Central Pay Commission (CPC) has recommended that 10 posts of Development Officers may be upgraded as Senior Development Officers in respect of the Ministry of Industry. The 5th CPC recommendation regarding CPWD Engineers has been accepted by the Government. However, this does not apply, suo motto, to all Engineering cadres because the 5th CPC has also specifically recommended that the need for maintaining the cadre of Technical Officers in the Ministry of Industry may be reviewed by the Ministry.

[Translation]

Tenders by Coal Companies

5525. SHRI LARANG SAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited who have floated tenders in respect of the developmental works to be undertaken under World Bank Scheme;

(b) the utility of floating the tenders; and

(c) the potential of the coal mines selected for developmental works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) and Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) have floated tenders in respect of works undertaken under the World Bank Scheme.

(b) The purpose of floating the tenders is to provide opportunities to all bonafide agencies to participate in the tender and to enable the coal company to execute the work at a reasonable as well as competitive cost.

(c) 24 coal mines will be developed under the Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project (CSR) to create an ultimate production capacity of 87.5 million tonnes per annum.

[English]

I.T. Scheme, Under New Economic Criteria

5526. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have recently launched a new scheme for filing up of Income Tax Return under new economic criteria by I.T. payers in a number of cities;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the names of the cities;

(c) Whether I.T. payers living in satellite towns around Delhi namely Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Noida and Gurgaon have come under the ambit of this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) With a view to widening the tax base, a new initiative is being taken to extend and expand the provisions relating to obligatory filing of return of income on the basis of economic criteria. The relevant proposal in the Finance (No. 2) Bill, 1998 has added two more criteria to the existing four criteria and the obligation to file the return would be on fulfilling any one of the six criteria namely;

- (i) Occupation of an immovable property of specified floor area by way of ownership, tenancy or otherwise;
- (ii) Ownership or lease of a motor vehicle;
- (iii) Subscription of a telephone;
- (iv) Foreign travel;
- (v) Holding of credit card not being an add-on card; and
- (vi) Membership of a club where entrance fee charged is twenty-five thousand rupees or more.
- (vii) The revised proposal is known as 'One-by-Six' Scheme. The revised scheme, when the Finance Bill is enacted, would be applicable to 12 cities and their urban agglomerations already notified. It is also further proposed to notify 23 more cities including their urban agglomerations. They are: Agra, Allahabad, Bhopal, Coimbatore, Dhanbad, Indore, Jabalpur, Jamshedpur, Kalyan, Kochi, Kozhikode, Lucknow, Madurai, Meerut, Nagpur, Patna, Surat, Thane, Trivandrum, Vadodara, Varanasi, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam.

(c) and (d) Urban agglomerations of Delhi as notified includes tax-payers residing in satellite towns around Delhi, namely, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Noida.

Dual Tariff Policy

5527. SHRI SODE RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to abolish the "Dual Tariff Policy" with regard to approved hotel accommodation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the logic for this proposal;

(c) the reasons behind this policy;

(d) whether the concerned industry were consulted on the ramifications of this move; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) to (e) The Ministry of Tourism has advised the approved hotels to charge single tariff both in foreign currencies as well as in Indian Rupees. Some of the hotels have gone to the court against this decision. The matter is sub-judice.

[Translation]

Loans and Grants for Boosting Export

5528. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are extending loans in the form of grants and subsidy for promoting export from the country as well as for setting up institutions outside the country for monitoring export potential abroad; and

(b) if so, the estimated amount spent under each of the above mentioned heads during each of the last three years.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Commerce provides assistance from Market Development Assistance (MDA) Fund as 'Export Subsidy' for disbursement of Deemed Export/Central Excise Duty/Terminal Excise Duty/Duty Drawback benefits and reimbursement of Central Sales Tax etc., to the exporters and 'Grant-in-Aid' to Export Promotion Councils and grantee organisations to promote trade and utilise the country's export potential.

Year-wise expenditure incurred as Export Subsidy and Grant-in-Aid during the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Head	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Export Subsidy	302.00	377.50	420.61
Grant-in-Aid	16.00	19.82	20.67

*[English]***Foreign Currency Seized by Bombay Customs**

5529. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some employees of Air India were arrested by the customs officers in Mumbai after a large amount of foreign currency was seized from their residence; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, an employee working in the Operations Department of Air India, Mumbai, was arrested in May 98 alongwith one of his accomplice, after seizure of foreign currency from his residence.

(b) The details of the above case are that based on an information, the residential premises of Shri Ajay Gurudasmal Rohra, working as Executive Secretary in the Operations Department of Air India, Mumbai, situated at Santa Cruz (East) were searched on 8.5.98 by officers of Customs Preventive Mumbai, which resulted in the recovery and seizure of assorted foreign currencies equivalent to Rs. 58.07 lakhs. Shri Ajay Gurudasmal Rohra was arrested on 9.5.98. Further investigations led to the arrest of one of his accomplice—one Shri Manoj Khatwani of Malad(Mumbai) on 4.6.98, for his involvement in the said case. Both of them were subsequently released on bail by the Mumbai High Court. Further investigations are in progress.

*[Translation]***Employment of Child Labour in Carpet Industry**

5530. SHRI C.D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several European countries have imposed a ban on the import of Indian Carpets on the issue of child labour causing adverse effect on the export of Indian Carpets;

(b) whether efforts have been made by the Government to liberate the child labourers involved in carpet trade and to rehabilitate them; and

(c) if so, the details of the progress made in these efforts, State-wise particularly in Gujarat?

MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) There is no information with the Government of a ban by any European country on the import of Indian Carpets on the issue of Child Labour.

(b) and (c) A major programme was launched by the Government in August, 1994 for the rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations, including carpet industry. So far 76 National Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned, including two projects for the districts of Surat and Panchmahals in the State of Gujarat, for the rehabilitation of 1.5 lakh

children. As per the available information, 1.05 lakh children have already been enrolled under this project. A major activity undertaken in the Child Labour Project is the setting up of special schools with provision for non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend, etc. Children withdrawn from hazardous occupations including carpet industry, are put in these special schools for their rehabilitation. The Supreme Court has also given a number of directions in the judgement dated 10.12.96 for the rehabilitation of children withdrawn from hazardous occupations, including carpet. Most of the child labour endemic States have already taken steps as per the directions of the Supreme Court.

The Carpet Export Promotion Council has also set up 24 schools in eastern part of Uttar Pradesh for the children weaned away from the carpet industry to provide them non-formal education and mid-day meal facility.

*[English]***Changes in Housing Laws**

5531. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to amend the housing loan laws to enhance powers of financial institutions to mortgage in case of default by the loan takers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) National Housing Bank (NHB) in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is preparing draft proposals for amending certain provisions of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987 with a view inter-alia to enable housing finance institutions to recover their dues speedily from the defaulting borrowers.

It is not feasible at present to indicate a time frame within which the legislation in this regard would be introduced.

*[Translation]***Cheating of Investors in Capital Market**

5532. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD) :

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints in regard to cheating of investors in the capital market;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government against such companies;

(c) whether the Government propose to constitute special courts to hear the complaints against the companies/institutes cheating the investors;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said courts are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has been established under the SEBI Act, 1992, for among other things, to protect the interests of investors in securities. All investor complaints received by the Government are forwarded to SEBI for appropriate action.

(c) to (e) At present Government does not have any such proposal.

Patent to Darjeeling Tea

5533. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to get the patent right of Darjeeling tea; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be got patented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Agreement on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights, patent is available for any invention which is new, involve an inventive step and is capable of industrial application.

Darjeeling Tea is not a new product and its production does not involve inventive steps. It cannot therefore be regarded as an invention eligible for patent protection unless a new product variety is developed out of germplasm which represents an inventive step.

[English]

Self Immolation by Tobacco Farmers

5534. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tobacco farmers in Andhra Pradesh attempted self immolation in the precincts of ITC, Devarapally in June, 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to help them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No, Sir,

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

United Bank of India

5535. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of loans disbursed by the United Bank of India in Assam amounting to Rs. one lakh and above without any tangible security during each of the last three years;

(b) the percentage of loan amount given to SC/ST applicants in the State against the total amount of advance;

(c) whether there is any stipulated time limit to sanction the loan;

(d) if so, whether these instructions are strictly adhered to;

(e) if not whether there is any monitoring system; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) United Bank of India has reported that as per the policy of the bank, loans amounting to Rs. One Lakh and above are not sanctioned without obtaining tangible security.

(b) The percentage of loan amount given to SC/ST applicants out of the total amount of loans disbursed during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 by United Bank of India in Assam is given below:

(Amount in Crore)

Year	Total Loans Disbursed	Of which to SC/ST (Percentage)
1995-96	26.52	7.8
1996-97	33.31	10.7
1997-98	38.00	9.5

(c) to (f) As reported by United Bank of India, the time limit stipulated to sanction bank loans from the time complete information is furnished to the bank is given below:

Loan proposal for amount up to Rs. 25,000/:	15 days
Loan proposal for amount above Rs. 25,000/ :	8-9 weeks

The Regional Managers of the bank are monitoring compliance of these time limits.

C. & A.G. Report

5536. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Comptroller and Auditor General in a recent report has pointed out about the under assessment of tax and customs revenue loss;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any probe has been caused into customs and revenue losses pointed out by C'AG;

(d) whether the Government are aware of large scale imports made without payment or with underassessment of customs, in connivance with customs authorities and others on duty at different points of import of goods;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) of India in its report for the year ended March, 1997 has pointed out under-assessment of direct taxes of Rs. 3392.51 crore and non-levy/short levy of customs duty of Rs. 4108.32 crores.

(c) All cases reported by C&AG are examined individually, and remedial action is taken wherever found necessary.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Legislation on Geographical Indicators

5537. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a draft legislation for draft registration of geographical indication of goods has been prepared;

(b) if so, the purpose thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has consulted all authorities concerned before formulating the legislation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) The Ministry is in the process of preparing a draft legislation for the registration and protection of

geographical indication of goods. The purpose of the legislation is to provide intellectual property right protection to goods having geographical indications and to meet India's commitments under the WTO Agreement. Concerned Ministries/Departments, lawyers and exporters are being consulted in formulating the legislation. No date has yet been decided for introducing a Bill for this legislation in the Parliament.

Action Taken Report on Securities Scam

5538. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the revised paragraphs of the Action Taken Report on the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee to enquire into irregularities in securities and banking transactions, dissatisfaction was expressed by the Parliamentary Committee on the "mere noting of adverse comments about influencing Government Officers and Ministers by Fairgrowth Financial Services Ltd. by inducement through promoters' shares;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government, through the CBI, has since then initiated any action against any Minister who obtained promoters' shares from the said Fairgrowth Financial Services Ltd.;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reason for not taking any action by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (e) Recommendation at serial No. 25 in the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee which enquired into irregularities in securities and banking transactions related to inter-alia offering of high value shares at face value by Fair Growth Financial Services Ltd. (FFSL). The reply of the Government in respect of the above recommendation in the revised paragraphs of the Action Taken Report which was laid in the Parliament in December, 1994 after taking into account suggestions received from various opposition parties in the parliament inter-alia reads as under:

"As regards allotment of shares of FFSL to Government Officers, in respect of Central Civil Services Employees instructions already exist to the effect that Government Servants should not purchase shares out of the quota reserved for friends and associates of Directors of Companies. As there were no specific and explicit instructions to this effect for All India Service Officers, the Department of Personnel and Training has issued similar instructions in respect of All India Services in January, 1993. The list of officials holding shares from the Promoters Quota as received from the CBI was circulated by the Department of Personnel and Training to all Ministries/

Departments for taking appropriate action in the light of the instructions issued by the Department of Personnel and Training and the relevant Conduct Rules.

As regards the officials of the banks, Government have issued instructions in March, 1993 prohibiting investments in acquisition of shares/debentures etc. out of preferential/ reserve quota, such as Promoter's Quota. In respect of past cases of acquisition of shares/debentures out of preferential quota, the banks were advised to examine each case on merits. In cases where prima-facie it could be established that misuse of official position was involved, the banks were advised to take necessary disciplinary action against the concerned officials."

As regards purchasing of Promoter's Quota Shares of FFSL by Ministers, the Code of Conduct of the Ministers does not specifically forbid acquisition of shares from the Promoter's Quota reserved for friends and associates of Directors of Companies.

Smuggling of Sandalwood

5539. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have any data about the smuggling of sandalwood to India; and
(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) The Government do not have any information about the smuggling of sandalwood to India, in recent years.

- (b) Nil, in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Industrially Backward District

5540. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Union Government propose to issue an ordinance for declaring some districts in the country as industrially backward districts and to encourage industrial development there;
(b) whether some districts of Maharashtra, Gujarat and certain other States are industrially backward and there is no industrial development for local employment;
(c) if so, the number of districts selected as per the survey; and
(d) the type of assistance and package that the Government proposes to give to these undeveloped and industrially backward districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) No, Sir. The Government have already notified industrially backward districts falling into category A and category B of industrially backward districts. (Copies of notification have been placed before the Rajya Sabha on 2.4.98 and the Lok Sabha on 5.6.98). For encouraging industrial development in these districts, the Finance Bill (No. 2) 1998 proposes to extend fiscal benefits upto 31.3.2000.

- (b) and (c) Under the Income-tax Act, Category 'A' and Category 'B' industrially backward districts identified in the two specified states are:

Gujarat

Dangs	(Category A)
Banaskantha	(Category B)
Sabarkantha	(Category B)

Maharashtra

Gadchiroli	(Category A)
Beed	(Category B)

The total number of category A and category B industrially backward districts is 53 and 70 respectively, in the country.

- (d) In the Income-tax-Act, it is proposed to extend two-tier fiscal incentives to undertakings set up in industrially backward districts upto 31.3.2000. Category A industrially backward districts are entitled to a five year tax-holiday and a deduction of 25% from the profits and gains of an undertaking (30% in the case of a company) for the next five years. Category B industrially backward districts are entitled to a three year tax-holiday and a deduction of 25% from the profits and gains of an undertaking (30% in the case of companies).

[English]

Heavy Industry

5541. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:
SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether most of the heavy industries in Public Sector have not achieved the production target fixed for the years 1996-97 and 1997-98;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(c) the percentage of production capacity utilised by these units during each of the last three years; and
(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) and (b) A statement showing the target and achievement of production by public sector undertakings (PSUs) under the Department of Heavy Industry during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 is enclosed. Reasons for shortfall in achievement of the target by some of these PSUs include obsolescence of plant, machinery and technology, low productivity, lack of orders and shortage of working capital etc.

(c) Keeping in view the varied product mix particularly of engineering units and the availability of resources in terms of shop capacity etc. the performance is measured in relation to the target fixed for the year, as well as achievements of past year.

(d) Steps taken to improve performance include providing assistance in securing orders, Working capital support, assistance towards selective modernisation and debottlenecking etc.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of PSU	1996-97 (Target)	1996-97 (Actual)	% achieve- ment	1997-98 (Target)	1997-98 (Actual prov.)	% achieve- ment
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andrew Yule & Company Ltd.	368.35	238.00	64.61	370.41	245.61	66.30
2.	Hooghly Printing Co. Ltd.	2.76	2.61	94.56	3.10	2.21	71.29
3.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	4750.00	5755.00	121.15	5850.00	6450.00	110.25
4.	Burn Standard Co. Ltd.	294.31	245.27	83.33	322.40	249.60	77.42
5.	Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd.	10.50	10.52	100.00	14.36	12.80	89.13
6.	Reyrolle Burn Ltd.	3.50	2.37	67.71	3.50	2.81	80.28
7.	Jessop & Company Ltd.	146.56	62.80	42.85	143.93	48.37	33.67
8.	Braithwaite & Company Ltd.	137.71	143.46	104.17	191.28	159.08	83.16
9.	Bharat Wagon & Engineering Co. Ltd.	101.39	104.20	102.77	111.45	113.49	101.83
10.	Bharat Process & Mechanical Engrs. Ltd.	4.00	1.50	37.50	5.79	0.61	10.53
11.	Weighbird India Ltd.	0.75	0.48	64.00	0.86	0.55	63.95
12.	Lagan Jute Machinery Company Ltd.	9.55	5.94	62.19	9.59	5.29	55.16
13.	BBJ Construction Co. Ltd.	30.94	17.12	55.33	29.00	23.19	80.00
14.	Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Ltd.	270.00	305.68	113.22	325.00	284.79	87.62
15.	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.	65.00	76.37	117.49	86.00	76.51	88.96
16.	Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.	60.00	69.32	115.53	92.00	78.41	85.22
17.	Triveni Structurals Ltd.	55.00	58.58	106.51	72.00	61.77	85.79
18.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.	53.00	30.70	61.40	45.00	32.35	71.88
19.	Bridge & Roof Company (India) Ltd.	240.00	237.29	98.87	270.00	276.00	102.22
20.	Cycle Corporation of India Ltd.	3.68	0.20	5.44	1.23	0.09	7.31
21.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	639.45	357.62	55.93	660.25	258.34	39.13
22.	Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.	401.66	263.25	65.54	337.93	255.73	75.67
23.	HMT Ltd.	1029.00	909.36	88.37	1131.00	890.14	78.70
24.	Praga Tools Ltd.	43.00	4.44	10.32	43.00	13.63	31.69

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25.	HMT (Bearings) Ltd.	46.45	46.74	100.62	55.58	41.05	73.85
26.	HMT (International) Ltd.	80.00	46.16	57.70	0.00	50.10	—
27.	Instrumentation Ltd.	134.75	123.28	91.49	135.00	118.00	87.40
28.	Rajasthan Electronics & Instruments Ltd.	22.50	16.94	75.28	22.00	19.07	86.68
29.	Mining & Allied Machinery Corpn. Ltd.	72.00	24.28	33.72	45.00	13.23	29.40
30.	National Bicycle Corpn. of India Ltd.	0.50	0.27	54.00	0.30	0.24	80.00
31.	National Instruments Ltd.	9.00	2.59	28.77	6.65	2.60	39.09
32.	Scooters India Ltd.	95.05	123.66	130.12	143.94	124.62	86.58
33.	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.	4.88	3.86	79.09	5.87	3.59	61.15
34.	Cement Corporation of India Ltd.	406.43	405.13	99.68	523.00	236.73	45.26
35.	Hindustan Paper Corpn. Ltd.	460.01	353.34	130.83	368.00	330.97	89.94
36.	Mandya National Paper Mills Ltd.	—	—	—	—	2.27	—
37.	Nagaland Pulp & Paper Company Ltd.	—	—	—	—	—	—
38.	Hindustan Newsprint Ltd.	270.07	154.72	57.28	225.54	183.54	81.37
39.	Hindustan Photo Films Mfg. Co. Ltd.	111.05	15.64	14.08	117.02	38.58	32.96
40.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	8.64	5.56	64.35	6.01	3.40	56.57
41.	Sambhar Salts Ltd.	9.03	6.33	70.10	7.94	5.90	74.30
42.	NEPA Ltd.	168.85	40.71	24.11	126.52	69.65	55.04
43.	Rehabilitation Industries Corpn. Ltd.	15.00	4.97	33.13	16.00	5.90	36.87
44.	Tannery & Footwear Corpn. India Ltd.	11.70	0.41	3.50	0.87	0.48	54.54
45.	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.	166.42	110.34	66.30	228.56	94.00	41.13
46.	Bharat Leather Corporation Ltd.	8.50	7.40	87.05	2.64	6.95	263.26
47.	Engineering Project (I) Ltd	150.00	155.04	103.36	140.00	144.44	103.17
48.	National Industrial Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	7.65	9.50	124.18	9.35	7.11	76.04

Tax Deduction at Source

5542. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The total deposits in banks as on March 31, 1998, bank-wise;

(b) the amount of interest paid to depositors during 1997-98 on the above deposits;

(c) the amount of income tax realised by each bank by way of Tax Deduction at Source (TDS), during the last three years;

(d) whether the TDS on bank deposits conforms with the budget estimates for the years from 1995-96 to 1997-98; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The total deposits in public sector and private sector commercial banks as on March 31, 1998 and the interest paid by these banks during the year 1997-98 are given in Statement-I and II respectively.

(c), (d) and (e) : The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement-I*Deposits of public sector banks as on 31st March, 1998 and interest paid by them during the year 1997-98*

(Rs. in crores)

Name of the Bank	Deposits	Interest Paid
1	2	3
State Bank of India	131091.32	9586.24
Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	6525.36	505.92
State Bank of Hyderabad	8648.62	610.40
State Bank of Indore	3368.78	240.02
State Bank of Mysore	4793.23	362.16
State Bank of Patiala	7737.42	578.66
State Bank of Saurashtra	3994.70	298.81
State Bank of Travancore	7468.06	659.11
Allahabad Bank	13540.76	959.02
Andhra Bank	7920.73	575.23
Bank of Baroda	39125.83	2675.65
Bank of India	39338.62	2468.70
Bank of Maharashtra	9134.30	595.78
Canara Bank**	36243.14	NA
Central Bank of India	26373.49	1871.77
Corporation Bank	9351.56	622.94
Dena Bank	10115.28	734.79
Indian Bank*	14220.48	1176.18
Indian Overseas Bank	19328.64	1444.27
Oriental Bank of Commerce	13058.02	938.50
Punjab National Bank	35173.56	2534.91
Punjab & Sind Bank	7609.56	589.53
Syndicate Bank	16816.15	1118.13
Union Bank of India	23055.63	1674.31
United Bank of India	11518.74	NA
UCO Bank	14462.46	1042.38
Vijaya Bank	8215.82	538.13
Total	528,230.26	34,406.54

Source: Balance Sheet as on 31.3.1998 received from banks and other returns.

*Balance sheet not received. Data from DSB returns received from banks.

** Balance sheet not received. Data from Spl. return in form A.

NA Not available.

Statement-II

*Deposits of Private Commercial Sector Banks as on 31st March 1998 and
Interest paid by them during the year 1997-98*

(Rs. in crores)

Name of the Bank	Deposits	Interest Paid
1	2	3
Bank of Madurai Ltd.*	2772.71	175.56
Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	2856.73	265.28
Bareilly Corporation Bank Ltd**	316.44	NA
Benares State Bank Ltd.	595.08	47.06
Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	1091.46	89.63
Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.**	1818.90	NA
City Union Bank Ltd.	1021.92	92.81
Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.	1040.29	92.60
Federal Bank Ltd.	6424.42	535.63
Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.	4882.46	328.12
Karnataka Bank Ltd.*	3405.84	266.08
Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	2137.85	173.35
Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.*	1418.93	104.63
Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	672.80	74.31
Nainital Bank Ltd.**	320.22	N
Nedungadi Bank Ltd.	834.56	68.38
Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	274.07	20.45
Sangli Bank Ltd.	1070.58	70.39
South Indian Bank Ltd.	2738.27	249.01
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd	1604.45	128.59
United Western Bank Ltd.	2668.38	179.57
Vysya Bank Ltd.**	5176.29	NA
UTI Bank Ltd.	2730.55	205.37
SBI Commercial & International Bank Ltd.	432.62	37.14
Ganesh Bank of Kurundwad Ltd.*	92.26	7.75
INDUSIND Bank Ltd.	4273.33	370.50
ICICI Banking Cor. Bank Ltd	2629.02	161.95

1	2	3
Global Trust Bank Ltd.	3285.37	302.76
HDFC Bank Ltd.	2191.74	103.97
Centurian Bank Ltd.	1247.05	124.61
Bank of Punjab Ltd.	1320.68	105.72
Development Credit Bank Ltd.	1436.37	109.61
Times Bank Ltd.	2214.39	165.73
IDBI Bank Ltd.	1845.53	81.09
Total	68,811.46	4,737.65

Source : Balance sheets and other returns received from banks.

* Data from DSB returns received from banks.

** Data from Spl. form A returns received from banks.

NA Not available.

[Translation]

Foreign Aided Projects

5543. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY :

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the original cost of each project being implemented in the country with the external assistance including World Bank;

(b) the progress of each project as on date, alongwith the time of completion and the present estimated cost of completion;

(c) whether some new projects pending for approval;

(d) if so, the new projects likely to be taken up in the near future;

(e) whether the Government are aware of some irregularities, misappropriation of fund in these projects;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to stop the malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA):

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

Fraud in Punjab National Bank

5544. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scam of rupees 65 lakh took place in the

Dwarikadheesh Branch of Punjab National Bank at Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an inquiry into the said case has been conducted;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps the Government propose to take to avoid the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (e) Punjab National Bank (PNB) has reported that during the period September 1997 to March 1998, the then Branch Manager at Dwarikadhish Road, Kanpur branch indulged in unauthorised and irregular activities and accommodated various parties by way of demand loan, term loan, overdraft, cash credit, etc. without obtaining adequate securities. He also accommodated two parties by purchasing fake documentary bills. The total amount involved in various irregularities is Rs. 122.09 lakhs. The matter was investigated by the bank and the manager has been placed under suspension. Action has also been initiated against five other officials in the branch. The bank has stressed adherence to the prescribed systems and procedures to the branches and controlling offices for meticulous compliance.

Non-Payment of Wages to Workers of

Bengal-Nagpur Cotton Mills

5545. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of labourers working in Bengal-Nagpur Cotton Mills in district Rajnandgaon;

(b) whether these labourers are being paid their salaries timely;

(c) if not, whether the labourers of the said mills are facing acute economic crisis due to the non-payment of their salaries for the month of May 1998 even upto 19th June, 1998;

(d) if so, the details of officers responsible for this delay;

(e) whether any proposal with regard to modernisation of the only cotton mill of district Rajnandgaon is under consideration of the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the total amount allocated therefor during 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA):

(a) The total strength of labourers/workers in Bengal-Nagpur Cotton Mills, Rajnandgaon as on 31.3.98 is 1471.

(b) to (d) The funds for payment of wages to the workers of NTC mills are released by the Government as non-plan loans to NTC. Occasionally, there is some delay in release of funds due to budgetary constraints. The wages upto May, 1998 have been paid to the employees.

(e) and (f) NTC(MP) under whom this mill comes has been issued show cause notice for winding up of the subsidiary by the BIFR. A final decision is yet to be taken by them. In the meanwhile, on the basis of a unit wise viability study made

by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable mills of NTC, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the net worth of these mills turning positive, within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

[English]

Net Profit of Financial Institutions

5546. SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Net Profit alongwith Reserves and Surplus of the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Limited (ICICI) during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) whether the net profit and reserves of IFCI has come down first time during 1997-98 as compared to previous years since its inception; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) As per the information provided by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), the institution-wise net profit and reserves and surplus for last two years are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

	IDBI		IFCI		ICICI	
	1996-97	1997-98	1996-97	1997-98	1996-97	1997-98
Net Profit	1144.2	1501.3	378.56	370.50	752.22	1086.32
Reserves & Surplus	6460.0	7343.5	1350.86	1243.95	3900.21	4192.17

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The net profit and Reserves and Surplus of Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd. (IFCI) have come down during the year 1997-98. However, the average annual growth in profit after tax during the last four years i.e., 1994-95 to 1997-98 has been 30.1% as against 21.6% during the previous four years. IFCI has further reported that the profit for 1997-98 is lower on account of reduction in prime lending rate (PLR) and interest rate band during 1997-98, resulting in decline in spread. This was as a result of deliberate policy of IFCI to bring the spread with the increase in volume of business. Further, during 1997-98, IFCI has withdrawn a sum of Rs. 287 crores (previous year Rs. 160 crores) from special reserve under Section 36(l) (viii) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 which is also a contributory factor in reduction of reserves.

[Translation]

Export Oriented Units

5547. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received to set-up export oriented units in the country during 1997-98 and the number of proposals approved out of these, State-wise;

(b) the number of units provided infrastructural and other facilities to start production out of these;

(c) the amount invested in these units; and

(d) the number of workers employed in these Units during 1997-98, State-wise? *[English]*

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) 426 proposals were received to set up export oriented units in the country during 1997-98 out of which 365 proposals were approved. State-wise break-up of the approved export oriented units is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The EOU Scheme has been formulated by the Government of India. It is for the entrepreneurs to establish the units by way of construction of building, provision of machinery raw material and utilities and take other steps for commencement of production. The Government of India provides facility of customs bonding as and when approached by the entrepreneurs.

(c) and (d) The proposals approved during 1997-98 envisage an investment of Rs. 4646.42 crores and employment of 42781 workers.

Statement

State wise no. of EOUS approved during 1997-98

State Name	No.
Andhra Pradesh	21
Gujarat	79
Haryana	12
Himachal Pradesh	2
Jammu and Kashmir	1
Karnataka	37
Kerala	1
Madhya Pradesh	13
Maharashtra	49
Orissa	8
Punjab	14
Rajasthan	16
Tamil Nadu	64
Uttar Pradesh	20
West Bengal	6
Andaman and Nicobar	2
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2
Delhi	9
Goa	3
Pondicherry	1
Daman and Diu	5
Total	365

Earning of I.T. Department

5548. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of income of the Income Tax Department from Public Sector undertakings during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) out of the total income, the income from the employees and from the Public Sector, separately for the same period; and

(c) the task force or plan formulated by the Government to simplify the recovery of income-tax dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Such information is not maintained. The collection and compilation of the desired information from the field formations spread all over the country will involve lot of efforts and also time, which may not be commensurate with the objectives sought to be achieved.

(c) At present there is no Task Force or plan formulated by the Government to simplify the recovery of Income-tax dues. However, a Task Force has been constituted to constantly monitor the collection of Budget targets, and to review the progress of recovery of taxes.

Orissa Textile Mill, Chandwar

5549. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Textile Mill at Chandwar has fallen sick;

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

(c) the approximate number of workers affected due to the sickness of that mill; and

(d) the steps taken to revive and make that textile mill economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Orissa Textile Mill at Chandwar has fallen Sick.

(b) The reasons for sickness as reported by the company to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) at the time of registration include lack of infrastructure and of technology and machines to suit the changing demands of the market; inadequate power supply; shortage of funds and related financial difficulties; market recession; competition from decentralised sector/modernised mills; etc.

(c) 4364 workers were reported to be employed by the company at the time of its registration with BIFR.

(d) BIFR has sanctioned a scheme for revival of the mill vide order dated 17.2.98.

[*Translation*]

Packages for Tourists in Bihar

5550. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BAINDA:

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce small 'tourist package' for places like Sarnath, Bodhgaya, Ajanta, Sanchi etc;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said tourist packages are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (c) Package tours are mainly prepared and sold by tour operators. Some State Tourism Development Corporations also offer packages for tourists. Ministry of Tourism provides information and runs publicity campaigns.

[*English*]

Package for Energy Sector

5551. PROF. P. J. KURIEN:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared a package for the energy sector after review of other related Ministries;

(b) if so, whether a sinking fund to the tune of Rs. 4,200 crores for coal has been set by the Government for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details of this package;

(d) whether the Government propose to make amendments to the Nationalisation Act; and

(e) if so, the time by which the Act is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) In so far as Ministry of Coal is concerned, no package for the energy sector has been cleared by the Government to provide any benefit to the coal industry including any Sinking Fund.

(c) Does not arise in view of the answer to parts (a) and (b) of the question.

(d) No decision to introduce a Bill in the Parliament to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 has been taken.

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

Tourist Circuits in Uttarakhand

5552. SHRIMATI RANI CHITRALEKHA BHONSLE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan for creation of more tourist circuits in Uttarakhand area of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said plan is proposed to be implemented in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism has identified the following tourist circuits pilgrim centres in Uttarakhand area of Uttar Pradesh:

1. Badrinath.
2. Rishkesh, Narendra Nagar, Gangotri, Badri Nath.

The projects identified by Ministry of Tourism for financial assistance in Uttarakhand area for 1998-99 include the following:

1. Accommodation at Auli;
2. Parling places at Janaki Chatti and Hanuman Chatti;
3. Yatri Niwas at Chiniyalisaur;
4. Tourist huts at Gangotri and Yamunotri;
5. Yatri Niwas at Gauchar;
6. Reception Centre at Srinagar;
7. Yatri Niwas at Guptkashi;
8. Equipment for River Rafting in Mahakali Ganga River;
9. Eco-Tourism/Garbage disposal facilities;
10. Festivals;
11. Publicity support.

Foreign Banks

5553. SHRI S. S. OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals pending with the Government for opening of foreign banks in the near future;

(b) whether the performance of these banks has been reviewed by the RBI from time to time in comparison to the Indian Nationalised Banks; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that applications of two foreign banks for a branch each in India are pending.

(b) and (c) The performance of foreign banks in India is being monitored with the help of returns submitted by them to different departments of RBI. The Department of Supervision of the RBI also carries out annual inspection of these banks under Section 35 of the Banking Regulations Act, 1949. Review of working of all foreign banks operating in India is also undertaken by Department of Supervision of RBI on annual basis. In the review, the performance of foreign banks in certain parameters like capital adequacy, non-performing advances, deposit growth, profitability etc. are highlighted.

[*Translation*]

Branch of Export Promotion Council

5554. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to open a branch of Export Promotion Council in the silk city, Bhagalpur (Bihar);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) The Indian Silk Export Promotion Council (ISEPC) incorporated on 16th June 1983 as a company limited by guarantee under Section 25 of The Company Act, is entrusted with the responsibilities of export promotion activities in respect of natural silk goods. The Council has its Head Quarter at Mumbai and Regional Office at New Delhi and does not have any branches in the country. As per ISEPC there is no proposal for opening any branch of Export Promotion Council in silk city, Bhagalpur. However, the Central Silk Board has four units at Bhagalpur for providing various kinds of support for R & D and training:

- (1) The Certification Centre;
- (2) Raw Material Bank Sub-Depot;
- (3) Technical Service & Training Centre;
- (4) Eco-Testing Laboratory.

[*English*]

Exemption for Filing I.T. Returns

5555. SHRI P. SANKARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Income Tax department insists the co-operative societies for filing I. T. returns where they are not undertaking any business other than those specified in section 80(P) (2) I.T. Act of 1961; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Cooperative societies are required to file Income-tax returns in respect of their income from non-banking activities which has been held by Hon'ble Madhya Pradesh High Court (119 ITR 327) and upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court (218 ITR 438) to be outside the purview of Section 80(P)(2) of the Income-tax Act.

T.W.R.F.

5556. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Textile Mills faced closure and the number of workers rendered unemployed in Private and Public Sector, separately, as a result thereof since the inception of TWRF; year-wise, State-wise and Region-wise; and
- (b) the details of rehabilitation/relief schemes implemented by the Government for such workers in Public and Private Sector, separately during this period and the amount spent, year-wise, Scheme-wise and Region-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) As on 30.4.96, 223 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills (non-SSI) were lying closed for reasons such as financial difficulties, strikes/labour problems, lock-outs, etc. However, no cotton/man-made fibre textile (Non-SSI) mill was closed under the Industrial Disputes Act in the country as on that date. The number of workers affected due to closure of mills was 2,63,901. Year-wise and State-wise information in this regard is given in Statement-I attached.

(b) The Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) is in operation to provide interim relief to workers rendered jobless as a consequence of permanent closure of textile units/mills, or in respect of cases of partial closure of units, on a case to case basis. Since its inception, benefits under the Scheme have been extended to the mills in the private sector only. The details of relief provided under the TWRFS, year-wise and State-wise, are indicated in Statement-II attached.

In addition, relief is also available to workers of closed undertakings under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

Assistance from the National Renewal Fund is available for Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Central Public Sector enterprises and for schemes for counselling, retraining and redeployment of rationalised workers.

Statement-I

No. of cotton/man-made fibre textile mills closed and No. of workers rendered unemployed in public, private and co-operative sector.

Year	State Name	Management								
		Public		Co-op.		Private		Total		
		No. of Mills	Workers on Roll							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Upto 1985-86	Andhra Pradesh	1	92					1	92	
	Bihar	1	500					1	500	
	Gujarat	3	3246			8	12699	11	15945	
	Haryana	1	1513					1	1513	
	Karnataka	1	624					1	624	
	Maharashtra	5	14726					5	14726	
	Rajasthan	1	821			1	947	2	1768	
	Tamil Nadu	—	—			2	320	2	320	
	West Bengal	1	837					1	837	
	Uttar Pradesh	3	4752					3	4752	
	Total	17	27111	0	0	11	13966	28	41077	
1986-87	Andhra Pradesh					2	795	2	795	
	Gujarat					11	24997	11	24997	
	Karnataka					1	298	1	298	
	Madhya Pradesh					2	625	2	625	
	Tamil Nadu					1	1187	1	1187	
	West Bengal					1	1484	1	1484	
	Total	0	0	0	0	18	29386	18	29386	
1987-88	Andhra Pradesh					2	93	2	93	
	Gujarat					6	10061	6	10061	
	Karnataka					1	320	1	320	
	Maharashtra					1	547	1	547	
	Tamil Nadu					2	1057	2	1057	
	West Bengal					2	7688	2	7688	
	Total	0	0	0	0	14	19766	14	19766	
1988-89	Uttar Pradesh	1	743					1	743	
	West Bengal	1	2226					1	2226	
	Total	2	2969	0	0	0	0	2	2969	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1989-90	Karnataka					1	3304	1	3304
	Uttar Pradesh					1	3619	1	3619
	Total	0	0	0	0	2	6923	2	6923
1990-91	Gujarat					1	1744	1	1744
	Uttar Pradesh	1	2604					1	2604
	Total	1	2604	0	0	1	1744	2	4348
1991-92	Andhra Pradesh			2	1490	1	541	3	2031
	Gujarat					5	12525	5	12525
	Karnataka					1	150	1	150
	Madhya Pradesh					4	11378	4	11378
	Maharashtra	1	49			1	1197	2	1246
	Rajasthan					1	1196	1	1196
	Tamil Nadu					1	34	1	34
	Uttar Pradesh	1	2417			1	2323	2	4740
	Total	2	2466	2	1490	15	29344	19	33300
1992-93	Assam							0	0
	Gujarat	4	4386					4	4386
	Karnataka	1	2313	1	356			2	2669
	Kerala					1	2178	1	2178
	Madhya Pradesh					1	6746	1	6746
	Maharashtra			2	850			2	850
	Tamil Nadu					2	2987	2	2987
	Uttar Pradesh	1	1029					1	1029
	Total	6	7728	3	1206	4	11911	13	20845
1993-94	Andhra Pradesh					1	116	1	116
	Gujarat	1	470			4	2957	5	3427
	Haryana					1	30	1	30
	Karnataka					1	562	1	562
	Maharashtra			1	783	1	1113	2	1896
	Orissa					1	48	1	48
	Tamil Nadu			1	459	5	944	6	1403
	Total	1	470	2	1242	14	5770	17	7482

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Maharashtra			2	773			2	773
	Rajasthan					3	1644	3	1644
	Tamil Nadu					8	5913	8	5913
	Uttar Pradesh					0	0	0	0
	West Bengal					2	1538	2	1538
	Total	1	0	2	773	19	11678	22	12451
1998-99	Gujarat			1	NA			1	NA
	Tamil Nadu					0	0	0	0
	West Bengal					2	2414	2	2414
	Total	0	0	1	0	2	2414	3	2414
	As on 30.4.98	53	71576	24	13873	146	78452	223	263901

Statement-II*Year-wise State-wise details of relief provided under TWRFS*

Year	State	Relief Provided (Rs.)
1	2	3
1988-89	Gujarat	1,62,77,719
1989-90	Gujarat	9,57,74,553
	Tamil Nadu	41,55,583
1990-91	Gujarat	12,37,83,799
	Tamil Nadu	1,89,88,298
	Maharashtra	1,47,96,951
	Delhi	7,65,57,891
1991-92	Gujarat	6,20,75,645
	Tamil Nadu	19,95,235
	Maharashtra	65,24,832
	Delhi	2,73,10,599
1992-93	Gujarat	13,07,25,319
	Tamil Nadu	12,66,524
	Maharashtra	64,89,514
	Delhi	1,53,47,181
1993-94	Gujarat	10,73,09,078
	Maharashtra	1,10,28,039
1994-95	Gujarat	5,43,60,219
	Maharashtra	2,38,607

1	2	3
1995-96	Gujarat	3,14,98,039
	Maharashtra	26,149
1996-97	Gujarat	5,88,18,652
	Maharashtra	63,684
	Delhi	15,604
1997-98	Gujarat	6,80,99,901
	Tamil Nadu	3,39,91,610
1998-99	Gujarat	4,95,09,808

Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme

5557. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of exporters have taken undue benefits of the Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) and Advance Licensing (AL) schemes with respect to goods manufactured/processed by hundred percent export oriented units in Export Processing Zones (EPZs);

(b) if so, the number of cases of such irregularities detected and under investigation alongwith estimated amount involved therein; and

(c) the action taken to plug the loopholes, alongwith penal action taken against unscrupulous exporters?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) The EXIM Policy does not allow availment of DEPB and Advance licence benefits in respect of exports made by EOU/EPZ units. However, some instances have been reported where exporters had availed of the benefits of Advance Licences in respect of exports made by EOU/EPZ. A policy circular has again been issued reiterating the Policy in this regard. Necessary instructions have been issued to the concerned authorities to initiate penal action in all such cases.

[Translation]

Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme

5558. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent on advertisements under Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme declared by the Government;

(b) the reaction of the people towards this scheme;

(c) the number of the people declared their assets under the above scheme and the amount collected there from, State-wise;

(d) whether adverse effects of above mentioned scheme have been observed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) The total amount spent on advertisements under Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme declared by the Government is Rs. 27.5 crores.

(b) VDIS, 1997 Scheme had an overwhelming response from the public.

(c) The total number of declarants who availed of the benefits of the Scheme is 4,95,798 and the amount collected therefrom is Rs. 9583 crores. The details have been maintained Chief Commissioner chargewise, and the statistics are mentioned in the enclosed Statement.

(d) In view of para (b) and (c), question does not arise.

(e) The question does not arise in view of para (d).

Statement

Chart showing V.D.I.S. 1997 outcome

Sl. No.	C.C.I.T. Charges	Total Tax paid (tax+interest) (in crores)
1	2	3
1.	Ahmedabad	Rs. 921.87
2.	Bangalore	Rs. 581.67
3.	Bhopal	Rs. 302.36
4.	Calcutta	Rs. 714.70
5.	Chandigarh	Rs. 609.74
6.	Chennai	Rs. 783.44
7.	Cochin	Rs. 139.29
8.	Delhi	Rs. 1,218.26

1	2	3
9.	Hyderabad	Rs. 375.36
10.	Jaipur	Rs. 269.98
11.	Kanpur	Rs. 346.09
12.	Lucknow	Rs. 219.00
13.	Mumbai	Rs. 1,978.48
14.	Patna	Rs. 256.14
15.	Pune	Rs. 867.45
Total		Rs. 9,583.83

[English]

Import of Cars

5559. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- whether the Government have allowed the trading/export houses for import of cars for official use;
- if so, the details thereof;
- the number of cars have been imported and the expenditure in foreign exchange incurred thereon;
- whether these cars have been sold in the market; and
- if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per Chapter 12 of the Exim Policy & Procedure (RE-98), 1997-2002, trading house/Export House may, during the validity period of recognition, import cars subject to Actual User condition.

(c) Such data is not maintained. However, as per statistics maintained by DGCI & S, Calcutta, the total number

of new cars imported into India during the last three financial years (1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 (April-August)) is 79 for a total value of Rs. 598.1 lakhs.

(d) and (e) As per the EXIM Policy and procedure (1997-2002) the cars so imported by Export House/Trading House cannot be disposed off for a period of five years from the date of import.

Foreign Loan Investment in PSUs

5560. SHRI D. S. AHIRE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- whether investment in Public Sector Undertakings have been made by taking foreign loans during each of the last three years;
- if so, the details thereof, PSUs wise and the amount of foreign loan invested in these undertakings during the above period;
- whether these PSUs have paid interest on these foreign loans during the above period; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) PSU-wise details of foreign loans invested at the end of each of the last three years are given in the Statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The interest paid on foreign loans in the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Interest paid on foreign loan
1994-95	2213
1995-96	2483
1996-97	2594

Statement

Loan—foreign parties (inc.) deferred credits.

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the PSU	As on		
		31.3.97	31.3.96	31.3.95
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Airports Authority of India	255	264	228
2.	Bharat Dynamics Ltd.	158	179	197
3.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	454	697	840
4.	Central Coalfields Ltd.	492	557	553
5.	Container Corporation of India Ltd.	41	10	0

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Dredging Corpon. of India Ltd.	124	154	167
7.	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	400	413	268
8.	Electronics Corpn. of India Ltd.	19	24	30
9.	Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Enginee.	62	26	28
10.	Gas Authority of India Ltd.	468	377	307
11.	Goa Shipyard Ltd.	29	48	53
12.	Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.	14	22	32
13.	Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.	57	73	173
14.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	29	26	27
15.	Housing & Urban Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	33	0	0
16.	I.T.I. Ltd.	35	37	37
17.	Indian Airlines Ltd.	2493	2758	2876
18.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	1693	1308	1241
19.	Indian Petro-Chemicals Corpn. Ltd.	1955	1033	980
20.	Indian Railway Finance Corporation	550	301	148
21.	Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd.	265	13	13
22.	Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	161	63	0
23.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	34	39	44
24.	Nathpa Jhakri Power Corpn.	234	186	74
25.	Natinal Aluminium Company Ltd.	580	1025	1774
26.	National Hydro Electric Power Corpn.	1759	1766	1265
27.	National Small Industries Corpn. Ltd.	44	22	22
28.	National Thermal Power Corporation	3698	4037	4488
29.	North Eastern Electric Power Corpn.	89	93	0
30.	Northern Coal Fields Ltd.	38	55	76
31.	Nuclear Power Corpn. of India Ltd.	50	68	57
32.	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	9324	11286	11807
33.	Oil India Ltd.	1	26	168

1	2	3	4	5
34.	Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.	6	10	13
35.	Power Finance Corporation	877	623	630
36.	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.	1695	1409	1239
37.	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	313	632	650
38.	Shipping Corporation of India Ltd.	1321	1518	1371
39.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	2224	1936	2014
40.	Other PSUs*	15	15	34

*Less than Rs. 10 crores in all the three years.

Illegal Movement of Coal

5561. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing incidents of illegal movement of coal in different coalfields;

(b) whether the coal depots have been set up illegally in different coalfields;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The Government have not received any information to suggest that illegal movements of coal have increased recently.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of answer to part (b) above.

Development of Handloom Varieties in U.P.

5562. DR. RAM VILAS VEDANTI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding the development of handloom varieties and strengthening the marketing in Uttar Pradesh is pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) Government of India is implementing various Schemes for the development of handloom sector and welfare of handloom weavers. All State Governments and

Union Territories, including Uttar Pradesh have been advised from time to time to avail assistance under the on-going schemes. Formulation and submission of project proposals by the State Governments/UTs and sanction of funds by the Government of India under the various Schemes is a continuous process. Viable project proposals received from Uttar Pradesh are being considered for release of Central grant in accordance with the guidelines of the Scheme.

The Government has released a total sum of Rs. 11.44 crores to Uttar Pradesh since 1992-93 under various Schemes.

Demand of Indian Herbals in Developed Countries

5563. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in the demand of Indian herbal medicines from the developed countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the value of herbal medicines exported during 1997-98 and upto May, 1998; and

(d) the steps taken to popularise the Indian Ayurvedic medicines in those countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of export of Indian herbal medicines during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 (upto August '97), as latest available, to developed countries are as follows:—

Year	(Rs. in crores)
1995-96	33.67
1996-97	51.51
1997-98 (upto Aug. '97)	22.51

(c) Total value of herbal medicines exported during 1997-98 (upto August, 1997) as per latest available figures, is Rs. 69.93 crores.

(d) The following steps have been taken to popularise the Indian Ayurvedic medicines in these countries. Continuing interaction with the trade and industry to identify and deal with problems related to exports; extension of Market Development Assistance to the exporting community through the Export Promotion Council for participation in trade fairs/exhibitions; Integrated Marketing Programme for Indian Herbal Products in West Europe and other market promotion activities.

Powers to I.T. Commissioners

5564. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR 'BIJOY': Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to give more powers to the Income Tax Commissioners throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof in the context of powers already bestowed to them; and

(c) the purpose for which more powers are proposed to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) The Commissioners of Income Tax have been vested with statutory powers for the administration of Direct Tax Laws. The powers are exercised within the frame work of laws passed by the Parliament and rules prescribed thereunder. At present the powers made available to the Commissioners of Income Tax under the various provisions of law are considered adequate for the smooth administration of the Direct Tax Laws.

Canara Bank

5565. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:

SHRI SITA RAM YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the "Times of India" dated June 12, 1998 captioned "CBI registers case against Canara Bank, Vinyl Flooring officials";

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

(c) the actions taken by the Government thereon;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Canara Bank has reported that two import bills for US \$ 1,13,040 and US \$ 2,43,250.02 were received by the Safdarjang Development Area branch of the bank on collection basis from the Overseas Chinese Bank Taoyun with the condition that the documents should be delivered only after receiving payment and in one case of draft after taking acceptance of payment on Bill of Exchange. On scrutiny of the documents it was observed that the branch officials delivered the documents viz., Bill of Lading and invoice duly discharged by the bank and parted/endorsed in favour of the company without any payment to the bank by the company to enable them to take delivery of goods from customs. Bank's internal investigation revealed that the company and its directors in collusion with officials of the branch has caused financial loss of Rs. 1,41,81,277 to the bank. It is also revealed that the Chief Manager of the bank and an officer were found responsible for the above irregularities and have been placed under suspension. The bank has also placed under suspension three more officials of the branch for their alleged involvement in the fraud/gross negligence. Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a case on 3.6.1998 on the basis of complaint lodged by the bank against the Chief Manager and one officer of the branch besides directors/officials of the Company.

Pyto-Sanitary Certificate for Export of Edible Agricultural Products

5566. SHRI VAIKO:

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN:

SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Pyto-Sanitary Certificates have been made compulsory for exporting edible agricultural products only from Chennai port from 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to withdraw this order in view of the inconvenience faced by the exporters as well as farmers; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Issue of Licences for Opium Cultivation

5567. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been an increase in the issue of licences while the cultivation of opium was being decreased;
- (b) if so, the reasons for issuing more number of licences;
- (c) whether any memorandum has been received by the Government from the farmers of Barabanki district of Uttar Pradesh in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) No Sir, except in the last year.

(b) The increase in the last year was due to significantly less sowing by cultivators and as such more licences were required to be issued to meet annual domestic and International requirements.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Equity in Foreign Investment

5568. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Union Government have selected those industries wherein foreign companies are proposed to be allowed to make investment of equity capital upto 40%;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether industries in non-priority areas and consumer goods sector are excluded in this list; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) No, Sir. There is no list for automatic approval for foreign equity participation upto 40%. There are 4 separate lists for automatic approval upto 50%, 51%, 74% and 100%. However, there is a 40% scheme for NRIs and Overseas Corporate Body (OCBs) under which automatic approvals are granted by RBI with full repatriation benefits. Under the scheme investment upto 40% is permitted in specified sectors.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Funding for Infrastructure Projects

5569. SHRI H. G. RAMULU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount set aside by the Canara Bank for funding infrastructure projects during the last three years;
- (b) the details of the projects taken up by the Canara Bank in Karnataka for funding these projects during the above period;
- (c) the amount earmarked for the above projects in Karnataka and the amount so far released;
- (d) the terms and conditions stipulated for funding these projects; and
- (e) the number of such projects which have been taken up in Bellary, Raichur and Koppal Districts in Karnataka by the Canara Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR, M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Canara Bank has reported that no separate funds are set apart for funding infrastructure projects. Credit facilities are extended to such projects on merits. However, for the period 1997-2000 the bank has prescribed an exposure limit of Rs. 1250 crores for financing infrastructure projects.

(b) and (c) No separate region-wise earmarking of funds is done by the Canara Bank. However, the Bank has financed four such projects in Karnataka in the form of loans or investment in bonds. In accordance with the practices and usages customary among banks and in conformity with the provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligations as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the unit-wise details cannot be divulged.

(d) The general terms and conditions stipulated by the Canara Bank for funding such projects inter-alia include debt/equity ratio ranging from 2.55:1 to 4:1 promoters contribution of not less than 11% of project cost, repayment period upto 12 years including moratorium and debt service coverage ratio of not less than 1.50.

(e) Canara Bank has reported that it has financed one project in Raichur district.

Corruption in Customs

5570. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Speed Money is the custom here" appearing in the Times of India dated November 12, 1997, depicting the state of corruption in the Customs Department, leading many exporter to quit their business; and

(b) if so, the facts of the matter and the steps taken by Government to look into the State of affairs in that Department and to reform the functioning of the Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The Government of India are aware of the report captioned "Speed Money is the Custom here" appearing in the "Times of India" dated the 12th November, 1997.

2. After the Publication of the news report, a team of officers led by the Director General of Vigilance made surprise visits to the Custom Houses at Mumbai and Nhava Sheva Ports on 25.11.97 and 26.11.97. Different teams were detailed for conducting checks in sensitive areas such as docks, unaccompanied baggage centres and Nhava Sheva Port.

3. Several steps have been taken by the Customs Department in the recent past to simplify the procedures and combat undesirable practices. More important of these steps are:

- (i) Introduction of Fast Track Clearance Scheme for identified importers and commodities.
- (ii) Streamlining of the procedure relating to clearance of unaccompanied baggage and processing of shipping documents.
- (iii) Streamlining of all the existing procedures relating to cargo clearance with a view to making them more transparent.
- (iv) Setting up of Public Grievance Cells for prompt action on complaints of delay and harassment.
- (v) Tightening up of in-house vigilance activity by surprise checks and inspections.

Besides, the automated Customs clearance system presently in operation at Delhi Air Cargo and 6 other locations is being extended to all customs locations. This system would cut down delays and minimise interface and thus reduce scope for the alleged undesirable practices.

Uruguay Found

5571. SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agreements, understandings and decisions have been reached after the Uruguay round of talks and Marrakesh declarations;

(b) the details thereof, category-wise; and

(c) the manner in which it will be useful to India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (b) Since the signing of the Marrakesh Declaration, the major agreements, understandings and decisions reached between WTO Members have been in the context of the two Conferences of WTO Trade Ministers held till date, at Singapore between 9-13 December, 1996 and recently at Geneva between 18-20 May, 1998.

Singapore Ministerial Conference (SMC)

Major decisions taken at the SMC/pursuant thereto comprise the following areas:

- Trade and Environment—It was decided to undertake further work to examine the scope of complementarities between trade liberalization, economic development and environmental protection.
- Textiles and clothing—The importance of integrating the regime governing textile and clothing products with the provisions of GATT was highlighted; it was decided that the Textiles Monitoring Body would achieve transparency in its recommendations and that the Council for Trade in Goods would oversee the functioning of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing.
- Investment and Competition Policy—It was agreed to establish Working Groups to examine the relationship between these subjects and trade.
- Government Procurement—Discussions relating to the transparency aspect were mandated and a Working Group set up.
- General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS)—It was agreed to conclude ongoing negotiations and resume stalled negotiations in several sectors. Negotiations pursuant to this decision have resulted in the Second protocol to GATS on Financial Services, Third Protocol to GATS on Movement of Natural Persons and Fourth Protocol to GATS on Basic Telecommunication Services. There have been subsequent further negotiations on Financial Services which were concluded on 12.12.97 and the Fifth Protocol to GATS incorporating results of these negotiations is now open for signature/ratification. In addition, the Working Party on Professional Services has also finalized non-binding Guidelines for Mutual Recognition Agreements or Arrangements in the accountancy sector.
- Trade facilitation—It was decided that the Council for

Trade in Goods would undertake exploratory work on the simplification of trade procedure to assess the scope for WTO rules in this area.

- * Labour standards—It was decided to “reject the use of labour standards for protectionist purposes” and it was “agreed that the comparative advantage of countries, particularly low wage developing countries, must, in no way, be put into question.”
- * Information Technology Agreement—The SMC welcomed the initiative taken by a number of WTO Members and other States who had applied for WTO accession, who agreed to tariff elimination for trade in information technology products on an MFN basis. After extensive discussions with its Industry and its trading partners, India filed its final Schedule of Concessions with regard to information technology products on 25.3.97 in Geneva and India's schedule has been approved by consensus by the Participants of the ITA.

Geneva Ministerial Conference (GMC)

The GMC, through its Ministerial Declaration of 20th May, 1998.

- * decided to reject the use of protectionist measures and underlined that “keeping all markets open must be a key element” in the functioning of world trade;
- * stressed that “full and faithful implementation of the WTO Agreement and Ministerial Decisions is imperative for the credibility of the multilateral trading system”;
- * adopted a separate Declaration on Electronic Commerce, non-binding in nature, which agreed on the need for a work programme on this important subject, which would take into account the economic, financial and development needs of developing countries and also decided on continuation of the current standstill on import duties on electronic transmissions, to be reviewed and extended, if necessary, only on the basis of consensus, at the next Ministerial Conference;
- * culminated with a Ministerial Declaration which has established a process under the direction of the General Council to ensure full and faithful implementation of existing WTO Agreements, and to prepare for the Third Session of the Ministerial Conference. This process shall enable the General Council, through its work programme, to arrive at recommendations concerning implementation issues of existing agreements, negotiations/future work already mandated, future work as recommended in the First Ministerial Conference held at Singapore, recommendations on the follow up of the high level meeting on Least Developed Countries and recommendations arising from consideration of “other matters proposed and agreed to by Members concerning their multilateral trade relations”.

(c) As the agreements negotiated are on Most Favoured

Nations basis, the commitments undertaken by other WTO members provide increased market access opportunities for our exports of goods and services. The principles highlighted in the Ministerial Declarations aim to make the WTO system more equitable and transparent, and hence are beneficial for WTO Members in general, including India.

Carpet Industry

5572. SHRI K.L. SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the hand made carpet industry of the country is on downslide due to high cost of its raw material and stiff competition in the world market; and

(b) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA):
(a) and (b) The hand made carpet industry is facing a threat of down-slide due to reasons which may include increasing cost of its raw materials and stiff competition in the world market. The measures taken by the Government to check the high cost of raw material for the Indian Carpet Industry and make it more competitive in the international market inter-alia include: lower import duty on carpet grade wool; re-imbursalment of duty draw back; import of raw wool under Open General Licensing Scheme and import of spun silk yarn under the Advance Licensing Scheme by the exporters; sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad; participation in international fairs/festivals; overseas publicity; organising the buyer-sellers meets; conducting of workshops and seminars and organising the Carpet Expo annually.

Funds for Externally Aided Projects

5573. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide assistance to the N.E. States under externally aided projects with 90% grant and 10% loan component;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether assistance so arranged is treated as additionality to the State plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of projects sanctioned in the N.E. States during the last five years; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the current year, Assam and Manipur have so far received Rs. 6.42 crores and Rs. 4.48 crores respectively as external aid.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement*Details of Projects Sanctioned in NE States During 1993-98, State-wise*

Sr. No.	States	Name of Project	Amount of External AID
1	2	3	4
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	(i) Education and Capacity Building for promoting Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection.	Rs. 3.16 crores (Grant)
2.	Assam	(i) Assam Gas Turbine Power Station and Transmission (ID-P. 96) of NEEPCO. (ii) IPP IX (2630-IN) (iii) DPEP (2661-IN) (iv) DPEP-II (2876-IN) (v) Rural Infrastructural, Agricultural development project	15821 Million Yen (Loan) 87.102 Million US \$ (Loan) 251.291 Million US \$ (Loan) 403.820 Million US \$ (Loan) 112.185 Million US \$ (Loan)
3.	Manipur	(i) Sustainable development and Water Resources Management of Loktak Lake. (ii) Manipur Sericulture project (ID-P. 134) (iii) Integrated package water treatment Kiosks for high grade, drinking water (Imphal). (iv) Improvement of Imphal Ukhrul Road.	Rs. 14.39 crores (Grant) 3962 Million Yen (Loan) Rs. 4.60 crores (Loan) Rs. 4.90 crores (Loan)
4.	Meghalaya	(i) Umiam Hydro-Electric Power Station Project (ID-P 118)	1700 Million Yen (Loan).
5.	Mizoram	(i) Tuirial Hydro-Electric Power Station Project (ID-P. 119)	11695 Million Yen (Loan).
6.	Nagaland	(i) Nagaland Environment protection and Economic development	Rs. 12.60 crores (Grant)
7.	Multi-States Projects		
	(i) Arunachal Pradesh & Manipur	N. Leprosy Elimination (2528-IN)	84.679 Million US \$ (Loan).
	(ii) Assam & Manipur	T.B. Control (2936-IN)	136.105 Million US \$ (Loan)
	(iii) Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland & Tripura	Malaria Control (2964-IN)	164.800 Million US \$ (Loan)
	(iv) Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura & Arunachal Pradesh	RCHS (018-IN)	248.300 Million US \$ (Loan)
	(v) Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland & Tripura.	Optimising development of small Hydel Resources in the Hilly Regions of India.	7.5 Million US \$ (Grant)

Central Investment in Kerala

5574. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total Central investment made in the public enterprises in Kerala during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the miserably low level of Central investment in Kerala which ranks extremely low in comparison with the other States;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to consider substantial increase in Central investment in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) According to Public Enterprises Survey, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97, the quantum of investment in Central public sector enterprises in terms of gross block in the State of Kerala was Rs. 2905.65 crores, Rs. 3390.02 crores and Rs. 3991.76 crores as on 31.03.1995, 31.3.1996 and 31.03.1997 respectively. Among different States, Kerala ranked 15th to 17th in terms of gross block during this period.

(c) and (d) The Central investment in public sector enterprises is planned keeping national priorities in view. However, due consideration is given to backwardness of various regions subject to over-riding consideration of techno-economic feasibility.

Import Value of Petroleum, Steel and Capital Goods

5575. SHRI VITHAL TUPE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import value of major items such as petroleum steel and capital goods have increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the year-wise details thereof and its impact on foreign trade; and

(c) the percentage of import of above items out of the total import in the country during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) The import value of petroleum and products, irons and steel and capital goods during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 are as under:

(Value Rs. Lakhs)

Item of Import	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Petroleum & Products	25,17,360 (20.5%)	35,62,872 (25.6%)	30,55,823 (20.2%)
Iron & Steel	4,48,106 (3.7%)	4,57,893 (3.3%)	5,29,374 (3.5%)
Capital Goods	28,28,846 (23.1%)	29,86,854 (21.5%)	26,53,079 (17.5%)

(Figures in the brackets denote the percentage to total imports in the country).

From the above statement, it would be seen that the changes in the value of imports in respect of the above items during the last three years have been within reasonable limits depending on the domestic demand and international price situation.

(The figures are provisional) Source: DGCI & S, Calcutta.

[*Translation*]

Verification of Stocks

5576. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the final verification of the ground stock of various mines of the CCL was done;

(b) the estimated quantum of coal found short during the verification;

(c) whether the Coal India Limited has taken any action against the erring persons of the CCL in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Verifications of ground stock by CIL Measurement Team of all the mines of CCL for the year 1997-98 was made from 3.4.98 to 4.5.98. Check measurement by another CIL Team was carried out on 2.7.98.

(b) Variation beyond the permissible limit of (+) (-) 5% was found only in one mine of CCL, namely Saunda 'D'. The position was as under:—

Book Stock	46,191 tonnes
Physical Stock	35,737 tonnes
Shortage	10,454 tonnes

(c) to (e) Coal India Limited has informed that no action was required to be taken because—

(i) There was around 11,000 tonnes of coal stock on fire which was not measured by the CIL Measurement Team which they did in pursuance of the directives issued to measuring teams for not taking measurement of stocks on fire;

(ii) The fire in the stock was quenched and this coal was despatched thereafter; and

(iii) Subsequently CIL Check Measurement Team carried out physical verification on 2.7.98 which confirmed that there was not stock storage beyond 5%.

[*English*]

Revival Plan for NJMC

5577. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any plan for Revival/Restructuring of the National Jute Manufacturing Corporation (NJMC); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The plan for revival/restructuring of the N.J.M.C. involving induction of funds to the tune of Rs. 248.05 crores is with the following components:—

Components	Induction of funds (Rs. in crores)
1. Capital Expenditure	35.70
2. Start up expenses	106.12
3. Estimated cash loss to be incurred during implementation period	88.66
4. National Renewal Fund	17.57
Total	2,48.05

and also to waive the entire interest charged to be charged on existing loan upto date and to restructure the cash loss reimbursement and modernisation loan upto 31.03. 1998 in the manner that an amount of Rs. 300 crores is converted as Non-cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares @ 7% interest to be retired in phased manner after 10 years and the balance portion of Rs. 439.83 crores is converted as Equity Capital.

Sick PSUs in Kerala

5578. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of sick Public Sector Units, if any, in Kerala;
- (b) the details of steps proposed to be taken by the Government for their revival; and
- (c) the total number of employees working therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) None of the 5 Central PSUs having their registered office in the State of Kerala are registered with the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction as sick.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Committee on SSIs

5579. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have considered the recommendation made by S.L. Kapoor in his report on Small Scale Industries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) As per information made available by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), S.L. Kapur committee set up in December 1997 to review the working of credit delivery system for SSI units has submitted its report to RBI on 30th June, 1998.

Special treatment to smaller among small industries, enhancement in the quantum of composite loans, removal of procedural difficulties in the path of SSI advances, sorting out issues relating to mortgage of land, including removal of stamp duty and permitting equitable mortgages, allowing access to low cost funds to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for refinancing SSI loans, non-obtention of collaterals for loans upto Rs. 2 lakhs, setting up of a collateral reserve fund to provide support to first generation of entrepreneurs who find it difficult to furnish collateral securities or third party guarantees, setting up of a Small Industries Infrastructure Development Fund for developing industrial areas in/around metropolitan and urban areas, change in the definition of sick SSI units, giving statutory powers to State Level Inter-Institutional Committee (SLIIC), setting up of a separate guarantee organisation and opening of 1000 additional specialised branches are amongst significant recommendations made by the Committee.

The Committee has also recommended enhancing of SIDBI's role and status to match with that of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), suggestions towards technological upgradation of various sub-sectors of SSI, granting 20 per cent additional ad hoc limits to SSIs from banks and setting up of a reconstruction fund with initiative and initial corpus from the Government of India and the RBI to enable branch managers to provide, if necessary, initial corpus margin money for such additional facilities earmarking atleast 40 per cent of resources of SIDBI to tiny sector, close co-operation between State Finance Corporations (SFCs) and public sector banks for jointly providing term loans and working capital limit to SSIs, NABARD to set up a fund similar to National Equity Fund to make facilities available to rural industrial units with projects costs upto Rs. 10 lakh, appointment of separate ombudsman in each bank for grievances not covered by RBI's banking ombudsman scheme, training and motivation for staff of regional rural banks, urban co-operative banks and SFCs.

RBI has reported that the recommendations of the Committee need to be examined in consultation with various agencies such as Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Indian Banks Association (IBA), banks and Government departments including State Governments. RBI is taking necessary steps in this regard.

Build up of Huge Position in Some Scripts by Brokers

5580. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA:

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been a rapid build up of huge positions created by many brokers in some scrips;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which badla system prevailing at present is responsible in helping the brokers and build up huge positions on certain scrips;

(d) whether any action has been taken by Security and Exchange Board of India to prevent such positions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that some of the brokers had built up some positions in the scrips of BPL Limited, Videocon International Ltd. and Sterlite Industries Ltd., both in the normal trading as well as in the carry forward system.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Some of the recent measures taken by SEBI include incremental margins on the increased carry forward positions, margins on building up of concentrated positions in scrips in cash as well as carry forward trades, graded volatility margins linked to price movements, etc.

Loans to Weaker Sections

5581. DR. RAVI MALLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target of lending fixed by each of public sector banks for priority sector, especially to weakers and farmers during the last three years state-wise;

(b) whether the target has been achieved by all these banks;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) The targets fixed for lending to priority sector and its sub-sectors by Indian commercial banks including public sector banks are given below:

Total priority sector advances : 40 per cent of Net Bank Credit (NBC)

Total agricultural advances : 18 per cent of NBC

Advances to weaker sections : 10 per cent of NBC

(b) and (c) The performance of public sector banks in lending to priority sector and its sub-sectors as on the last Friday of March 1988 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The public sector banks which had not achieved the total priority sector lending target of 40 per cent as on the last Friday of March 1997 were asked to contribute the entire shortfall to Rural Infrastructural Development Fund-III (RIDF-III) with National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD). Those public sector banks which had not achieved agricultural lending sub-target of 18 per cent as on that date were asked to contribute on pro-rata basis a total amount of Rs. 928 crore to RIDF-III.

Statement

Performance of public sector banks in lending to priority sector and its sub-sectors as on the last friday of March 1998.

Name of the bank	(%) (in percentage)		
	Total Priority Sector (Target) 40%	of which to Agri- culture (Target) 18%	of which to Weaker Sections (Target) 10%
1	2	3	4
1. State Bank of India	37.46	14.63	7.00
2. State Bank of B & J	40.61	12.66	7.58
3. State Bank of Hyderabad	37.60	15.65	14.72
4. State Bank of Indore	45.22	17.58	6.38
5. State Bank of Mysore	41.84	16.86	7.13

1	2	3	4
6. State Bank of Patiala	39.88	17.03	8.59
7. State Bank of Saurashtra	44.41	14.50	4.58
8. State Bank of Travancore	57.99	21.40	25.37
9. Allahabad Bank	36.10	13.25	8.43
10. Andhra Bank	41.37	18.28	9.63
11. Bank of Baroda	46.86	17.99	8.13
12. Bank of India	48.27	18.46	4.92
13. Bank of Maharashtra	41.02	16.50	7.27
14. Canara Bank	48.57	20.25	11.22
15. Central Bank of India	40.56	10.99	9.73
16. Corporation Bank	42.65	11.56	3.34
17. Dena Bank	42.33	14.00	3.69
18. Indian Bank	43.18	19.21	12.28
19. Indian Overseas Bank	44.61	19.12	11.13
20. Oriental Bank of Commerce	44.18	20.02	8.89
21. Punjab National Bank	40.66	13.08	9.17
22. Punjab & Sind Bank	44.24	14.93	5.76
23. Syndicate Bank	42.63	15.87	8.52
24. Union Bank of India	46.16	15.53	7.47
25. United Bank of India	41.94	15.35	9.68
26. UCO Bank	37.28	13.35	8.56
27. Vijaya Bank	44.65	15.12	10.01
Total	41.85	15.72	8.31

Euromoney Conference

5582. SHRI AJIT JOGI:

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Euromoney Investors Conference was held in New Delhi on June 25, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the specific fears and apprehension were voiced by the Euromoney investors and if so, the Government's response to remove their fears; and

(d) the latest prospects of foreign direct investment, as it emerged from the conference?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA):

(a) to (d) We understand that Euromoney Conference, a wing of the Euromoney Publications Plc. London, organised a conference on 25th and 26th June, 1998 on the theme "India—Foreign Investment in Infrastructure Projects and Financial Markets". The Conference was organised with the objective of analysing recent political developments and their impact on the Indian economy and the financial markets. The conference also proposed to focus on foreign direct investment opportunities in the progressive and rapidly industrialising States of India—particularly in infrastructure projects.

Newsreports indicate that the conference inter-alia discussed the impact of the recent developments such as the US sanctions and down grading of India's sovereign ratings on foreign investments in India but no unanimous views on the impact of these developments emerged during the conference. The general approach of the Government in countering the effect of the sanctions is to try to get a better understanding of our position on the part of other countries

and also to encourage private capital flows. To this end, the Government is pursuing its stated policies of encouraging inflows of foreign direct investment, investment from NRIs and from FIs while ensuring that our domestic economic situation is strong.

[*Translation*]

Export to Eastern European Market

5583. SHRI SADASHIV RAO D. MANDLIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India have not been able to increase its export to the required extent in Eastern European market which has immense potential;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the areas or items in which India can increase its export in Eastern European Market;
- (d) whether the Government are contemplating to formulate any long term policy for boosting the export;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) There has been an increase of 3.72% in 1997-98 as compared to 1996-97. The total export to East European Countries was US \$ 194.20 million in 1997-98 and US\$ 187.24 million in 1996-97.

(b) Some of the reasons for this marginal growth include, inter alia, collapse of a well-established trade organisation with the shift in break-bulk from bulk trading, initial periods of economic and financial instability in these countries resulting in liquidity constraints, certain shifts in terms of pattern and orientation of bilateral trade etc.

(c) There is scope for augmentation of trade in commodities like cotton yarn fabrics made-ups, tea, RMG cotton including accessories, coffee, drugs, pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals, handicrafts etc. and diversification in items like software, gems and jewellery automobile accessories etc.

(d) to (f) Government has already undertaken certain proactive initiatives/policies to further augment exports; which include, inter alia;

- (i) Encouragement to direct business level contacts, for example, through trade fairs, exhibitions, exchange of delegation, joint business councils, etc.;
- (ii) Promotion of Joint Ventures and other forms of economic cooperation;
- (iii) Encouraging counter-trade and its variants;
- (iv) Setting up of Joint Commissions, Joint Committees and holding of these meetings;
- (v) Providing legal framework for economic cooperation;

- (vi) Encouragement of better quality control;
- (vii) Promotion of consignment exports and warehousing facilities;
- (viii) Encouragement of exchange of commercial visits;
- (ix) Encourage to diversifying commodities in the export baskets for items like electronics and software, gems and jewellery, marine products etc.

[*English*]

Director of Investigation, I.T.

5584. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the units working under the Director of Investigation (I.T.) have asked for furnishing information in respect of tax matters u/s 131 and 132 of I.T.A, 1961, during 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98; and
- (b) if so, the number of such cases identified in UP, Delhi and Bombay, separately year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Search and Seizure operations are authorised under section 132 of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Information is not statutorily asked to be furnished under Section 132 of the Act. Notices under section 131(1A) of the Act have been issued by the units working under the Directors of Income Tax (Investigation) holding jurisdiction over Delhi, Mumbai and U.P. during 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 in order to verify the genuineness of certain information and, or, to elicit information for the purpose of carrying out pre-search investigations. Since these notices have been issued in connection with matters of investigation from different files which are numerous, it is not possible to furnish the number of cases in which such notices have been issued for the above mentioned years.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Inquiry Committee

5585. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the committees set-up to inquire into the accidents occurred in the coal industry after the nationalisation of coal industry, as on date;
- (b) the recommendations of these committees;
- (c) whether the recommendations of said committees have been implemented;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the number of committees at the level of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) out of these inquiry committees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Since the nationalisation of coal mines in 1973, there have been 14 major accidents for which courts of inquiry were appointed by Ministry of Labour, Government of India under Section 24 of the Mines Act as per details given in the Statement-I.

received and action thereupon are given in the enclosed Statement-II. The reports for the accidents at New Kendra and Gasitand are under consideration of the Government.

(e) As per information received from Ministry of Labour no Committee/Court of Inquiry, out of those referred to in reply to part (a) above was headed by the Director General of Mines Safety.

(b) to (d) The details of the recommendations of the reports

Statement-I

S. No.	Date	Colliery	Court of Inquiry headed by	Cause	No. of Victims
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	18.3.73	Jitpur, IISCO	Sh. R.C. Dutt Former MD, NCDC	Explosion	48
2.	09.8.75	Kessurgarh, BCCL	-do-	Roof fall	11
3.	20.11.75	Silewara, WCL	Sh. P.M. Nayak IAS. Retd. Secy.	Inundation	10
4.	27.12.75	Chansnalla, IISCO	Justice U.N. Sinha, Former Chief Justice Patna High Court	-do-	375
5.	05.4.76	-do-	-do-	-do-	5
6.	19.9.76	Central Saunda, CCL	Sh. N.P. Dube, Ex-Secy. GOI	-do-	10
7.	04.10.76	Sudamdih, BCCL	Sh. H.C. Sarin, Ex-Sec., GOI	Explosion	45
8.	22.10.79	Baragolai, NEC	Sh. T.S. Sankaran IAS, Addl. Secy.	-do-	16
9.	24.6.81	Jagannath, CCL (now in MCL)	Sh. K. Ramamurthy Member, Rev. Bd., Govt. of Orissa	Fire	10
10.	16.7.82	Topa, CCL	Justice Pandey, Former Judge, Jabalpur H'Court	Roof fall	16

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	14.11.83	Hurilladih, BCCL	Justice C.T. Dighe, Former Judge, Bombay High Court	Inundation	19
12.	13.11.89	Mahabir, ECL	Sh. P.C. Hota, Addl. Secy. GOI	-do-	6
13.	25.1.94	New Kenda, ECL	Justice Shamsuddin Ahmad, Former, Judge Calcutta H'Court	Fire	55
14.	26.9.95	Gaslitand, BCCL	Justice S.K. Mukherjee Former Judge Allahabad H'Court	Inundation	64

Statement-II

1. There are 17 recommendations relating to subjects like operation of mine fans, precautions against inundation, surface fires, maintenance of mine plans, preparation of emergency plans, and for the control of rescue and recovery operations. Necessary changes have been incorporated by amendments in the provisions of Mines Rules, 1995, Mines Rescue Rules, 1985 and Coal Mines Regulations, 1957.

2. 46 recommendations are for improvements in the administrative set up, and policy changes. Coal companies have issued necessary instructions and guidelines on the issues arising out of such recommendations. The role of Pit Safety Committees, Internal Safety Organisation, Workmen Inspectors, and safety officers has been activated. Laid down norms of the frequency of underground inspections by officials are being followed. Active co-operation of the unions in the inspections of mines has been encouraged and workmen inspectors are now associated with accident enquiries being conducted by Internal Safety Organisation. Additional systems of roster duties on Sundays and payment of charge allowance for extra hours of work put in have been introduced. The planning wing of the company has been strengthened. Training and re-training of workers is being vigorously pursued and the syllabus of refresher vocational training courses has been modified. Efforts have been made to make up the shortage of Under Managers/Assistant Managers/Surveyors and other statutory personnel in the mines and also fill in the vacant posts of DGMS inspectors.

3. 28 observations of general nature made by the various inquiries have been widely circulated to all concerned for guidance and compliance.

4. 10 recommendations relate to improved inputs like

methanometers, carbon monoxide detectors, portable boring apparatus, and ambulances which have since been procured and are being maintained. With introduction of STD Tele. sets/VHF and other wireless systems, there has been a marked improvement in the tele-communication systems of the mines. Environmental survey and hydro-geological studies have been conducted in all necessary cases.

5. Difficulties have been experienced in complete implementation, of 5 recommendations due to constraints of funds, and lack of suitable technology in the country. These include the provision of self rescuers, breathing apparatus, and continuously recording underground environmental monitoring systems. In some cases, investigations and field trials are still being conducted for development of suitable technologies e.g. earth leakage devices of shorter time duration, and sensors for gas detectors. Foreign assistance has been sought for locating new water bodies in unsurveyed, old workings.

[English]

H.R.A.

5586. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sister-in-law (brother's wife) is entitled to draw HRA in case she resides with his brother-in-law (husband's brother) in a Government accommodation allotted to him;

(b) if so, the details of the orders of the Government on the subject;

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal to permit the drawal of HRA in such cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA):

(a) to (d) A Government servant is entitled to HRA as per rates notified from time to time if he/she pays rent or contributes towards rent or house tax or property tax.

However, a Government servant is not entitled to HRA, if he/she:

(i) shares a rent-free accommodation allotted to another Government servant; or

(ii) resides in accommodation allotted to his/her parents/son/daughter by the Government; or

(iii) the spouse has been allotted accommodation at the same station by the Government.

Export of Leather Goods

5587. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned from the export of leather goods during 1997-98;

(b) the countries which imported leather goods from India during the last year;

(c) whether sanctions imposed on India have adversely affected the export of leather goods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Export of leather goods worth US \$ 259.66 million was effected during the year 1997-98, which is around 18% of the total foreign exchange earnings from the Leather Sector.

(b) Germany, USA, UK, Italy, France are on top of the list of the countries which imported leather goods from India during the last year. Australia, Netherlands, Russia, Spain etc. are the other prominent importers.

(c) As per the reports received from the industry, the exports of leather goods from India have not been affected by the sanctions.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Methane Gas

5588. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any experiment of extracting Methane Gas through Pipelines from coal mines and its use has been conducted anywhere in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred on extracting Methane Gas and the ways in which it can be utilised; and

(c) whether the system of extracting Methane Gas is economically cheaper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a project titled "coalbed Methane Recovery & Commercial Utilisation" is proposed to be undertaken by Ministry of Coal and UNDP/Global Environment Facility (GEF) in Sudamdih and Moonidih mines of BCCL. Methane Gas can be utilised as an alternative source of energy for power generation and as fuel in the form of Compressed-Natural-Gas for dump trucks in opencast projects.

(c) Methane from coal seams is being extracted on a commercial basis in the USA.

[English]

Cachar Paper Mills

5589. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received from the Professional Workers' Trade Union Centre of India about the marketing problems of Cachar Paper Mills in the North East; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State Governments and the major paper consuming Departments of Government of India have been requested to patronise the paper produced by Hindustan Paper Corporation which has two manufacturing units Nagaon Paper Mill and Cachar Paper Mill located in Assam.

Kumbh Mela, Nasik

5590. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any allocation in the budget for Kumbh Mela to be held in Nasik during the next year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the amount provided by the Union Government for Kumbh Mela held in Haridwar; and

(e) the reasons for disparity in providing the Central assistance for the same purpose to Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA):

(a) No specific allocation has been made for Kumbh Mela to be held in Nasik during the next year;

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is for the concerned State Government to provide for pilgrimage and fairs;

(d) No specific amount was provided by Ministry of Finance for this purpose;

(e) Does not arise.

Loans to Tribals

5591. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have issued any guidelines to nationalised banks to provide loans to the tribals in the country; and

(b) if so, the names of nationalised banks in Kerala which have opened their branches in tribal areas of the State and providing loans to tribals in various districts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Credit linked poverty alleviation and employment generations schemes such as Prime Ministers' Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) contain stipulations regarding the coverage of, and benefits to, persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(b) The branch network of Nationalised Banks in two districts of Kerala with a comparatively higher Scheduled Tribes population i.e., Wynad and Edukki, as furnished by Canara Bank (State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) Convenor Bank) is given below:

Name of the bank	Wynad	Edukki
	(No. of Branches)	
Canara Bank	12	1
State Bank of Travancore	7	25
Syndicate Bank	2	1
Union Bank of India	4	25
State Bank of India	4	13
Central Bank of India	3	2
Bank of Baroda	—	1
Corporation Bank	—	—
Vijaya Bank	2	—
Punjab National Bank	1	—

The branches have been providing credit facilities to all categories of borrowers including persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes.

[Translation]

Levelling of Opencast Mines

5592. SHRI LARANG SAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the opencast mines from which coal mining is done by the ancillaries of Coal India Ltd.;

(b) whether there is any proposal for levelling the areas of opencast mines; and

(c) if so, the number of the coal ancillaries and the names of the mines whose levelling has been done alongwith the mines yet to be levelled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The names of the working opencast mines in subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL) as on 1.4.1998 are given in enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Levelling and backfilling in working opencast mines is a continuous process which goes alongwith excavation in mines and is carried out depending upon the following considerations:

(i) Inclination of the seam;

(ii) Presence of contiguous seam/number of underlying seams;

(iii) Size of the mine;

(iv) Shape of the mine.

In very small mines, backfilling is done only after mining work is completed.

Statement	
Sl. No.	Name
1	2
ECL:	
1.	Kottadih
2.	Shankarpore
3.	Sonepur Bazari
4.	Jambad
5.	Chora
6.	Kenda
7.	Bansra
8.	Parasea
9.	Sangramgarh
10.	Bonjemehari
11.	Mohanpur

1	2	1	2
12.	Gourangdih	46.	N. Tisra
13.	Staldasji	47.	Damoda
14.	Ardhagram	48.	Phularitand
15.	Rajmahal	49.	Kuridih/BI-IV
16.	Simlong	50.	Govindpur
17.	Chitra-A	51.	Akashkinaree
18.	Chitra-B	52.	Keshalpur
19.	Nirsha	53.	Ramakanali
20.	Khoodia	54.	Bansjora
21.	Rajpura	55.	Nichitpur
22.	Barmuri	56.	Tetulmari
BCCL:		CCL:	
23.	Golokdih	57.	Bhurkunda
24.	S. Tisra	58.	Saunda—D
25.	Bhowrah	59.	Urimari
26.	Chandan	60.	N. Urimari
27.	Damodar	61.	Gidi-A
28.	Muraidih	62.	Gidi-C
29.	Nudkhurkee	63.	Sirka
30.	Benedih	64.	Sarubera
31.	Block-2	65.	Karma
32.	Jamuria	66.	Pundi
33.	Enafire	67.	Paraj-B
34.	West Mudidih/Keshalpur	68.	Jharkhand
35.	ROCP/S. Jharia	69.	Kedla
36.	NL OCP/KC OCP	70.	Tapin (North)
37.	Damagoria	71.	Tapin (South)
38.	Bhatdih	72.	Rajrappa
39.	Bassuriya	73.	Kathara
40.	Godhur	74.	Bokaro
41.	Kusunda	75.	Karo
42.	Dhansar	76.	Kargali
43.	Gandidih	77.	Khasmahal
44.	East Bassuriya	78.	Amlo
45.	Ghanoqdih	79.	Dhori

1	2	1	2
80.	South Dhorī Quarry-1	114.	S. Sasti
81.	South Dhorī Quarry-3	115.	Ballarpur Expn.
82.	Giridih	116.	N. Dhuptala
83.	Giridih PDS	117.	Gouri-I
84.	Kabriband	118.	Gouri-II
85.	Dakra-Bukbuka	119.	Pauni
86.	K.D. Hesalong	120.	N. Majri/Konda
87.	Karkatta	121.	Kawadi
88.	Rohini	122.	Chargaon—I & II
89.	Piparwar	123.	Sirna
90.	Ashoka	124.	Telwasa
91.	Rajhara	125.	Ghughus
92.	Tetriakhar	126.	Nilgai-I
93.	Religara	127.	Nilgai-II
94.	Kuju	128.	Naigaon/Belora
95.	Topa	129.	Munpoli
96.	Ara	130.	Ukni
97.	Jarandih	131.	Pimpalgaon
98.	Sawang	132.	Kolar-Pimpri
99.	Govindpur	133.	Kamptee
100.	Dhorī (K)	134.	Gundegaon
NCL:		135.	Umrer
101.	Jhingurdah	SECL:	
102.	Gorbi-B	136.	Dhanpuri
103.	Jayant	137.	Sarda
104.	Amlohri	138.	Amlai
105.	Nigahi	139.	Baiga
106.	Bina	140.	Jamuna
107.	Kakri	141.	Kotma
108.	Khadia	142.	Rajnagar
109.	Dudhichua	143.	Chirmiri
110.	HLC	144.	Bisrampur
111.	Durgapur	145.	Dugga
112.	Padampur	146.	Mahan
113.	Bhatdih	147.	Manikpur

1	2
148.	Kusmunda
149.	Laxman
150.	Gevra
151.	Dipka
152.	Dipka (Aug.)
153.	Baroud
154.	Kurasia
155.	Korea
156.	West Chirimiri
MCL:	
157.	Lajkura
158.	Samalwari
159.	Lilari
160.	Belpahar
161.	Lakhanpur
162.	Basundhara (E)
163.	Kalinga
164.	Bharatpur
165.	Balanda
166.	Jagannath
167.	Ananta
168.	Lingraj
169.	Hingula
NEC/CIL:	
170.	Triap
171.	Tilkak

[English]

National Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd.

5593. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Reserve Bank of India is aware of any National Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd. in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said Bank has the approval of the Reserve Bank of India and the Government;
- (d) if not, the measures taken by the Government to inform the general public about such fraud Bank; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the alleged promoters of the said Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it had come to know of the existence of the institution styled as 'National Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Delhi' (NUCBLD) on the basis of its advertisement inviting applications for appointment of different categories of staff through a placement agency. The directors of 'NUCBLD' were also selling equity shares of Rs. 100/- in the lot of minimum 20 shares. NUCBLD has also made declaration to the effect that their Board of Directors comprises, inter-alia, three directors of RBI and five directors of Delhi Government.

(c) RBI has reported that it has neither issued any licence to the said bank for carrying on banking business, nor the bank has been registered by the Registrar of cooperative Societies, Delhi.

(d) and (e) A press release was issued by RBI on 18th June, 1998 cautioning the public at large not to have any dealings with 'NUCBLD' and the same was published in newspapers with details of the activities of the bank. A case was also registered by RBI with Delhi Police on 25th June, 1998 under Section 420, 468 and 471 of Indian Penal Code and some arrests were also made on the same day. The Police authorities are conducting further investigations.

Funds for Housing

5594. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Housing Finance Industry is facing numerous problems that are adversely affecting its performance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the lending rates are also witnessing a downward trend;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to help the financial institutions to provide more funds for housing in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) National Housing Bank (NHB) has reported that housing sector is facing such problems as capital deficiency, institutional funds not sufficiently matching the tenor and maturity profile of long term housing finance, uncertainty in the housing market resulting in locking up of funds, non-availability of concessional funds and absence of effective and speedy foreclosure mechanism.

(c) and (d) After the announcement of the monetary and credit policy of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the 1st half of 1998-99 on April 29, 1998 Prime Lending Rates (PLRs) of scheduled commercial banks have declined responding to various policy measures introduced by the RBI and mainly to the changes made in the bank rate from 12 per cent before April, 1997 to 9 percent on April, 29, 1998.

(e) The existing prescriptions of RBI for flow of credit for housing are as under:

- (i) all housing loans upto Rs. 5 lacs are included under the priority sector advances;
- (ii) the target of advances under economically weaker sections including for housing is prescribed at 10 per cent.
- (iii) requirement that banks allocate a minimum 1.5 per cent of the incremental deposits of the previous year for housing sector.

NHB has recently formulated the Swarana Jayanti Housing Finance Scheme under which a target of financing one lakh houses in rural areas during 1998-99 has been adopted.

Cotton Technology Mission

5595. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Textile Ministry has decided to contribute 25% of the total outlay for the proposed Cotton Technology Mission that seeks to improve cotton output productivity;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry's role comes in preventing cotton contamination;

(c) the total amount provided by the Ministry in this regard; and

(d) the main tasks that will be made to set up cotton technology body?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (d) The Government in the Ministry of Agriculture proposes to set up a Technology Mission on Cotton Development to address problems related to production and productivity of cotton, as well as issues pertaining to marketing and ginning & pressing of cotton, in a coordinated and focussed manner in the cotton growing States. It is, inter alia, proposed to facilitate modernisation of cotton ginning and pressing factories with a view to preventing contamination of cotton. Details of the Mission are being worked out.

Subsidy to Cultivators and

Exporters of Fruits and Vegetables

5596. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy provided by the APEDA to the cultivators and exporters of fruits and vegetables during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the subsidy provided to them have ever been investigated in the actual operation in the field;

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

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for the proper utilisation of the subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (d) The total amount of financial assistance provided by APEDA to the growers and exporters of fruits and vegetables in the country under various schemes of APEDA during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Amount of assistance (Rs. Lakhs)
1995-96	592.62
1996-97	1008.36
1997-98	2068.07

The details of subsidy paid state-wise are not maintained. APEDA's financial assistance schemes are reimbursement schemes. APEDA verifies the eligibility of beneficiaries, ascertains the claim of expenditure incurred by beneficiaries through its field officers and then sanctions assistance under the appropriate scheme at the prescribed scale. The above procedure ensures that the assistance provided to the growers and exporters are properly utilised.

EXIM Policy

5597. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made assessment of the impact of New Export and Import Policy recently announced by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the various components of New EXIM Policy in the context of post-Pokharan developments;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether European Union countries have planned to impose restrictions on imports/exports from India; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) The Export Promotion Councils and apex chambers of Commerce and Industry have generally welcomed the recently announced changes in the EXIM Policy like lowering of the threshold limit for zero duty EPCG Scheme for certain sectors, inclusion of Special customs duty

in calculation of DEPB rate, decentralisation of licensing requirement and automaticity in grant of licences.

(c) and (d) The post Pokhran developments have not effected the country's international trade in any significant way.

(e) and (f) The European Union has not imposed any restrictions on imports/exports from India in the post-Pokhran context. However, the European Union has initiated Anti-Dumping/Anti Subsidy investigations against some of the products exported from India.

[Translation]

Rate of Interest on Foreign/Domestic Loans

5598. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO D. MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have to pay different rates of interest on both foreign and domestic loans;

(b) if so, the rate of interest paid by the Government on both loans, separately, during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(c) whether India has also advanced loans to other countries; and

(d) if so, the rate of interest of charged therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The interest on foreign loans from multilateral sources in the year 1996-97 ranged between 6% and 6.05%. In the year 1997-98 it ranged between 6.54% and 6.98%. The loans from bilateral sources ranged between 0.75% and 4% in both the years. The weighted average rate of interest on domestic market loans raised by the Government was 13.69% and 12.01% during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively. Interest rates on external loans and interest on rupee debt are not strictly comparable because of exchange risk involved in the former.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The rate of interest charged during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 was as applicable to six months LIBOR, except in the case of Vietnam where it was 5% per annum.

[English]

Cases Registered by CBI

5599. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the C.B.I. has registered a case against a senior member of the income tax appellated tribunal for allegedly amassing assets of crores of rupees disproportionate to the, known sources of income;

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

(c) the number of other persons found amassing wealth disproportionate to their known sources of income in the service of Government, Central and State or autonomous bodies including cooperative sector;

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to concentrate on netting such persons; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the period 1990-97, the accused person, Shri Tukaram A. Bukte, Member, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, had allegedly amassed huge assets disproportionate to his known sources of income in his and his family members' names. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has taken up investigations in the matter.

(c) During the last three years, upto May 31, 1998 CBI has registered cases against 243 persons belonging to Central and State Governments, and Public Sector Undertakings, for allegedly possessing assets disproportionate to their known sources of income.

(d) and (e) The Government, in its fight against corruption, always keeps a vigil on public servants amassing assets disproportionate to their known sources of income. Appropriate action is taken as and when any such case is detected.

Settlement Commission

(Income Tax & Wealth Tax) New Delhi

5600. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications of assesseees in Settlement Commission (Income Tax & Wealth Tax), New Delhi in which provisions contained in Sub-Section (2A), (2C), (2D) of Section 245D of Income Tax Act, 1961, were violated during 1.1.91 to 31.12.94, while dealing with them; and

(b) the loss of Government revenue suffered on account of such violation and action Government propose to take against the guilty official of the Commission found responsible for loss of Government revenue by such violations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) No violation of any provision of the law by any officer of the Settlement Commission has come to the notice of the Government.

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

[Translation]

Textile Industry at Bhilwara (Rajasthan)

5601. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhilwara is an important place for textile industry in Rajasthan region and if so, whether the Government are taking concrete steps to make it more viable and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the annual profit earned by the Government from the Bhilwara textile industry, and its percentage as compared to country's total textile profits; and

(c) whether Bhilwara textile industry has been considered as Manchester the quantum of textile and yarn exported from here and the foreign exchange earned from it?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA):

(a) Bhilwara occupies an important place in textile industry and the Government is considering many steps including setting up of Textile Upgradation Fund and Technology Mission for Cotton for development of textile industry throughout the country including Bhilwara region;

(b) Since there are no Central Government Textile Undertakings in this region the question of Government earning profit does not arise.

(c) No region-wise information of export earnings is maintained.

[English]

Export of Meat of Buffalo and Calves

5602. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASHAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any notifications have been issued for export of buffalo veal allowing killing of calves of 16 weeks;

(b) if so, whether the slaughter houses engaged in meat export are exempted from Indian Standard;

(c) whether slaughter of calves/buffalo is allowed in view of Article 48 of Constitution of India and Supreme Court's decision; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No, Sir. There is no notification for export of buffalo veal allowing killing of calves of 16 weeks. However, raw meat (Chilled/frozen) has been notified under Section 6 of the Export Quality Control and Inspection Act, 1963 vide order S.O. 203, dated 15.1.93 to be subjected to quality control and inspection prior to export. The standard specifications for raw meat (chilled/frozen) have been set out in Schedules to the Order. Schedule IV describes the specifications of buffalo veal. Buffalo veal has been described as buffalo carcass/meat from an animal varying in age from 4 to 12 months.

(b) No, Sir. The minimum requirements for an ap-

proved abattoir not conforming to IS 4393-1979 have been prescribed under Schedule I of the said order S.O. 203, dated 15.1.93.

(c) and (d) Article 48 of the Constitution of India enjoins that the State shall endeavour to organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and shall, in particular, take steps for preserving and improving the breeds and prohibiting the slaughter of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle.

Pending Pension Cases

5603. SH. A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases in respect of claims for family pensions pending with the Indian Audit and Accounts Department, (A & E-I) Maharashtra as on date;

(b) since when these cases are pending and the reasons for their pendency;

(c) whether the Indian Audit and Accounts Department, (A & E-I) Maharashtra has received letters bearing Nos. B. Adm. I/35(1)/74, dated November 21, 1975 and B. Adm./I/35(1)/74-Pt-II, dated June 15, 1998 from the officer of the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central), Mumbai;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Audit-Department thereon;

(e) the reasons for abnormal delay in finalising these cases; and

(f) the time by which pending cases are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA):

(a) to (f) The information is being collected by the CAG of India and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Grants to Orissa

5604. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the grants recommended by Tenth Finance Commission for upgradation of District Administration and special problems relating to Government of Orissa, year-wise;

(b) the Grants released by the Government of India so far and the guidelines issued for distribution and utilisation of the grant by that State;

(c) whether the Scheduled Areas of Orissa will be getting adequate fund from these grants under Article 275(i) and First Proviso of the Constitution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA):

(a) and (b) A Statement giving the required information is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The State Government of Orissa have affirmed that while utilising the grants for upgradation of District Administration due care has been taken to meet the needs of the Scheduled Areas. However, grants for Special Problems are area and scheme specific.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Upgradation of District Administration		Special Problems	
	Recommended by the TFC	Released on the basis of Action Plans submitted by the State Govt.	Recommended by the TFC	Released on the basis of Action Plans submitted by the State Govt.
	1996-97	388.12	231.16	1020.00
1997-98	485.15	189.25	1275.00	911.25
1998-99	582.17	—	1530.00	—
1999-2000	485.15	—	1275.00	—
Total	1940.59	420.41	5100.00	1316.25

Reward to Informer

5605. SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government encourage the source of information for detecting black money by giving incentives to the informers;

(b) if so, the details of the policy formulated in this regard;

(c) the total number of complaints received by Income Tax Office, Jhandewalan during 1997-98 and the number of complaints disposed of by them so far;

(d) whether the Income Tax Office, Jhandewalan is alleged to have been ignoring such complaints despite clear instructions from the Government in this regard;

(e) if not, the reasons for not initiating any action on the complaints received by them on 8th October 1997 and subsequent reminders on December 29, 1997 and April 6, 1998 of income; and

(f) the action taken, if any or proposed to be taken to bring the culprits to book?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) There is a scheme of granting rewards to persons furnishing information relating to evasion of taxes. The scheme is regulated by guidelines issued, from time to time, by the Government.

(c) The total number of complaints received by the Directorate of Income Tax (Investigation), Jhandewalan, New Delhi, during 97-98 was 471. According to the guidelines laid down by the Government, the complaints are classified into

different categories. Complaints requiring in-depth investigation and verification take time for processing and disposal. Out of 471 evasion complaints, 197 have been disposed off by way of transferring to the jurisdiction of the respective assessing officers since they are not cases of substantial evasion or by filing complaints which do not warrant any action.

(d) to (f) It is not correct to say that the Directorate of Income Tax (Investigation), Jhandewalan, New Delhi is ignoring evasion complaints. However, in the absence of the names of the cases for which complaints were received on a particular day, it is difficult to furnish the information for non-action.

Reservation in I.T.

5606. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of Inspector of Income-tax in Group "C" services has been indentified for 3% reservation for orthopaedically physically handicapped persons;

(b) if so, whether on the same basis, the post of Income-tax Officer in Group "B" services has also been identified in term of section 32 of the Central Act No. 1 of 1996 persons with disabilities (Equal opportunities, Protection of rights and full participation); and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, and the ground for giving different treatment in reservation in Group "B" and "C" services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No decision has been taken in this regard.

Staff cars in Ministries

5607. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of staff cars under the Central Ministries, Ministry-wise;
- (b) the number out of them placed at the disposal of Ministers and their staff with details;
- (c) the expenditure incurred on POL, etc. during the last two years, year-wise;
- (d) whether any limit has been fixed by the Government on the consumption of POL; and
- (e) if so, the achievements in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (e) The information is not centrally maintained; it will have to be collected from all the Ministries/Departments and their attached/subordinate offices spread all over the country. The efforts required in collection of this data may not be commensurate with the time and labour involved and the results likely to be achieved. Restrictions have already been imposed in regard to purchase of staff cars and consumption of POL.

Orissa Cotton Mills

5608. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Orissa Cotton Mills, located at Bhagalpur, District Cuttack is being run on conversion basis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of mills under NTC in the country are being run on conversion basis and the amount earned as conversion cost and the amount provided by the Government and private institutions for these mills monthly?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Orissa Cotton Mills, a unit of NTC (WBAB & O) Ltd., has been doing job conversion work since Dec., 1997. In 1997-98 the mills did job conversion work worth Rs. 1.35 crores (provisional).

(c) As per available information during May, 1998, as many as 56 NTC mills are running on job conversion basis. The total gross average monthly earning from job work during 1997-98 amounts to Rs. 9.29 crores (provisional). The Government is providing approximately Rs. 16 crores per month towards shortfall in wages and salaries for these 56 mills.

[*Translation*]

Rajiv Gandhi Foundation

5609. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any kind of economic assistance was

provided to Rajiv Gandhi Foundation by the Government during the last three years;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and whether any tax concession was given to the said foundation; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Planning Commission has released following grants to Rajiv Gandhi Foundation during the last three years for the project on National and Regional workshops for Promotion of Panchayati Raj :

Years	Rupees
1995-96	1,77,000
1996-97	9,47,000
1997-98	Nil

(b) and (c) Besides, exemption u/s 10(23C) (iv) of the Income-tax Act has been granted to the Foundation for the assessment years 1995-96 to 1997-98.

[*English*]

Garment Export

5610. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether garment exporters are circumventing the quota system by exporting goods to a third country and then relabelling them for export to other countries;
- (b) if so, the number of such cases have come to the notice of Government; and
- (c) the details of the action taken against such firms?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) No complaints have been received regarding any garment exporters circumventing the quota system by exporting goods to a third country and then selling them for export to other countries.

Income Tax Building at Jhandewalan

5611. SHRI VIJAY SINGH SOY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Income-Tax Department has hired 3 storeyed building at Jhandewalan at a rent of Rs. 25 lakh per month;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith main features of the agreement;
- (c) whether the building hired is unauthorised and unsuitable for the purpose;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the clearance has been taken from Delhi Fire Service for the said building and for its conversion from cold storage to commercial complex;

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

(g) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The ground floor and the second floor of the building at E-2 ARA Extension, Jhandewalan, New Delhi, have been rented by the Income-tax Department since 1991. The total covered area of these floors is 67,187 sq. ft. The rent currently being paid for these two floors is Rs. 26,28,662.00 per month. In terms of the lease agreement made with the landlord, he is required to pay all rates and taxes, etc., levied on the building by the local authorities, and, also incur all expenditure required for necessary repairs.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) The fire clearance certificate is issued by the Delhi Fire Service only in the case of buildings which are more than 15 (Fifteen) meters high. The aforesaid building at Jhandewalan does not fall in this category.

(f) and (g) Do not arise in view of (e) above.

Assets officials of Income Tax and

Customs Department

5612. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many officials in the Income Tax and Customs Departments are in possession of properties and assets disproportionate to their known source of income;

(b) if so, the number of officials of these departments whose premises were raided during each of last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Debt GDP Ratio

5613. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

The debt-GDP ratio, debt service ratio during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): The external debt-GDP and debt-service ratio (calculated using cash payments approach) for the period 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as follows:

Year	Debt-GDP ratio (%)	Debt-service ratio (%)
1994-95	32.3	25.6
1995-96	28.2	24.8
1996-97	25.9	22.6

Face of Reforms

5614. SHRI K.L. SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the India Economic Summit held in December, 1997, a large number of foreign investors expressed their resentment at the pace of reforms carried out in the country;

(b) if so, the other specific points raised at the Summit and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The World Economic Forum organised an India Economic Summit in New Delhi in the month of December, 1997. According to some of the speakers the pace of economic reform was extremely slow and India was merely catching up with reforms taking place elsewhere. It was further stated that factors such as political uncertainty, lack of cohesive will, delay in decision making process etc. were also affecting the growth process.

(c) The Union Budget 1998-99 has announced various reforms in agriculture, industry, infrastructure, public sector and capital markets to induce investment and to impart dynamism to the overall growth process.

Cases Filed by CBI Against Former Union Ministers

5615. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has filed any cases against any of the former Union Ministers and former Chief Ministers for income tax violation during the past three years;

(b) if so, the number of such cases pending so far; and

(c) the number of such cases which have been disposed of so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

L.C. FRAUD

5616. SHRI ANUPLAL YADAV:

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

SHRI BIJOY KUMAR "BIJOY":

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "27 arrested for LC fraud, some also accused in share scam" appearing in the Economic Times dated June 18, 1998;

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

(c) the measures proposed to be taken for the recovery of about 25 crores of rupees involved in this fraud?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Income Tax Complex at Vaishali

5617. SHRI VIJAY SINGH SOY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax Department has acquired a massive complex at Vaishali in Ghaziabad, at a cost of Rs. 10 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said complex remains unused for the last several years, while the department is paying heavy amount as rent for its office accommodation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Income-Tax Department has acquired an office building at Vaishali from the Ghaziabad Development Authority at a cost of Rs. 19.93 crores. The total office space purchased is fifteen thousand (15000) square metres.

(c) and (d) The possession of the aforesaid building was taken by the Income-tax Department only in March, 1997. Certain works such as partitioning of rooms and cabins, and installation of electric fixtures, are yet to be completed in this building, after which the Department will move some of its offices to this building.

*[Translation]***Hawala Scam**

5618. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has completed its investigation in widely commented upon Hawala case;

(b) if so, the number of people taken into custody by CBI;

(c) the number of cases since disposed off finally and the number of cases still pending with details thereof; and

(d) the amount spent by CBI in investigation and litigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Three persons were taken into custody by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

(c) Out of thirty four charge-sheets filed by CBI, 29 have been dropped by the trial/high court and 5 are pending trial.

(d) Rs. 32.5 lakhs (approx.) have been spent by CBI on investigation and litigation.

*[English]***New Excise Policy**

5619 DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the impact of new excise policy on small and marginal fisherman and seafood industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): Excise duty of 8% ad-valorem has been imposed on 'packed and branded preparations of meat, fish, crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates' falling under sub-heading No. 1601.10 of the Central Excise Tariff as part of budget proposals for 1998-99. The preparations which are not put up in unit containers or not branded and other products of seafood industry which are simply chilled, frozen, salted, dried or smoked remain fully exempt from excise duty. Small producers of dutiable goods are not required to pay any excise duty on clearances upto Rs. 50 lakhs in a year and will have to pay lower duty on clearances beyond Rs. 50 lakhs and upto Rs. 100 lakhs. As such the levy is not likely to have any significant impact on small and marginal fisherman and seafood industry.

Non-Fulfilment of Obligations by the Director of ITC

5620. SHRI NAKLI SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Billimoria Committee report has indicted Indian Tobacco Company who had observed that the Company has found ways to cheat the system;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken in the matter;

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

(d) whether Financial Institution's Directors, non-Executive Directors are not fulfilling their obligations by conniving the wrong doings of the Company;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether any inquiry has been made in the matter;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Demonstration-Cum-Training Centre in Assam

5621. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Silk Board has established a Demonstration-cum-Training Centre at Sualkuchi in Assam to demonstrate the improved silk reeling;

(b) if so, the number of persons trained so far at the said training centre; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make people aware about Sualkuchi Training Centre?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Yes, Sir. A Demonstration-cum-Training Centre (DCTC) to train silk reelers and reelers-cum-weavers in improved techniques of silk reeling and spinning along with a post-cocoon Technical Service Centre has been established at Sualkuchi.

(b) A total of 495 persons have been trained so far in the improved technologies of silk reeling and spinning at this training centre.

(c) The following steps have been taken by Central Silk Board to ensure that the people are aware of such a training centre at Sualkuchi:

- (i) One large-scale demonstration covering the improved muga silk reeling technology and improved technology of weaving, degumming and dyeing and five demonstrations on improved version of tasar and muga reeling machines and improved degumming/dyeing technology and the recipe used

for degumming and dyeing were organised in Sualkuchi in March 1997.

(ii) Survey on silk reeling and weaving units by visiting each unit.

(iii) Testing and quality assessment of cocoons and raw silk tendered by reelers and weavers.

All these activities have given wide publicity about the functioning of both the DCTC and post cocoon Technical Service Centre.

[*Translation*]

Rehabilitation of Mill Workers of Rajasthan

5622. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received several complaints regarding irregularities being committed by the managements of Mahalaxmi Mills, Edward Mills and Vijay Cotton Mills of Rajasthan under NTC;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) No complaints in this regard have been received in the Ministry of Textiles.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*English*]

ITDC Jammu Outstanding Against Customer

5623. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names and places of ITDC hotels and the loss and profit of each such unit for the last three years, year-wise and unit-wise;

(b) whether some private or Government persons have been authorised to stay and enjoy facilities of both lodging and boarding in these hotels/motels with making payment at fixed rates; if so, the names of such persons and the amount involved for providing such facilities to each person during the last three years and also in the current year;

(c) whether some persons are permanently occupying accommodation in ITDC hotel Jammu Ashok; and

(d) if so, the names of such person and amount spent every year during the above said period on each such persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) Information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Providing boarding and lodging facilities to Private and Government clients on payment basis in ITDC hotels is a normal business activity of ITDC. The operating expenditure

of the ITDC Hotels in providing such facilities to its clients during last 3 years and during the first quarter of the current financial year is as follows:

Year	Operating Expenditure (Rs. in crores)
1	2
1995-96	Rs. 132.03
1996-97	Rs. 135.79

1	2
1997-98	Rs. 149.19 (Provisional)
1998-99 (1st Quarter only)	Rs. 35.67 (Provisional)
(c)	No person(s) is/are permanently occupying guest room accommodation in Hotel Jammu Ashok.
(d)	Does not arise.

Statement

Profitability of ITDC hotels for the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97

Sl. No.	Name of the Hotel and location	1994-95 Net Profit/ Loss	1995-96 Net Profit/ Loss	1996-97 Net Profit/ Loss
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Hotel Bodhgaya Ashok	4.58	22.37	18.62
2.	Hotel Pataliputra Ashok, Patna	-26.50	-5.29	6.45
3.	Ashok Hotel, New Delhi	1526.78	2300.29	2126.53
4.	Hotel Samrat, New Delhi	147.18	369.40	422.00
5.	Qutab Hotel, New Delhi	153.95	130.82	488.70
6.	Hotel Kanishka, New Delhi	247.60	453.39	670.28
7.	Hotel Janpath, New Delhi	96.30	218.02	200.68
8.	Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi	30.93	77.66	295.63
9.	Hotel Ranjit, New Delhi	-60.63	-93.23	-118.17
10.	Ashok Yatri Niwas, New Delhi	-61.60	-39.60	-4.38
11.	Hotel Manali Ashok, Manali	-3.59	-11.18	-33.76
12.	Hotel Jammu Ashok, Jammu	-28.48	-40.30	-31.12
13.	Hotel Ashok, Bangalore	110.22	310.14	351.42
14.	Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel, Mysore	108.51	228.38	254.64
15.	Hotel Hassan Ashok, Hassan	12.61	44.75	42.21
16.	Kovalam Ashok, Beach Resort, Kovalam	140.36	411.59	279.86
17.	Hotel Khajuraho Ashok	-28.51	-40.66	-58.75
18.	Hotel Aurangabad Ashok	-32.87	-38.40	-47.23

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Hotel Kalinga Ashok Bhubaneswar	-30.84	-35.28	-31.12
20.	Hotel Jaipur Ashok, Jaipur	-19.35	19.95	-61.27
21.	Laxmi Vilas Palace Hotel, Udaipur	71.42	129.15	110.36
22.	Temple Bay Ashok Beach Resort, Mamallapuram	10.60	33.39	22.93
23.	Hotel Madurai Ashok	1.26	5.90	-3.37
24.	Hotel Varanasi Ashok	-67.88	-76.46	-99.35
25.	Hotel Agra Ashok, Agra	-47.08	-46.47	-70.44
26.	Hotel Airport Ashok Calcutta	-52.34	-68.46	221.23
		2202.13	4259.87	4961.34

I.T. Exemption to Educational Institutions

5624. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether educational institutions which enjoyed income-tax exemption under clause 22 of Section 10 of the I.T. Act will no longer enjoy that exemption;

(b) if so, the types of educational institutions that will be deprived of the exemption; and

(c) the safeguards proposed to be offered to genuine non-profit educational institutions carrying on philanthropic work so that they are not subjected to an unfair tax burden?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) The clause 22 of section 10 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 has been deleted by the Finance (No. 2) Bill, 1998 with effect from 1.4.1998 which has been passed by the Lok Sabha. Thus the blanket exemption hitherto enjoyed by the educational institutions under section 10(22) will not be available from assessment year 1999-2000. However, the genuine educational institutions will continue to enjoy the exemption provided they fulfil certain conditions. These are:

- (i) Any university or other educational institution existing solely for educational purposes and not for the purposes of profit and which is wholly or substantially financed by the Government shall be automatically exempted under section 10(23C) (liiab).
- (ii) Any university or educational institution existing solely for educational purposes and not for the

purposes of profit is also exempted from Income-tax under section 10(23C)(iiia-d) provided that its annual receipts do not exceed Rs. one crore.

- (iii) Any university or educational institution existing solely for educational purposes and not for the purposes of profit other than those covered by the above two provisions and which may be approved by the prescribed authority [as per sub-clause (vi) of Section 10 (23C)].

Corruption in SEBI

5625. SHRI C.D. GAMIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of rampant corruption in SEBI in clearance of new issues/rights issues at very high and unrealistic price;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to conduct any enquiry into its functioning; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) SEBI is an autonomous institution whose functioning is governed by the SEBI Act, 1992.

Tax Concession to Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan

5626. SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan has been getting the benefit of tax concession under Section 35(i)(ii) of the Income Tax Act for several years;

(b) if so, the details of the research projects undertaken and completed during the last five years; and

(c) the total amount collected by Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan under Section 35(i)(ii) during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan has been getting the benefits of exemption under Section 35(i)(ii) of the Income Tax Act and the latest approval granted to them is effective from 1.4.97 to 31.3.98.

(b) The details of research projects undertaken and completed during the last five years is given in enclosed Statement.

(c) The total contributions/donations collected during the last five years for research activities under section 35(i)(ii) is as follows:

A.Y.	F.Y.	Donations received	Expenditure on Research Activities
93-94	92-93	Rs. 44,79,833/-	Rs. 1,53,71,814/-
94-95	93-94	Rs. 44,56,043/-	Rs. 44,56,043/-
95-96	94-95	Rs. 28,42,262/-	Rs. 28,42,262/-
96-97	95-96	Rs. 55,19,360/-	Rs. 55,19,360/-
97-98	96-97	Rs. 1,10,55,666/-	Rs. 1,24,02,056/-

Statement

A. Details of Research Programme/Projects Undertaken:

1. Studies on corrosion Inhibitors,
2. Expert System for bridge Truss Design,
3. Studies in the Synthesis and properties of hydrazones of heterocyclic ketone & its derivatives,
4. Rheumatology,
5. Research projects in ancient Indian Wisdom by Gandhi Centre.

B. Details of Research Achievements:

1. Microbiological Analysis of fermented milk products available in retail and sealed packs,
2. Vast Potential for silk cotton,
3. Infra-red spectra & distribution coefficient studies of Ammonium Molybdo Tungstate,

4. Bactericidal effect of copper, brass and silver containers on some Enteropathogens,

5. Control of Bacterial contamination in meat and poultry shops using ultra violet light, with special reference to chopping block surfaces,

6. Expert system for bridge truss design,

7. Scheme for Numerical Machine Experimentation,

8. Structure of main program (SPEX),

9. Behavioural Responses of *G. Mullya* & *O Mossambicus* to Iron & Manganese.

[Translation]

Ban on Appointments

5627. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed complete ban on appointments in the Textiles Ministry and its subordinate offices and public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, whether this ban would not be applicable in regard to the newly set up mills or while introducing new plans therein; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) There is no ban as such. However, generally no recruitment is being allowed in the public sector undertakings considered sick or offices considered already over staffed except in exceptional circumstances.

[English]

Per Capita Bank Loan

5628. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of per capita Bank Loan in the country, during the last three years State-wise, particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the efforts being made by the Government to increase the per capita Bank Loan in the Country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, especially in tribal areas; and

(c) the outcome of the efforts made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) State-wise amount of per capita outstanding credit of scheduled commercial banks as on March 1995, March, 1996 and March 1997 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) The total flow of funds from banks to commercial

sector comprising conventional non-food credit, bank's investments in bonds/debentures/shares issued by public sector undertakings and private corporate sector and commercial papers etc. increased by Rs. 51,353 crore (17.6 per cent) during 1997-98.

of March, 1997.

Per capita outstanding credit of scheduled commercial banks in Uttar Pradesh has increased from Rs. 821 as on the last Friday of March 1995 to Rs. 956 as on the last Friday

Statement

State-wise per capita outstanding credit of all Scheduled Commercial Banks as on the last Friday of March 1995, 1996 and 1997

S. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	As on the last Friday of		
		March 1995	March 1996	March 1997
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	660	769	868
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2107	2419	2749
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	379	361	393
4.	Assam	607	693	711
5.	Bihar	558	615	683
6.	Chandigarh	47351	67581	11731
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	585	751	881
8.	Daman & Diu	1772	3213	3583
9.	Delhi	26567	27018	26605
10.	Goa	5708	6052	6638
11.	Gujarat	2151	2910	3127
12.	Haryana	1830	2213	2337
13.	Himachal Pradesh	1257	1353	1395
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	1756	1730	1991
15.	Karnataka	2773	3281	3763
16.	Kerala	2478	2901	3110
17.	Lakshadweep	314	382	423
18.	Madhya Pradesh	897	1201	1255
19.	Maharashtra	6559	7797	7965
20.	Manipur	485	566	668
21.	Meghalaya	525	496	579
22.	Mizoram	354	409	465
23.	Nagaland	762	711	778
24.	Orissa	823	955	1006
25.	Pondichery	2953	3168	3238

1	2	3	4	5
26.	Punjab	3380	3758	3969.
27.	Rajasthan	989	1126	1225
28.	Sikkim	778	818	841
29.	Tamil Nadu	3934	4946	5424
30.	Tripura	735	743	766
31.	Uttra Pradesh	821	905	956
32.	West Bengal	2081	2325	2407
All India		2420	2820	2971

Profit by UTI

5629. DR. SAROJA V.: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India has earned profit during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the non-performing assets of the Trust has also increased during 1997-98;

(d) if so, the extent to which it has increased;

(e) the details of total value of non-performing assets as compared to the total loan advanced by UTI during the above period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) UTI has informed that it does not report profits each year as it does not have a separate balance sheet of its own. However, according to provisional estimates UTI schemes have earned a net distributable income of Rs. 7100 crore during the year 1997-98.

(c) to (e) As per information given by UTI, the non-performing assets of the Trust have been as follows:

	31.12.97	30.6.97
(i) Non-performing assets (Rs. Crore)	2312	2424
(ii) Ratio of gross non-performing assets to total debt instruments (%)	7.6	8.3

(f) UTI is governed by the Unit Trust of India Act, 1963 and the Board of UTI is responsible for its decision. UTI has informed that it has taken the following steps in respect of reducing its non-performing assets:

(i) A Department of Investment Monitoring has been set up in February, 1997 to intensify the focus on follow-up and recovery efforts.

(ii) In many cases defaulting companies have been stopped from declaring dividends until such time that the dues are cleared.

(iii) In appropriate cases necessary legal action, such as filing of suit with the Debt Recovery Tribunals is taken.

(iv) In the case of companies under BIFR, the reliefs/one-time settlement packages as may be sanctioned by the BIFR the implemented.

[*Translation*]

Committee on Subsidy Payment

5630. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision was taken by the Government to set up a committee to grant funds/subsidy to the workers of NTC mills who wish to start their own business after seeking voluntary retirement;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has since been set up,

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether several workers of NTC mills who have taken voluntary retirement due to attraction of this subsidy are facing financial crisis due to inordinate delay in getting funds from the Government; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide funds to such workers for getting them tiding over the financial crisis?

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

*[English]***Pollution by Coal Mines**

5631. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to operation of mines in Basundhara Area of MCL in Sundargarh district of Orissa, there is a possibility of destruction of forest, decrease in water level and threat of pollution in that area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (c) Only 21.58 ha. of forest land has been taken for mining operation in Basundhara (East) OCP of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) in Sundargarh district of Orissa after getting forestry clearance from the Ministry of Environment & Forests. The mine is almost dry and, hence, there is no possibility of decrease in water level in the area. All possible environmental measures have been taken to keep the environment within standard norms. An approved Environment Management Plan is in operation for Basundhara (East) OCP, which is the only working mine of Basundhara Area. Environmental monitoring is being carried out on a monthly basis by an independent Govt. agency i.e. Central Mining Research Institute, Dhanbad. The report of this agency is neither showing any decrease in water level in the area nor any increase of air/water/noise pollution level beyond permissible limits. 35,000 saplings have been planted in 1997-98 and 50,000 saplings are proposed to be planted in 1998-99 in the area.

Non-Implementation of Central Pay and Allowances in NTC Mills of Maharashtra

5632. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation have been received from the NTC Mill Employees Association in Akola (Maharashtra) regarding non-implementation of Central Pay and Allowance with respect to them, while Pay and Allowance of corresponding employees in other States had already been revised over 12 years;

(b) if so, the reasons for the continued disparity suffered by the Maharashtra (Akola) NTC Mill employees; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to pay the revised pay and allowance to them alongwith arrears?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) Some representations have been received from NTC Mills Technical & Officers Staff Association, Maharashtra (Akola).

The Technical Supervisory Staff are covered under Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1948 and their pay scales and services are governed by service conditions applicable to Bombay Cotton Textile Industry settled by awards/agreements

on "Region-Cum-Industry" basis.

The clerical/supervisory mill staff have filed petitions seeking parity in wages with NTC staff. These are pending before the Supreme Court. Another petition has been filed by the Technical and Supervisory Staff in Mumbai High Court. All these petitions are presently sub-judice.

12.01 hrs.

*[English]***PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE****Annual reports, review of the working of Jute Corporation of India Ltd., Indian Jute Industries Research Association, Calcutta etc.**

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Jute Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Jute Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1338/98]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the British India Corporation Limited, Kanpur, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the British India Corporation Limited, Kanpur, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1339/98]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Jute Industries Research Association, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Jute Industries Research Association, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in the Laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1340/98]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Man Made Textiles Research Association, Surat, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Man Made Textiles, Research Association, Surat, for the year 1996-97.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in the Laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 1341/98]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Silk and Art Silk Mills' Research Association, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the silk and Art Silk Mills, Research Association Mumbai, for the year 1996-97.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in the Laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 1342/98]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Textiles Committees, Mumbai for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the textiles Committee, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in the Laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 1343/98]
- (2) A copy of the Notification No. SBD No. 21/1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 1997 making certain amendments to the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur/Hyderabad/Indore/Mysore/Patiala/Saurashtra and Travancore Employees' Provident Fund Regulations under sub-section (4) of section 63 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 1345/98]
- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of undertakings) Act, 1970:
- (i) The Allahabad Bank Officer employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 1997 published in Notification No. H.O./Legal/430 in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 1997.
- (ii) The Central Bank of India (Officers) Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1997 published in Notification No. CO:PRS:IRP:97-98:1135 in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 1346/98]
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts under sub-section (5) of section 29 and sub-section (5) of Section 34 of the Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India Act, 1984.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 1347/98]

Statements showing reasons for delay in laying papers etc. and copies of Notifications under Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of undertakings Act, 1970 etc. etc.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA):
I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Reports and Auditors' Report of 196 Regional Rural Banks for the year 1996-97 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 1344/98]
- (6) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Trend and progress of Housing in India of the National Housing Bank for the year ended the June, 1994, under section 42 of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.
- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 1348/98]
- (8) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Trend and progress of Housing in India of the National Housing Bank for the year ended the

June, 1995 under section 42 of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.

- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1349/98]

- (10) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Housing Bank for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts under sub-section (5) of section 40 of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.

- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1350/98]

- (12) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) on the working of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation for the year ended the 31st March, 1998 under sub-section (2) of section 32 of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1351/98]

Annual report, review of the working of Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Ltd., Ootacamund and statement showing reasons for delay in laying the papers;

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT):
On behalf of Smti Sukhbir Singh Badal, 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) Two Statements regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited, Ootacamund, for the year 1996-97.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited, Ootacamund for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1352/98]

12.02 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business for the remaining part of the Session commencing Monday, 27th July, 1998 will, for the time being, consist of:

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's order paper.
2. Introduction, consideration and passing of the following Bills:
 - (i) The Cotton Ginning Pressing Factories (Repeal) Bill, 1998.
 - (ii) The Interest on Delayed Payments to Small Scale and Ancillary Industrial Undertakings (Amendment) Bill, 1998.
 - (iii) The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 1998.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (VIDISHA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following subject may be included in the next week's agenda—need to formulate a national youth policy for the solution of the problems of crores of youth of the country by taking a comprehensive view of the issue. Need to discuss the paralysed communication system in rural areas of Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI RAMNARAYAN MEENA (KOTA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following subjects may kindly be included in the next week's agenda—Need for conducting a survey for the construction of new direct rail line from Boondi to Ajmer connecting Guna and Bhopal cities of Madhya Pradesh including industrial city Kota to religious cities like Ajmer and Pushkar. Need for formulating a scheme by the Union Government to develop Boondi city (Rajasthan) in order to boost tourism to this famous historical city and a major tourist attraction.

SHRI ADITYANATH (GORAKHPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, permission may please be granted to me to make the following statement today i.e. 24 July, 1998 through special mention—

The Gorakhpur Fertilizer Unit was closed during 1990 after a minor accident. With the efforts of present Government Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd. has taken responsibility to instal a new unit with the old infrastructure. Therefore, I demand from the Government—

1. The new fertilizer unit being set up Kribhko should absorb all the employees already working.
2. If there is any hurdle in such an arrangement comprehensive economic package should be made for the welfare and rehabilitation of workers.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (PATIALA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, permission may please be granted for following subject to be included in the next weeks business—

1. At the time of installation of the present Government an effort was made to send a message in the country that a healthy, clean and good governance would be provided to people. The Government have made efforts to fulfil many promises. Today, masses are hit hard by spiralling prices of atta, pulses, oil and vegetables and lack of potable water; electricity, educational and medical facilities.

Therefore, administrative system should be made accountable and transparent and for this purpose, the Government will have to change the image and style of functioning of the present administration. Therefore, I request the Government to consider this national issue of public importance for discussion in the House during the next week.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (MEERUT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following point may be included in the next week's List of Business:

Setting up of a High Court bench in Meerut in western Uttar Pradesh.

[*English*]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a submission on the next week's Business to the following points:

Expulsion of Seven Indian Scientists from the USA is a matter of grave concern. Immediate steps should be taken by the Government.

Situation arising out of non-purchase of raw jute by the Jute Corporation of India resulting in jute growers not getting fair price and the mills are suffering due to shorage of jute.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN (BASTI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following item may be included in the next week's List of Business.

Setting up of an effective national development bank, "National Rural Bank of India" comprising all 196 regional rural banks of the country as per the first resolution of the National Agenda by according top priority to agriculture and rural development works which have remained neglected after the First Five Year Plan.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (MAHASAMUND): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's business to be presented by the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs:—

1. Formulation of a National Forest Policy by updating Forest Conservation Act.
2. Introduction of a Bill with special economic package for the creation of Chhatisgarh State.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (FEROZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's List of Business:

1. Laying of new rail line from Agra to Etawah via Fatehabad, Bateswar, Baha, Jaitpur and Udi Mod.
2. Construction of a new overbridge at Shikohabad railway crossing.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up Item No. 7— Discussion under Rule 193. Shri Sharad Pawar.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to all the hon. Members to understand that as we have a lot of Business today, we will take up the notices given by the hon. Members for Zero Hour, on Monday. Today, there is no Zero Hour. There is no time. Please understand.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Today, we have to transact a lot of Business. On Monday, we will take up Zero Hour.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We will take it up on Monday. Please understand.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please co-operate with the Chair.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am again appealing to you that today we have very important Business. Please cooperate with the Chair.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will take it up on Monday. Shri Sharad Pawar, please.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Not today. We will take it up on Monday.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (AHMEDABAD): Sir, I may be allowed to speak for one minute only ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Not today. I will allow you on Monday.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Shri Khurana to speak.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE (SUREN-

DRANAGAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a drama opposing the ongoing Narmada Project was telecast at 9.30 on 20th on Doordarshan....(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall convey to the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting the feelings of hon. Members with the request to make a statement on this issue by Monday.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI (RAIGARH): Sir, the country's honour is at stake. It is very important ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Today's item 'Discussion on Atrocities on Women' is also a very important subject. We have to take that first.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: First, all of you take your seats, please.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, please go to your seat first.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? This is not good. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Today, we have a very important Business to dispose of. We have to discuss 'Atrocities on Women' and complete it. That is why I am appealing to all the Members that we would take up 'Zero Hour' on Monday.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU (MADRAS SOUTH): Sir, Shri Khurana has announced the Business of the House in the Press. He should have announced it in Parliament, when Parliament is in Session. It is a breach of privilege. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition is already on his legs.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri T.R. Baalu, please take your seat.

12.15 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Increasing Atrocities on Women-Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (BARAMATI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee raised a very important issue in the House under Rule 193. I had also uttered something in this regard in the House. Atrocities are committed on women—physically, mentally, at educational level and at times by police. The number of such incidents is increasing day-by-day. I had tried to put before the House the number of incidents of atrocities taking place every hour and every minute in the country. I had also given my opinion that unless we change the attitude of men towards women, their condition can not improve. Some stern steps are needed to be taken in certain areas. The most important is that of education. Much amount has been spent on propagation of primary education in the country during the last five decades and laudable effort has been made to impart them education, but we have succeeded in educating only 50 per cent women. The remaining half of them have not been so far imparted education. More than 60 per cent of them constitute Dalit and Tribal women. Unless we take co-operation of women in the field of education, we can not ensure them a bright career. Therefore, more attention should be paid towards this aspect.

Discussion on violence against women was held in the House. Still there is a need to do a lot in this regard. The mentality of officers in the police force also needs to be changed alongwith that of SHOs. There is also need to change the syllabus of their training as well. When, a woman victim of atrocity approaches police station, she does not get proper response. One woman told me that when after having been beaten by her husband, she went to make a complaint to the SHO, she was told that if her husband would not beat her, then should he beat the neighbour's wife. It reflects the mentality of the SHO. Therefore, the syllabus of police training needs a sea change and in police force also, there is a need to increase the strength of women.

Today, in some States, upto 25 percent women are being recruited in police whereas in some other States their representation is less than 6 percent. Though they have got an opportunity to work as a police officer, yet they are not treated at par. We almost daily go to the airport where there are some female Sub-Inspectors. However, there is a need to bring uniformity in their recruitment, service conditions, educational qualifications and equality in rights. I am sure if equal rights are given to women that will help in improving the present situation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this regard, I had a personal experience in my home State, Maharashtra. During the days when I was in the Government there, a massive agitation was launched on the issue of Baba Saheb Ambedkar University. This

decision could not be implemented for some years. After some time, while some preparatory work was done in consultation with the opposition parties. I expressed my apprehensions about clashes taking place in some districts and youth coming down to streets in near future. When action was taken, it came to our knowledge that the area, which was considered to be the most sensitive one, had been peaceful and calm throughout. When seen closely, it came to the fore that it was made possible by the efficient working of a female police officer posted there. I asked the youth as to what made them change their mind when they were all set to go on strike. They said that they preferred to stay, indoors rather than coming to the street to participate in the agitation and brave blows of lady police officer. Due to this very reason they remained peaceful. This instance makes one realise that such a responsible female police officer is fit to be entrusted with such responsibility. In this context, I must say that their services should be inter-changeable, especially in the metropolitan cities, like Delhi where incidents of atrocities on women are ever increasing. If female police officers are deployed at 20-25 police station in Delhi, that would help in tackling the present situation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the next point is about the condition of women folk and the law and order situation. I think there is a need to bring a change in the situation because women are more concerned about their security. In case after marriage of a woman the husband abandons her, what she would do to pull on her life and where she would take refuge. This feeling of insecurity keeps her restless throughout. Therefore, there is a need to amend the relevant laws. I think there is a need to take a major step to allay their fears. In this regard first of all a provision is needed to be made to guarantee her right in the property before marriage and also after marriage, she should have right in the property of the husband. A father can give his property to his son but he cannot give it to his daughters. If at all he gives it to his daughter, he does so out of compassion, but does not consider it as a part of rights of daughters. There is a need to bring uniformity in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a practice to follow family codes. A major change is required in this system. The third point is that as per the Hindu Succession Act 1956, there is a need to amend section 125 in order to provide co-parcenary rights to women and I feel that section 125 of Criminal Procedure Code needs also be amended. The most important point is that the amount of alimony for a divorced wife is merely Rs. 500 even today as per the existing law. In case an industrialist gives divorce to his wife, she will get a maintenance allowance of Rs. 500 only per month. In the existing law, there is no provision to give more than Rs. 500. There is a need to remove this ceiling of Rs. 500 as alimony. A provision should be made to ensure a lump sum payment of alimony to them. In case the divorcing husband happens to be a salaried person, arrangements should be made to deduct the amount of alimony direct from his salary itself. These arrangements would be helpful to women.

Now one more point comes up and that is where a woman would go in case she is victimised at home, subjected to

conflict and a situation develops where knocking the door of court becomes necessary. In such cases, her children are also affected. She has to take care of them also. In Britain, if a case for divorce is subjudice, the husband has no right to stay in his house. Such a system has been introduced in Britain now-a-days. If we go through the case of divorce in our country, we would come to know that a divorce case, on an average, takes as many as 13 years. Now tell me where a woman would live throughout these long 13 years and where her children would live. All these things make the situation very crucial for her. So, it has to be considered whether if we can do some thing here on the U.K. pattern.

Some amendments are needed in Hindu Marriage Act also. Today in Netherlands, there is a provision in their law that husband and wife become partners of 50 percent of household property after their marriage. I feel that now the time has come when in India also, after marriage if wife has some property, husband should have 50 percent share of it. This step will help remove the lingering feeling of insecurity among them. So, we have to make some changes in this regard. This change is to be made not only in Hindu Marriage Act but also in Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872; Indian Divorce Act, 1869; Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936 and Muslim Women Rights and Divorce Act. I want to place this suggestion before the House.

When we talk of adoption we find that only men have the right to adopt child but women do not have the right to adopt child. I believe that both men and women should enjoy this right. Providing this right in our law only to husband does not look justified. At several places, there are complaints that when women approach courts for their maintenance, they pass through different circumstances, they are helpless. In such circumstances, cases of maintenance, property, violence and divorce are filed but there is an urgent need to waive court fee for women filing such cases. Institutions like Lok Adalat which take quick decisions are needed separately for women. There is a provision of legal aid under section 304(3) of Cr. P.C. but there is a need to provide special legal aid to women when they are under trial as they remain in very adverse circumstances. On this issue, I have some information with me. The Rent Act should be amended. An Armed Forces personnel lets out his house but when he returns then as per Rent Control Act, the person residing in his house is not given any protection. The Armed Forces personnel gets back his house on his return...*(Interruptions)*

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (GARHWAL): They do not get. There is a rule.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: They get, there is a provision and rule on the basis of which they get back their houses, but an amendment should be made in respect of widows also. We can do it for women because they live in difficult circumstances. We find that such a woman is alone and another person occupies her house or apartment and if the case of eviction lingers on for 15 to 20 years in courts then in such a situation, would she live on roads? So, such circumstances are faced by them. I feel that we need such an amendment also.

[Sh. Sharad Pawar]

Another important issue is about the economic status of women. Today women are coming forward in many areas, they are getting some opportunities and it is proving that if they are given responsibility, they can discharge it properly. I remember, when I was the Defence Minister, I called some senior officers and placed a proposal before them to induct women in the Army and the Air Force. About 10-15 meetings were held on this issue but they did not agree. At last, I told them that it is the Government decision and they will have to give some percentage of posts and today, women officers are doing well in the Indian Army and the Air Force. I had met a senior officer of Air Force. I asked him about his experience in this regard. He said that Indian Air Force used to face a big problem i.e. accident rate in our country was more than the other countries. But since the induction of women pilots in Indian Air Force, the accident rate in Air Force has declined. Women have the habit that whatever duty is given to them, they perform it properly. They pay full attention to their responsibility. Today, the accident rate has come down and it is good.

When we talk of reservation, we should think about giving reservation to women in Government and Semi-government institutions, I do not want to go into the issue of backward and forward. I want to say before this House that we need some amendment in rules in this regard. There may be such information, when on behalf of Government we take steps to help weaker sections of the society then also we should always give due importance to the security of women. The Housing departments of the State Government or Central Government while allotting a housing unit or giving lease of a land under Nehru Yojna or Jawahar Yojna should ensure that such a housing unit or land is not allotted in the name of the husband only. Such a housing unit or leased land should be in the joint name of the wife and the husband. A woman should have 50 per cent right in such property. Then a man would not dare to throw his wife out of the house. Thus, whenever any assistance is provided by the Government, it will not be in the name of the husband only, rather it will be in the names of both, the husband and the wife. If we accept and implement such suggestions, it would help in dispelling the fear of insecurity from the mind of a woman.

Media is a vast sector. It as well as cinema project atrocities on a large scale. Now-a-days when we watch Hindi moveis, we see that the villain launches an assault on the hero but the hero manages to escape. However, at the last moment, a woman who could be his wife or daughter or mother is brought to the scene and the villain threatens that since she is in his custody, the hero should surrender. In any Hindi movie such scenes are always there.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, picturisation of atrocities against women in the Hindi moveis should be stopped. Picturisation of such scenes should be totally banned. We should not allow even a single case of this type. For this purpose, the Government should nominate at least 50 per cent women as Members in the Film Censor Board or Film Censor Tribunal. The women Members in this Board or Tribunal are nominated by the

Government and these women who are either the wives of big industrialists or belonging to influential families who hardly find any time to attend the meetings of the Board. Further, they are not at all willing to preview the movies nor have they got time for it. We should put an end to such things. There is a 'Committee on Empowerment of Women' comprising of all women MPs. This Committee should be given a right to appoint 50 per cent women as the Members of Film Censor Board or Film Censor Tribunal so that these women Members after properly viewing these movies would ensure that such scenes are removed from the films this will create a situation wherein only films with healthy entertainment are screened. When the movies depicting atrocities against women are banned, it would help create a good atmosphere in the country. What is required most to achieve this goal is that the people running the administration must change their mentality and I understand that the attitude of people is changing gradually.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to cite two examples in this House. All of you are aware that Indian Airlines and Air India have employed both male and female staff. The Cabin crew comprises of a male and a female. Till now, it was the practice in Indian Airlines and Air India that once the female employee attained the age of 50, she was removed from the cabin crew and assigned ground duty, whereas there is no such age restriction for a male employee. The Government of India in 1997 issued directions that no such discrimination should be there against female staff and there should be equal opportunities both for male and female staff. Though Indian Airlines have complied with these directions and the discrimination against female staff has since ended. Air India has not implemented this direction despite having been reminded thrice by the Government of India and the female staff members there are still being discriminated against and they are removed from cabin crew duty on attaining the age of 50 and assigned ground duty. Thus, their salary get reduced by about Rs. 20 thousand. My point is that when you allow a male employee to serve till the age of 60 years, why do we deny the same right to a woman? I still fail to understand this point. If the performance of a female employee is not upto the mark or if she lacks efficiency, she must be shifted and no one would object to it. However, a man and woman should be given equal rights.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other case relates to Kaveri Mukherjee which is being talked about these days in the media in the whole country. She had been a news-reader with Doordarshan for many years. There was an order from Doordarshan asking her to stop reading Hindi and English news bulletins at prime time on Doordarshan. When she wanted to know the reason for it, she was told that her look had become old. This kind of a reply came from Doordarshan. I cannot understand why and under which rule Doordarshan resorted to this action. I feel something has to be done in this regard. Such atrocities and injustice against women should be stopped.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (AHMEDABAD): Does the Hon'ble Member know when this incident took place? I would like to tell him that it was the incident of 1997.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I do not want to go into the controversy whether this incident took place in 1997 or which

Government was there during those days, instead, I would also like to request you that you too should not strive to gain political mileage from this incident. I want to say that unless the attitude is changed women would continue to be the victims of disparity and injustice. Therefore, there is an utmost need to change our outlook. We all are included in this. I would like to say that the process of change in attitude should begin right from the Parliamentarians. Charity begins at home. This change is required to be brought among all people, be they Members of Parliament, bureaucrats or staff.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel proud in quoting the words of Mahatma Gandhi, which he had used about women. I want to read out his words. Mahatma Gandhi was a revolutionary with progressive ideas. He had said that the extent to which men thought that they were free, unless to the same extent women also thought they were free, there could be no change possible in the society. This is what Mahatma Gandhi had said. Gandhiji further said that unless this society treated boys and girls equally, the country would not move forward. Gandhiji had also said that the majority of law makers in this country had so far been males, so women had not been delivered justice. There is a need to bring amendments and changes on it. In the end, Gandhiji further said that to provide better education women would have to enable themselves to resist atrocities, if any committed by their husbands. This is what we need to do in the country. We shall have to look into this situation. At the end, I would only like to say that in view of the atrocities being committed on women unless we provide education, economic freedom and power to women they cannot emerge as a force to be reckoned in the country. Therefore, we need to create a situation in which our women may become a true worshipper of the Goddess of learning, Goddess Laxmi and Durga. Only then their position will improve. With these words I conclude.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are so many hon. Members, nearly 40 who want to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (JUNAGADH): Here, too you will scold us...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not objecting.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: I know ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.C. Thomas, please hear me first.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Let lady Members have a chance to speak, but one-third chances may be given to us.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow all of you. But there is a small observation. There are 40 hon. Members who want to participate in the discussion. Shall we dispense with lunch hour also because at 3.30 p.m., we have to take up Private Members' Business?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to express my views on atrocities against women, on which a debate has been initiated by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee under Rule 193. We have with us our age old and glorious culture and *Samskara*. Even today, we address India as 'Bharat Mata'. Nowhere in the entire world the country is considered as mother except in India where we call India as our mother. We regard cow and land as our mother ... (Interruptions) For us every river is pious and motherly. It has been said, "Yatra naryastu poojyante ramante tatra devta". Similarly, we have a proverb in Gujarati, "Je kar julawe parno, te jagat par shasan kare." But my experience of today—I do not want to go into the details.

12.44 hrs.

(SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH in the Chair)

We feel sorry to see that discussion on this issue is still being felt necessary in the 50th year of Independence. It is also an unfortunate event.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, since 1952 only the women of India have been endowed with the right to franchise in the entire world. But our experience says that women are not free in this free India. Much discussion has been held on it. Women have been considered as property. Nobody has developed so far the mentality to take woman as a human being. We have not developed a mentality so far in this man-dominated society to see a woman who gives birth to a human being as a human being. Even today, more attention is paid towards imparting education to boys, but no attention is paid towards educating girls. It is good that the BJP and its allies have put thrust in its National Agenda on imparting free education to girls upto college level, including vocational courses. I would like to congratulate the Government for taking steps for imparting education to women. Efforts have also been made to provide 33 percent reservation to women in Parliament and State Assemblies with a view to empowering women.

Shri Sharad Pawar stated very good thing and cited many examples. But the incident which took place on the day when women reservation bill was introduced in the House is an unfortunate one. Shri Laloo Prashad and Shri Mulayam Singh tried to stall the Bill in the name of Backward castes and Muslim women. I would also like to remind the congress leaders that when the proposal to bring this Bill providing 33 percent reservation for women was a foot, they used to say that they were with us but later they changed their mind. I would like to know under which pressure this change of mind has taken place ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Our party should not be wrongly quoted. That is not the position.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Thank you. Rural women, women living in Jhuggi clusters and middle class women whose husbands or fathers drink, have to suffer atrocities mentally or physically. As the laws enacted for working women are not implemented in letter and spirit, women have to suffer atrocities. Provisions made in our constitution regarding minimum wages has also not been implemented and as a result, working women are being subjected to mental harassment.

The provision of only three months's maternity leave is totally inadequate. For the health of the mother and the child, atleast six month's leave is necessary. If the women of the country will not be in good health what will be the state of country's health. Swami Vivekanand had said 101 years ago that if the country was to be made prosperous, the women of the country had to be made prosperous, educated and given the right to live with pride.

Much has been said about dowry but a number of women have fallen victims to dowry and this practice will continue uninterrupted. Only enactment of strict laws can abolish the dowry system. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee had said in this House that a beginning in this regard should be made by ourselves. I would just like to state in this regard that it is necessary to abide by and implement the country's constitution, rules, acts and laws strictly. Simultaneously, we have to take some concrete measures to implement prohibition. Those who commit rape on minor girls and elderly women should be awarded capital punishment.

We are trying our best to remove unemployment. Our women cannot lead a respectable life until and unless unemployment is removed. The mental atrocities being committed on women by Media—the T.V., Radio, Cinema and Posters, which has been widely referred to during the discussion should be stopped.

At last I would say that Karate training should be imparted on a compulsory basis to girls in schools and colleges so that woman could work with self respect and lead an honourable life. Here in our country, woman is adored as the Goddess. No Yajna is considered accomplished without participation of woman. This is our culture. But the condition of woman is pitiable in the male dominated society. Let us address our concern to their plight.

I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Premajam.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Sir, I may be

allowed to speak before her. As the leader of our Party I am using or misusing my position. I want to speak only to show our Party's strong view on this subject.

Sir, this is a very serious matter. I congratulate Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee for raising it as also the hon. Speaker for allowing it. Probably, it was overdue. What I wanted to say is that this is a matter to which we must pay the most serious attention. Probably, we are only giving lip service to the cause of women in this country who constitute 50 per cent of our population. It is a matter of shame that after 50 years of independence—we are observing this year as the 50th year of our Independence—we have to discuss the question of atrocities on women on the floor of the House. I cannot think of a more shameful situation for us. Therefore, it is time for introspection also. Somehow we do not take this matter seriously. Some day, we just mention it. But there is no real and concerted action.

Sir, only a few years back *sati* was practised in this country. In free India *sati* was practised. I had the opportunity of being here when we discussed that. During the course of that discussion, some opinions were expressed which I shudder to remind myself of.

This is a country where girl child is frowned upon and attempts are being made to even kill them in womb. This approach has to be changed. Sir, there cannot be a more pernicious system than dowry. Speaking for myself—I do not know my Party's views—I think, this is a fit case where people giving and taking dowry should be given exemplary punishment. But somehow, these are the matters which we not only discuss sometimes but also show concern. But nothing is happening. Dowry deaths are increasing. The atrocities on women are also increasing. The girl is almost treated as the most unwanted person in the family. Hardly any education and economic independence are given to them. Therefore, we feel that without economic independence and without education, it is very difficult to provide real security to them. They have to stand on their own feet. I find that very distinguished women Members of this House have been trying very vigorously for the introduction and consideration of the Women Reservation Bill for which we have been fighting. I agree with Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

As a matter of fact, I told her that this is a clear example of atrocity on women—the House cannot even discuss this Bill. It is a minimum obligation or commitment of this country. Let us, atleast, give them some self-confidence; let us encourage their participation in the political affairs of this country and we should try to involve them in the political and national mainstream. Even that is not being allowed to be considered. Whatever may be the impression or view of many of the friends here, this is a matter which we should have taken up very seriously. Suddenly, I am sorry to say, I find the Government saying that without consensus, they shall not bring the Bill. Let us know, which Bill they are bringing only on consensus. Therefore, this plea of 'consensus' is totally unacceptable to us. Many of us have been saying that let us have it discussed on the floor of the House and if we do not get the majority, it will be defeated. But how can you pre-empt

a discussion on the floor of the House? The Home Minister and very senior Members are here. This plea should not be taken. It should have been allowed to be introduced. ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: Sir, you are blaming the Government.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You should not disturb anybody. A very eminent Home Minister is here to reply to all of us.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: You said, the Government is taking the plea of consensus. Can you avoid fist fights without consensus?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Therefore, let us not give that general impression that any Member of the House or any group of Members of this House can hold the House to ransom indefinitely. Then, you have to accept that position also.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: We should do something about it and we want your cooperation in this.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I have respect for you. But this is a matter which should concern every hon. Member of this House. For the future of this great institution, I request everybody, including those who have very strong feelings and I respect their feelings, to consider how we should give vent to our feelings. How should we express ourselves and in what manner? As Comrade Indrajit Gupta said, if we want to take any other mode, then it is better to go elsewhere. We have already made that appeal. Therefore, I expect the Government to be firm on introducing this Bill. Now-a-days, we hear that without consensus, how can we bring it. Please do not take that plea. This has given a very bad message to the women Members.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI LAL KRISHNA ADVANI): Sir, Mr. Somnath has raised this issue. I would say that the Government is to introduce this Bill and while introducing the same, we do not want to see recurrence of that scene. If that scene is repeated, then the situation will further deteriorate. When it was told only then hesitation was felt.

[English]

I entirely agree with you that any Member or a group of Members should not take the House to ransom in this manner and prevent even a Bill from being introduced and considered. Therefore, it is very right for you or Geetaji to say

[Translation]

That it is too much that no discussion is being allowed on the Bill. I agree with this view.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: A large section of this

House is supporting the Government on this issue. We have very grave differences of opinion with you and there is no hide and seek about it. The hon. Home Minister and all my friends on that side know this. But we are one on this issue. Therefore, why should not the Government take advantage of that?

However, Sir, I do not wish to take further time on this. It is necessary that we should change our obscurantist attitude. Some fundamentalist approaches in the matter will not help, and it will only complicate the matters. I do not wish to mention the name of a hon. Member here, but some hon. Members are expressing the view, and outside some others may also be doing that, that if this Women's Reservation Bill cannot be accepted, how can we allow our wives and daughters to contest the elections. If this feeling is there, how can we do any justice? Therefore, let us not affect our credibility by merely paying lip-service.

13.00 hrs.

Apart from expressing our commitment to the cause of women, it is certainly a matter of shame that we are discussing this Bill. We are unable to protect our women in this country. We are discussing many issues. But the women of our country are crying in agony. I want simple human existence as a human being. Woman cannot be used as chattel and as a subject of greed and lust. Is the woman to survive only for that purpose? Is the woman to be only a domestic servant? Is the woman meant to bear children only?

Therefore, I appeal to all sections of the House that women shall be given their due place in society. I know that every hon. Member is concerned about this matter. An occasion has come now when this Parliament in the 50th year of Independence should give a commitment to the people of this country that women will be given their due place in society. Women constitute 50 per cent of our population and they are the best part of our population. They are the first teachers of children, of ethics, morality, and liberal approach. If women are treated in this way, where do they stand? Therefore, I feel that all sections of the House should take up this matter very seriously.

I am obliged to you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA): Mr. Chairman, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on the topic initiated by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee under Rule 193.

It is with a very heavy heart that I stand before this august House to discuss this important subject of great national significance.

I also feel that it is a paradox that this august House is discussing atrocities on women. I feel that a very severe and grave atrocity, mental and psychological, has been committed on women, if I am mistaken and if I am wrong, pardon me for saying this on 13th and 14th July, this House had witnessed Members expressing their feelings. In my opinion, a mental and psychological atrocity on women of the entire nation has been committed. We have completed or almost

[Prof A.K. Premajam]

completing in a week, the 50th anniversary of our Independence. The women in our country form nearly or a little over 50 per cent of the population and if we take into account the number of seats occupied by women in this country in decision-making bodies, legislatures, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha during the last 40 to 45 years, I feel ashamed that in the name of our country and of our Constitution, we represent less than 8 per cent. It varies slightly in a snail moving manner, and the status of women is decided by this particular point also.

I would like to invite the attention of this august House to the words of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, one of the greatest sons of our nation and also the first Prime Minister of India. He said that the test of a nation's civilisation is actually the status of women in the nation. If we take that into account—which, of course, we have to take—then it is better for us to think in retrospect and make a self-analysis of what is the status or the purpose of our culture at this part of the century, that is, we are just on the threshold of entering the 21st century.

Coming to the subject matter, there is a very unprecedented spurt or increase in the rate of incidence of atrocities on women and these atrocities range from one point to another in degree as well as in nature, the bride deaths, dowry deaths, rape, eve teasing, molestation, stripping and parading in public, are on the increase.

I am not going into the details. What are the causes and reasons behind this? One, of course, is the status of women. After fifty years of Independence, the status of women in this country is still very very low in every respect. As I have spoken at the outset, this violence, is not merely physical assault or physical violence but actually it is varying in range, in degree as well as in nature. There is political violence.

What happened in this House on 13th and 14th of this month is a kind of political violence on the rights of women. In a landmark decision made on 13th August, 1997, the honourable Supreme Court has stated that the right to equality encompasses the prevention of sexual and other harassments on women. Do we possess the right to equality? The Constitution embodies that there is equality to all citizens and there should not be any discrimination on the basis of sex or language or religion or region. But what is happening to half of the population in the nation? There is outrageous discrimination against women in every respect. What is going on here is not individual violence on individual woman or just a physical violence or an assault on individual woman by individuals but what is going on is a different type of violence ranging in various measures.

There is political violence on women. It is not merely on a single woman but on a mass of women. There is mass violence also. When a woman is actually deprived of her rightful position in the society, what will happen? For example, if a woman is deprived of her right to represent people in this very august House as also in all the legislative bodies which are in the country then that itself is a violence against woman

because it trespasses her right to be representing people at large in this country. This kind of a thing is taking place now. That is why I say that this is a paradox that we discuss this particular subject in this very august House when the very august House has gone to this extreme. Women's right to equality is being represented in the various legislative bodies and decision-making bodies was taken to ransom on this House on 13th and 14th of this month...*(Interruptions)* I am not going into the details. My earnest and sincere appeal to all the hon. Members of this House is that let us have a trial to introduce this Bill.

I will just tell about the number game also. If we just decide to introduce this Bill as we decided to introduce many other Bills including the the Finance Bill, and the Budget. I am sure with the support of the Left Front, the Congress as a block and the BJP which is the leading party of this Government as a block, the Bill can be passed. I am not going into the political aspect of this. But I am just giving a practical solution. Why should you worry? You may just calculate it and it is more than 368. With allies, who are going to support the Government, and the Left Front completely as a block and the Congress as a block, you take the number—I am not giving the calculation—and you calculate, it forms more than the two-thirds majority in this august House. But what is lacking is the political will of this Government...*(Interruptions)* I am not going into those details. I do not want to enter into a controversy over this aspect. But I want to see that justice is done to women. We are only 44 lady Members in this House. How are we lagging behind any male Member in this august House? You may just take any lady Member in this august House. How are we lagging behind any male Member? I am a new Member. But I do not think that I am far behind many of the male Members here. I try to get opportunities, study the matter and try to make use of the opportunity with the confidence reposed on me by my electorate of my constituency. This way, the other lady members are also performing their duties well. Education or lack of education is not a disqualification as far as women are concerned. I think some of the Members wanted to keep their seats as a pocket borough. That is one fact. They wanted to keep us tied down to the domestic chore. That itself is a violence. That itself is a trespass upon the right to be here and in the public life.

Sir, I will just take one or two more minutes. I want to say a few more things. I have got a lot of points to make. But I will abide by your decision. But please give me one or two minutes.

Here, the violence is not undertaken by the ordinary illiterate person. The state is a tool or an instrument of violence. What about the judiciary? The judiciary is also sometimes outrageous, biased against women, and in this regard, I have a number of cases which I can quote. For instance, the Roop Kanwar Case. In that *Satti* Case, what happened to the culprits? 48 of them were acquitted by the hon. Court. By saying this, I am not casting aspersion on the noble judiciary in this country but at the same time, I cannot help mentioning this. Then, in the case of Bhanwari Devi Case, what happened? The most shocking ground was given to acquit the guilty person. The argument given was that 'the

upper caste men will not commit rape.' What an absurd argument ! I may saying so, because it is going to boil the blood of women in the nation. So, this is the way, some cases are being dealt with. But there are other very noble decisions also, which I have earlier quoted.

How many women will be able to withstand these outrageous activities coming from the State, coming from highly educated persons? For example there was the famous case of one IAS officer whose modesty was outraged. In that case, a very top IPS officer was involved and it took eight years for the Court to decide the case in favour of the woman. How many women in this country—the ordinary women, the illiterate women, the poor women and the common women will be able to withstand such outrageous activities and fight for long?

That is why, we want more women representatives in these august bodies, the decision-making bodies and the law-making bodies because more powerful laws have to be framed. Some powerful laws are existing there and those powerful laws existing in this country should be utilised for the benefit of the women, to safeguard their rights and privileges.

With one more point, I will conclude, and that is about the new Economic Policy. I cannot help stating this. The new Economic Policy which has been started since 1991 onwards is actually bringing in lopsided development in this country and that is also detrimental to the interests of the women guaranteed by the Constitution. The condition of the women, due to the new Economic Policy—I am not going into the details for want of time—is such that they are being thrown out of their houses, out of their work place. What about the work place? The advances are made by even highly educated men against their women colleagues. So, this should be stopped with adequate and powerful laws, and the existing laws should be improved and implemented properly.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (INDORE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier also the issue of atrocities on woman was debated. No effective improvement could be brought about in their plight until and unless public psyche, social thinking and the social conditions are changed. Of course, at times, we call them mother. See the connotation of these words. These also contain the psyche of woman. 'Nari' mean one who has no enemy. The entire universe is covered within the word 'Mata'. Sometimes she is levelled an 'Abala', i.e. 'feeble'. This very discussion on this issue gives a message that we women are feeble. I remember that once an eminent luminary scholar Pt. Satavalekar had commented on this word and asked us to imagine how we explain the sea—we say it knows no limits. 'A' prefix denotes limitlessness, when we say the ocean is 'endless', that means it has no bounds, it is abysmal when we say it is fathomless when we say 'Aseem Soundray'. i.e. beauty beyond all limits that mean a beauty beyond all the known norms of beauty. Then why to term 'Abala' as 'Durbal'. 'Abala' should give a meaning such as beyond all the known parameters of power and might. Some how and somewhere we should think on this pattern but how to inculcate such a thinking?

A new trend is taking roots now-a-days, that is, whenever a conflict be it social, communal or casteist—takes place, it is the womenfolk who bear the brunt of atrocities. A number of times it has been debated in this House. Last time an incident of Bihar was debated. Someone had a kiln and he wanted to put his workers out of job. So he launched an assault on his workers. In that incident women labourers were made the main victim. Their modesty was outraged.

Going through the pages of history we find there was a time when woman was venerated in our country. She used to be held as an object of pride. The entire universe finds its origin in the word 'Mata'. She is the creator, an entity to be held in high esteem. The well being of coming generations depends on her well being. The medieval foreign invaders conceived the spirit behind this connotation and came to the conclusion that India can be invaded if their women-folk is made the focus of aggression. So they zeroed in on the women of this country while launching attacks with an eye on the purity of Indian women. Such aggressions were started by Muslim aggressors, later followed by the Britishers. They somehow acted on this line and now our people of 'slave mentality' are still practising the same concept in various forms while addressing to the question pertaining to woman. But just as I have already said at the outset, the woman is not weak. Once the concept becomes clear on our women-folk they will simply ask us neither to confine them to the hearth and keep on venerating her like a deity nor to treat her like a sandal of men's feet. If you enjoys a prominent place in this society they also have a higher placement in it. Such a psyche has to be developed but for that, first of all, women should be educated in order to empower them. What did we do in this direction during there 50 years. In 1981, about 22 per cent women were educated and now they are around 32 per cent. Still we people think of imparting education and chances of progress to male child only and ask the female child to get absorbed in household work after higher secondary, without reckoning her scholarly potential. Even today there is such a psyche. Therefore the need of the hour is to make women education compulsory. The present Government has started thinking on this line. The initiative in this direction was taken on the day when the hon. Prime Minister declared that all facilities would be provided to women and girls for getting education in whichever field they desire. It was declared that women would get free education to the highest level in the field of their choice. This is the right initiative. But hollow promises would not serve the purpose and we shall have to make positive efforts in this direction. Steps will have to be taken at the administrative and social levels. There has to be a change in the attitude itself. I am only mentioning points, otherwise you would ring the bell. Besides we have also to ensure that women get proper health care and they are strong physically because the moot point is that woman is the source of strength not only for the entire family but also for the nation. But how much attention is paid to woman health care? If we try to find the percentage of woman suffering from anaemia, weakness, tuberculosis and those who die during delivery, it is very high. Not only this, there is an urgent need to pay special attention to villages so far as woman health care is concerned as there is a wide gap between the facilities

[Smt. Sumitra Mahajan]

provided in the rural and urban areas. No attention is paid in this direction in villages. I do not say that boys are fed well whereas girls are not paid any attention, though this practice is there in many households. This is a problem of psyche. When the BJP was in power in Madhya Pradesh we had formulated some good schemes for the welfare of women, though they did not prove to be effective. There was a scheme which provided that if a woman conceived, she was paid Rs. 500 for nutritional food and medical aid subject to her fulfilling certain conditions. Several times it so happens that when the husband is hospitalised there is a wife, a mother or a sister to take his care, but if a wife, a sister or a mother is to be hospitalised, it is thought twice whether it should be done, because the household would suffer and the problem as to who would attend to the patient in the hospital also rises. Therefore generally the attitude is to give medicine at home. This is our psyche. We had thought that the Government would bear the expenses of the person for 7-8 days who would attend on the woman patient. We will have to take effective steps for the health care of women.

There is another point related to this. When we speak of the health care of women, the issue of maternity leave is also there. There is a need to increase the period of this leave. We can increase the period from three months to six months. There are many reasons for this. We should formulate a law which would govern the maternity leave, because yesterday a point was made that the maternity leave should not be given for the third child. This would be unfair, because in the present social scenario woman cannot take a decision on her own for conception. Many times it is forced on her. Nobody listens to her. Sometimes if a person has two or more daughters, the family members insist that the woman should bear a son. Nobody is bothered even if she dies in the process. This is the factual position. Therefore, when we formulate such a law there is also a need to look whether we are committing any atrocity on woman. Atrocity does not only mean, physical assault or rape. If we keep the woman backward in the social field or in decision-making process, it would not be good.

We may have good laws but in practice it is not so. Shri Sharad Pawar has raised some good points, but I would not like to repeat them. I would add that there is a need to give a serious thought to these laws. For the divorce cases there is a need to set up short stay homes. When the husband throws the woman out of home at the dead of the night, there should be a place where she can get shelter, otherwise she would be forced to take a wrong step. There are many cases like this. We should, therefore, seriously think in terms of setting up short stay Homes...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I want to say that there is a long list of Hon. Members who intend to speak on this subject and we have to conclude it today, because then it will be the turn of Private Members' Business. Therefore, we have to first conclude it. I request that you should stick only to the points.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to mention points only. If Administration considers this issue liberally then everything is possible. About 250 years

ago...*(Interruptions)* You please do not shake your head like this. The point I am raising is very important and please take it seriously. If you keep on shaking your head on my every utterance, I would not complete my speech and I would sit down, but things should not be like this. What I am saying is very important. About 250 years ago Ahilyabai Holker...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to remind the Hon. Member about the constraint of time. Therefore, you should speak only main points and conclude.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, speaking only main points would not do. This issue needs deep thinking and seriousness...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (BALANGIR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hon. Member is making an important and serious speech. You should not interrupt her like this. Why do you behave like this whenever a subject on women is taken up...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please keep silent. Please sit down. As the list is very long, I request you to conclude within 10 minutes.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: There should be a uniform civil code in the country. Our criticism should not be restricted to a particular community only, rather we should discuss the points in the interests of women. There are communities where women have no rights. On the other hand, women of some communities enjoy many rights. We should also consider this aspect sympathetically. Although it is a different subject and I should not raise it here but I am compelled to say that just two-three days ago I read in newspapers that women should be given opportunity to participate in politics. I did not feel good after reading it. Today, we are about to enter 21st Century and even now we are talking about such things. It is very essential that women should participate in politics. All women are equal irrespective of the religion, caste and creed. We cannot discriminate against them on the basis of these factors. All are equal. No women can be discriminated against on the basis of religion. There should be a uniform law for all. With this view, the uniform civil code is not only necessary but also essential.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, several laws have been enacted in the country to prevent female foeticide but still it is being committed because law is not being enforced properly. Consequently ratio of boys and girls is changing not naturally but artificially. It can be fatal for the country and the human race. Shri Pawar made a point about discrimination between man and woman in Doordarshan. Attention needs to be paid to this because if looking beautiful is essential for women it applies to men also. Men should also look beautiful. Therefore, there should be a uniform law for both of them and the aspect of looking good should be made applicable uniformly. The way working women are exploited in various ways also needs fresh consideration and thinking. Women are forced to do jobs as they are in dire need of money. We have to change this mentality. We have to think over it. I would like to conclude now, as you are not allowing me to speak. I want to express here the feelings of Urmila.

"Dass Banne Ka Bahana Kisiye, Dasi
He Muzhe Rakhna Isliye,
Dev Tum Mere Sada Banker Raho Aur Devi
Hi Muzhe Rakho"

If today, women become capable in this manner, it would be good. I would say that instead of becoming helpless, woman should become capable and write a new chapter in the history. But this would be possible when atrocities against women are stopped.

In the end, regarding women Reservation Bill, I would say that it has an important provision of participation by women in decision making. Women who constitute 50 per cent of society, should have participation in decision-making and we should view Women Reservation Bill in this context only. They stalled the Bill at introduction stage and thereby committed atrocities against us. How we can express the views of women aspects. We should seriously think over it.

Change in the law has been suggested. I want to say that there are many legislations which do not come into force. I would like to give an example of the former Prime Minister of Norway who is now the President of WTO. As soon as she took over, she said that there should be 50 per cent women officers in the organisation as their performance is better. If here also women Members come, it would be better. Only five male Members out of four hundred fifty Members deliver good speeches and ten women Member deliver good speech or present their views in a better way out of 33 per cent women. So you can calculate the percentage. We should not consider women weak and they should not remain in this situation. This is my only submission.

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY (MOHANLALGANJ):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the issue of atrocities on women under Rule 193. Women have contributed a lot in building the nation and the society. If we go into the history, we find a number of great women like Laxmibai, Chandibibi and woman warrior Uda Devi who sacrificed everything for the sake of the freedom of the country. In the political field, we had Shrimati Indira Gandhi who was the role model for women. In the same way, in the administrative field also women have shown their skill. But even after so many years of independence, it is shameful that every morning we come across news item about bride burning for dowry. Their husbands kill them by burning alive. In India, one woman is burnt every 20 minutes. Similarly, the practice of Sati was declared illegal in 1832, yet in 1997 there was Ropkanwar incident. It was a shameful incident. Every year 15,000 women become victim of rape. The Home Minister Shri Lal Krishna Advaniji has admitted in a written reply to a question that in 1993, 14846 cases of rape were reported and there were 27513 cases of molestation in which 1034 women belonged to dalit community and 312 were Adivasi women.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is the official data but if we see in reality, the data of such cases will be much more than this. It is a matter of shame for us. In the same way, we have the problem of dowry. Even after so many years of independence, there are people who do not earn themselves and cannot buy

the items of luxury themselves but they wish to fulfil all their unfulfilled desires by taking dowry in marriages. I am not saying all this to hurt anyone's sentiments. But women also will have to think over their role because behind every incident of dowry death the mothers-in-law and sisters-in-law have a contributing role.

The women would have to reevaluate their role because in all dowry related cases, the mother-in-laws and sister-in-laws play a crucial role. If we start this drive from our homes, probably we, the women unitedly can bring about a change in the society since women are capable transforming the structure and the fabric of society as well as the country. Only women have to take initiative in this regard. The day the mother-in-law and sister-in-law stop playing a role in dowry related deaths, it would mark the beginning of a change in the society.

Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is of the view that the culprit of rape should be hanged. In fact, rape is such a heinous crime which wrecks the whole life of a woman. The persons indulging in acts of parading woman naked should be hanged definitely since it is a question of the life and prestige of woman. The society looks down upon the women victim of rape. The society also need to bring about change in its attitude because any such act is committed against the will of woman. Hence, good sense should prevail upon us in such cases. The day such a change in our attitude takes place, it would definitely start a process of change of attitude in society.

When the husband enters his house in a drunken state, he beats his wife only. There should be total prohibition. Stringent action should be taken against such persons who beat their wives in drunken state just to show their manliness.

Urban area may be an exception but in rural areas whenever police party goes for raids in the villages and the persons sought after is not available, they victimise the women. This is a serious problem. Sometimes a police constable even rapes the women. Hence, I demand that whenever police goes for raids, there should invariably be a woman constable with them because senior police officers may not even be aware that the women are meted out quite inhumane treatment by their constables. This is a serious problem in Uttar Pradesh. If the police does not find the man at home, it takes away the innocent woman forcibly who finds it hard to make her both ends meet and she is sent to jail under NDPS. Women are not in any way at fault. If a man has committed any crime only he should be punished. I believe that wife and husband are the two wheels of a vehicle but I do not believe that an innocent wife should be punished for the offence committed by her husband. I believe that no woman Member of the House would favour it.

Woman staff in Air India are forced to retire at the age of 50. In this regard I wish to state that while male staff members can serve upto the age of 58 years, why can the female members not serve upto that age since the women share as much responsibility towards her family as the men do. She is equally responsible for feeding and bringing up her family.

[Smt. Reena Choudhary]

Hence the women staff should also be allowed to serve upto the age of 58 years.

When a daughter of a poor villager is murdered and he goes to police station to lodge an FIR in this regard, the police refuses to register report and the matter is sought to be hushed up. An influential and powerful person can manage to hush up the case against him. But where should a poor villager approach for justice? On the one hand he has lost his daughter and on the other the police which is supposed to be protector also does not stand by him. Where should he go to get justice? Hence, all dowry related cases should be registered at village level itself. The agencies supposed to deliver justice function under the pressure from Government, that is why they cannot work independently. They should be independent enough to function on their own.

You are repeatedly asking me to resume my seat. Though I have many points to make and let me make it clear that we are not opposing the woman bill, as has been alleged. I want to state that we are opposed to the form in which the Bill has been brought forward because we want that the women belonging to oppressed and downtrodden class should also have the right to become members of this highest institution of the country. We were fighting for their cause and not opposing this 'Women Reservation Bill.'

Sir, with these words, I appreciate the sentiments expressed by all Members and associate myself in their concern.

[English]

SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY (KRISHNA GIRI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak in this august House. I am very very thankful to my beloved mother-like leader, guide and philosopher, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi who has sent me to this prestigious House.

It is very sad that even after 50 years of Independence, we are discussing the atrocities on women. No country in the world has respected and glorified the status of womanhood better than India. Unfortunately, there is not a single day when we do not find reports about atrocities on women in the newspapers. Yesterday also, in *The Hindu*, a newsitem had appeared. I will read it before this House:

"The editor of Hindi weekly has been arrested on charges of criminally assaulting a 28 year old woman, the mother of a boy of seven, continuously for a month in his office in Paharganj area of Central Delhi."

Everybody knows that atrocities on women could be traced from our age-old feudal system. The landlords have been committing atrocities on women by keeping them as bonded labourers. The poor women, mostly the tribals, are exploited physically and sexually by those landlords. In certain places, the women working in quarries for the sake of their livelihood are sexually assaulted by the mafias and the landlords.

It is because this poor woman had no access either in the Executive or in the Judiciary.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very sorry to point out that incidents of rape, kidnapping and dowry deaths are increasing every year. During the regime of the United Front Government, the former Home Minister, Shri Indrajit Gupta had recorded an alarming increase of 28 per cent in rape cases and 33 per cent in cases relating to dowry deaths in the year 1996. Even in the year 1997, there was an average increase of 12 per cent in the atrocities against women. It only shows that all the laws enacted by Parliament and State Legislatures are not being implemented with a strong political will.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Home Minister whether the Government has any plan to put an end to these atrocities being committed against women. Even an enhanced rate of literacy does not help in saving women from being subjected to these atrocities against them. Cases of molestation and sexual assault on women in work places are reported time and again.

Sir, I would like to quote an incident in Tamil Nadu which appeared in a Tamil Daily, namely *Dinathanthi*. The English translation of it reads:

"One Ms. Chithra, working in the cantonment area as a Junior Assistant in the Regional Deputy Director's Office in the Fire Services Department has lodged a complaint with the TIRUCHI MASTER'S court. She has stated that Mr. Samidorai, the Deputy Director had tried to molest her by pulling her towards him and tried to embrace her. She has also stated that he gave a charge memo for she denied to yield to his advances. She has expressed her apprehension of her being transferred elsewhere."

Sir, a junior Assistant in the Fire Services Department was molested by a Deputy Director.

Sir, in August, 1997, the Supreme Court delivered a landmark judgement which directed the employers to protect the rights of women in work places. The Supreme Court also observed that the judgement should be treated as a law as pronounced by the court under article 141 of the Constitution.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Home Minister whether the Government proposes to bring in any Bill to honour the observations made by the Supreme Court. The continuance of male domination in our society is the root cause of the atrocities being committed against women. This aspect was exemplified when the Bill to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in Parliament and in the State Legislatures was about to be introduced. My beloved leader also whole-heartedly welcomed and supported the Bill. But the Bill was opposed by certain people who did not want to give equal status to women.

Sir, I am proud to inform this House that my beloved leader, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi, while being the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had held a conference on women under the Chairmanship of late Mother Teresa. In that conference my leader declared that Vision—2000 Project for social welfare scheme to protect the women against atrocities.

It was hailed by UNESCO and the Central Government.

Lastly, I must tell the House how some of the politicians unleashed terror on our respected leader, Puratchi Thalaivi. Our beloved leader, the leader of masses, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi, was assaulted at the behest of Dr. Karunanidhi by his henchmen inside the Tamil Nadu Assembly in 1989, when she was the Leader of the Opposition...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU (MADRAS SOUTH): I do not want to interrupt him but he is saying totally irrelevant things...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY: Sir, it is a fact.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, it is not at all a fact...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY: I am speaking here on facts only.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY: Again in 1996, to settle political score, by misusing the authority, our leader, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi was put in prison by the DMK Government. This is how the DMK Government treated the first elected woman Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Once again, I would like to thank the Chairman and also my beloved leader.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (BERHAMPUR) (ORISSA): At the outset, I must thank Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee for having brought such a serious subject for discussion in the House. When everybody is unanimously of the opinion that in all the fields women should come up in order to combat the increasing atrocities against women, this subject should be taken by all the Members very seriously.

Without discriminating gender, the Constitution of India guarantees equality of status and opportunity to every citizen. But even after 50 years of Independence, the women who comprise 50 per cent of the population have not been able to secure equality and justice. The number remains disproportionately high among the poor, the malnourished, unemployed and uneducated. I would like to give one example. During the decade 1981-1991, when the population was increasing by 24.7 per cent, the female population which was 48.3 per cent in the year 1981 declined to 48.2 per cent in the year 1991. This confirms the ground reality of the inferior status of the woman in the society in all fields—educational, social, cultural, economic and also political. When all efforts are being made for their emancipation, for their empowerment, the increase in atrocities comes in a very serious manner. Metaphorically and literally, it is being said that woman is a weaker section. Perhaps she is destined to suffer from the womb to the tomb.

A girl child is not welcome even at the stage when she is in the womb of her mother. As you know very well, many incidents of female foeticide are taking place in the country. If at all a girl child takes birth, she has to face the threat of female infanticide. Many incidents of female infanticide are taking place in various parts of the country. If the girl child lives at all, her sufferings begin. Her misery starts with the

lack of basic necessities like food, clothing, etc. She does not get the basic necessities which her brother does. If she sustains herself with her child labour by going to the field along with her mother, or by helping her mother in the household work, or by looking after the siblings when she has grown up, she has to face the demand of dowry. When she goes to the house of her in-laws after meeting the demand of dowry, her misery never ends. The torture and the cruelty are with her throughout her life. One cannot know whether she can live her full life or not. Nobody would know when she might have to face an unnatural death. Her misery does not end there. We all know, and many hon. Members have already mentioned here, about the *Sati* as it happened in 1987 in Rajasthan. There too the woman had to go to the funeral pyre along with the dead body of her husband.

Here, I am reminded of what Adi Shankarcharya said. He said that a *mata* cannot be a *kumata*; a *putra* can be a *kuputra*. However, everybody was glorifying *mata* even after the *Sati* occurred. Still people are glorifying *Sati Mata*, saying *Jai to Sati Mata*. *Sati* is *Sati*. How can a *mata* be glorified? I ask this question as I do not know actually as to how a *Sati Mata* can be glorified. What I want to say is, woman faces atrocities of some kind or the other at every stage in her life.

The incidents of crime may occur in the family, at the office, in the agricultural field, industry or at a public place. Despite the elaborate legal safeguards provided for women, violence against women continues unabated in our country inside the home and outside. I must say that although violence against woman is a global problem, it is yet to be recognised as an issue of human rights abuse. The major instrument for human rights of women is the United Nations Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women which was adopted by the General Assembly in 1979. India has ratified it. I do not want to give the scenario of increasing crimes because Geetaji has given it, Sharad Pawarji has given it and everybody has talked about it. What we find is that the number of crimes against women—rape, kidnapping, molestation, dowry deaths, etc.—in totality is increasing year by year. The crime rate also is increasing. The incidents of crime per lakh of population has gone up from 8.7 in 1991 to 11.5 in 1996.

13.59 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

As Geetaji has stated, this figure does not give a correct and complete picture as many cases of violence are not reported. Besides the crimes prescribed in IPC and other laws, many more kinds of crimes have come to our notice like stripping, parading women in nude, tattooing, etc. These crimes do not figure in the list of crimes.

Interestingly, in the 1974 landmark report of the Commission on the Status of Women in India, there was no chapter on violence. Nor had it been a main item on the agenda of any of the decennial United Nations World Conferences on Women.

[Smt. Jayanti Patnaik]

14.00 hrs.

It is only after 1980s, violence against women has become a component in the discussions and debates. Why are we not getting the real picture in this regard? The reason is that the police data on crime is based on complaints and the cases registered which in turn depends on the willingness to report the crime. Because of the social, cultural and traditional barriers, the victim feels that a stigma will be attached to her if she reports the crime. Sensitivity on the part of police to act on crimes against women and also its inclination to investigate led to this sorry state of affairs. The crime figure is merely the proverbial tip of the iceberg.

I would like to say that rape is a heinous crime. An all-India figure of sex offences are not available but on an average 40,000 rape cases are recorded every year in this country.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly mention the rule.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: I have to check the Rule Book.

The hon. Member was mentioning about the tip of the iceberg. I just wanted to know whether the bottom of the iceberg is in Orissa.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Please do not disturb me. Everywhere it is not recorded or reported. If it is reported, please come and find out.

In Indian society, victimisation of rape victims is not unique to a particular age or caste group. Sir, I am shocked to hear that some of the cases reported are below the age of five years. The victims of rape are the highest in the age group of 7-16 years. They are 54.29 per cent. I must say that the National Commission for Women has made the recommendations on child rape. I must say that since marriage below the age of 18 years is prohibited under the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, Section 375 of the IPC should be amended so as to raise the age—specified in clause—from 16 years to 18 years. Section 375 of the IPC says that the offence of rape on a person up to the age of 16 years will be treated as offence but not up to the age of 18 years. Whereas under the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, only when a child attains the age of 18 years, she can go in for a marriage. So also Section 376 of the IPC. It says about the stringent punishment to the rapists. Unmarried women become more vulnerable to this crime. This is the most heinous and brutal crime. For such offences, accused should be punished stringently.

Regarding dowry deaths, I would like to say that in spite of our progressive legislation, special cells for women, family counselling etc., young married women are still tortured in the in-laws homes. Many a time, they are killed. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee has said that who takes dowry should not be allowed to be an elected representative. I must remind

Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee about the ostentatious marriage. Even a peon is in the race with others to conduct a marriage ceremony with pomp and grandeur.

Much attention is not given to broader ramifications of the problem of domestic violence. A woman has to tolerate silently or she has to become deserted or destitute and sometimes she is on the street. But what Shri Sharad Pawar has rightly said is, atleast you must have some courage to fight against this crime. Atleast, she must have some place where she can stay. As in the UK, we should have some legislation whereby a woman should have some place, especially at the husband's place, where she can stay, rather the husband should get rid of that house, so that she can fight, atleast, against this crime.

Sir, much has been said about sexual harassment at work place, like factories and offices. Here also she becomes more weak and tolerate it forcibly because of sociocultural compulsions. There should be some mechanism in the same establishment to listen to her grievances.

I must also say about the bigamous marriage, which is taken very lightly. Moreover, the offence committed by such husbands goes unpunished. Sometimes, it happens that even the woman get divorced, it takes quite a long time to get the decree or the judgement. But it is not possible to get maintenance, at all, if the husband is not a Government employee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude now. There are many more Members to speak.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: At the same time, the quantum of maintenance should also be enhanced.

Sir, 'Devdasi' system and commercial prostitution has become closely linked. The poor and ignorant parents are on the one side, and selfish priests and brothel agents are on the other side. These agents have successfully made use of this custom to carry on their business by putting innocent girls into prostitution. Child prostitution is acquiring menacing dimensions, mainly due to the modernising factor. A large number of girls are being smuggled in and out of the country every year. Many of the young girls entering this trade are kidnapped or lured out of their village homes by promising them marriage proposals or giving them jobs in the cities. There is an urgent need to save these young girls from the clutches of these agents.

As far as the functions of the NCW are concerned, as has been mentioned by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee also, it is a Statutory Body to review, examine and investigate legal safeguards and laws. It has recommended many things and many of them have reached the Government also, but these have not been placed before the Parliament.

I would also like to say that all the States must have State Commissions and Special Commissioner of Women's Rights, which was once thought of, should be attached with the National Commission. It should come out as early as possible. Moreover, the National Commission should have more teeth, because without powers it cannot do anything.

Sir, these law enforcement machineries treat cases against women as marginal issues. Such an attitude is also entertained by prosecutors, medico-legal aid experts and many a time a rape or gangrape victim cannot get justice in spite of the voice or protests made by the women groups. That is why, these law enforcement machineries should be given sensitised training. It should be an integral part of the curriculum of all training programme of National Police Academy and Regional State Police Training Institutions.

Sir, as far as the justice delivery systems are concerned, they also cannot cater to the needs of the women victims. As Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee has suggested that there should be atleast exclusive arrangements even in the regular courts to deal with the women's cases so that there is a speedy trial of women's cases.

Sir, interpretation of legislations, reforms of legislations, prompt enforcement, innovations in the structure of the police force, official measures to sensitise the bureaucracy, efficient justice delivery system with a gender touch and rehabilitation of the victims and above all removing all the fetters of the nationality by allowing to include, all over, the status of women are some of the approaches that need to be taken up by the society. That is the holistic approach to the issue which is a herculean task and is the need of the hour.

As many Members said, I also want to say this. Where women are worshipped, where God stays. But I am not for this. I am for what Chitrangada has said to Arjun. He said, "I do not want to be worshipped nor to be ignored but I want you to take me along with you so that you will see what my potential is. I want to have my place."

We have also known it in the *Arthanaareeswar Puranas*. Women are equal to men. That is why, Arthanaareeswar said, Nari Deva Bhavah, instead of speaking Nari Devi Bhavah, it has been said Nasya Devo Bhavah.

DR. BEATRIX D'SOUZA (NOMINATED): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity to participate in this discussion.

Sir, India has no monopoly over atrocities against women. What is different is the nature of these atrocities. Nowhere in the world, do we have bride burning. Nowhere in the world is a woman stripped naked and paraded in the street because her son has eloped with a higher caste woman. Nowhere in the world do we have the social worker gang-raped because she has protested against the child marriage. In fact, India is the only country where atrocities against women start in the womb itself with the selective abortion of female fetuses and later with the murder of female children. Only India as a country suffers from what I will call 'national schizophrenia', that is, a difference between precept and practice. We are told that women in India are worshipped and honoured from time immemorial. Our men call us mothers, wives and sisters and then go on to abuse us. In the land of *Kama Sutra*, we say that all sex-related crime comes from the Western media, forgetting our own films which have progressed from running around trees to explicit sex scenes.

I will not quote statistics on atrocities against women

because figures are cold. These cold figures cannot speak about the scream of a bride, cannot speak about the anguish of a child who has been abused and cannot speak about the trauma faced by a rape victim. Instead, let us look at certain causes and effects. We have to recognise that in the last 50 years since Independence, India has been undergoing a social upheaval; from a patriarchal society with a strong feudal mind-set, particularly, in certain Northern States and with a strong male ethos of violence, we are hopefully evolving into a more humane society. Women are caught up in this cauldron of social upheaval.

The joint family system has broken up. Divorce is common. Children suffer because of divorce. Women go out to work. They keep their children at home. This is one of the reasons for child abuse because there is no sufficient child care.

There is also the question of what we women call sexual politics. With woman's liberation, there is a struggle for power within the family itself, at least a struggle for equality. The Indian male is threatened. He will not yield his space whether political space or place in Parliament or in the home or in the work place. And all this suppressed anger is directed against women. I may be overstating the case but that is true.

First of all, as we move towards the new millennium, let us see to it that our children properly educated.

At school level we have to counteract the evils of sex education, through the media by counselling. This harmful sex education has come from the media and now-a-days we have what is called "computer sex." You get sex on the internet and something needs to be done because our children are computer literate and our children spend a lot of their free time on the internet using their computers.

We need to educate our youth so that the male does not feel that he should be always dominant and the female should not feel that she should be always submissive.

I have great faith in the future of our young people because our young people have been brought up in a different atmosphere of liberation and they believe in equality.

Girl students, I feel, should be compulsory taught *Karate* in their physical education classes, for self-defence. Apart from taking measures to prevent crimes against women, there should be women's cells in Police Stations and there should also be all-women Police Stations. Dr. Jayalalitha when she was the Chief Minister started 29 Women Police Stations, the first in the country and this practice was followed by Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan. Further, Police Stations manned by men should have a Rape Crisis Centre. This is very important because the rape victim generally has a medical examination long after the rape. If there is a crisis centre the woman gets medically examined, the crime is registered and later on she can go back for counselling. It is important to counsel a rape victim because the rape victim suffers from a terrible trauma.

Legislation also should be structured around the rape victim. There should be legislation where the name of the rape victim is not disclosed to the media or not even details about

[Dr. Beatrix D'Souza]

her private life made known to the media and mentioned in the court room. Also, even the Police and Judges sometimes say that women "ask for it" because they dress in a certain way, that they ask to be raped. This, I think, is ridiculous.

In the case of rape, the punishment should be very stringent. A social worker told me that in Bangkok women whose husbands have taken a second wife, have taken the matter into their own hands and have taken certain measures so that in Bangkok hospital wards had to be started in order to facilitate male surgical reconstruction if you know what I mean.

The Police and Judges have to be sensitized. For example, a Judge has said, "I cannot believe that this old and unattractive woman has been raped." And the Police also just tell a woman when she comes and reports a case of domestic violence, "What are you complaining about? Only your husband has beaten you."

The other important thing is, according to a recent survey one-fourth of the world's women have been violently abused in their own homes. In the United States domestic violence is the single most important cause of injury to women and domestic violence is present in against all economic and social strata. A Bill should be passed on Domestic Violence. I understand that the National Commission for Women and the YWCA of India have drafted such a Bill.

The National Commission for Women should be given more teeth. They should be given judicial powers. Shrimati Mohini Giri has stated that the Government is not responsive to the Commission's recommendations. Family courts, Mahila courts and Lok Adalats need to be strengthened.

One very important thing is legal literacy. Women do not know their legal rights. Legal literacy should be spread through T.V., the media and pamphlets.

The National Commission for Women has started legal literacy classes among college students in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Finally, as the other hon. Members have said, the women in this House are the victims of an insidious form of violence with the Women's Reservation Bill giving 33 per cent reservation for women being scuttled. Cutting across party lines, all the hon. male Members of this House, with a few exceptions, have been against the Bill. In every party, there are male Members who are against the Bill. As our Communist friends will tell us a social revolution once started cannot be stopped and a time will come when women will share political space in this House both literally and figuratively.

Atrocities on women cannot be stopped and if they can be stopped, it can only be by women. The System has to be changed and the system can be changed only through women. Men are warned here that the hand that rocks the cradle can rock the system.

Sir, with these few words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee for raising a discussion on atrocities being committed against women. I have come to know that discussion on atrocities against women has been held in the House a number of times. This discussion is relevant at this juncture because there is 20-21 percent increase in the cases of atrocities against women every year. We know that Shri Ram Manohar Lohia led seven revolutions. He was a strong votary of equality of man and woman and struggled for this cause. Atrocity against women starts from the birth and continues till last breath of woman in our country. Before the birth of a child, test determining the sex of the foetus is conducted and if it is a female then it is aborted. In some sections of our society, after sixth day of the birth, the girl child is done to death by making her lick salt. We mourn the birth of a girl child but the birth of male child is celebrated. No attention is paid on educating the daughter because she is to be married away and sent to some other family. Our 'Shastras' also do not provide them equal status. In marriages too, 'Kanyadan' is customary and not the 'Purush dan'. It is similar to giving away clothes or some other things. They have not been accorded equal status. In this way we see that with the change of time. ...*(Interruptions)* It is an atrocity. It is not equality. Shastras provide that women will have to live under guardianship of mother in the childhood, husband during young age and son in the old age. They were neither accorded equal status nor respect. Women are socially exploited from the birth to their last breath. It happens in poor families that women of the family have to feed on the remaining food prepared for the guest or else starve. It is said that the civilisation in the modern age has advanced but the state of women in developing countries is not good. Here women are considered to be a show piece. They are advertised and exhibited in TV. They fall for prostitution. This social evil should be wiped out.

It is said that women do not enjoy equal status nor they are independent, therefore they are victimised. But actually it is not so. In advanced countries of the world where they are independent and enjoy equal status, they are exploited at work place. In a recent survey conducted by an interantional organisation, facts show that maximum cases of exploitation committed against women have been registered in France. Though it is an advanced country, it is *numero Uno* in regard to atrocity against women. Out of 1000 women, 194 have registered complaint that injustice has been committed against them. USA stands fifth. There are complaints of exploitation of women in so called advanced countries. Lowest cases of complaint have been registered in Hungary. There, only 5 out of 1000 women have complained that they are exploited sexually or eve teased. India is a developing country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (MAHASAMUND): Which State has maximum number of such cases?

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am coming to that point also. First let us know about the countries of the

world then I would tell you facts and figures about state, district and village also.

I would like to explain the condition of women in developed states also. In the backward districts even today there is a culture of giving more importance to mother in comparison with gods and goddesses. Women in backward districts are better but their condition is not good in developed districts. Change in this scenario is a must. For this purpose, education of women should be accorded top priority and their education should be made compulsory by enacting laws and promoting it. It is generally observed that the daughter betters in studies in comparison with son if they are provided opportunity to study. But people do not want to give them opportunity to study. In backward places there is no arrangement to educate them and the girls cannot go far to study because of difficulties. Law should be enacted and a policy for women should be formulated. Dr. Lohia used to say that the society should not tolerate betrayal, rape and eve-teasing of women and those guilty of it should be shot dead. Regarding sexual harassment, the Supreme Court has given a historical verdict. The Supreme Court has issued 12 guidelines but they have not been implemented so far.

There are two categories of women. One category belonging to affluent classes enjoys the position of a deity but those belonging to common households are treated as maids. Deity and maid are two categories. Now-a-days there is a conspiracy behind the proposed reservation for women. Let us see which party is in fact giving them tickets and in what percentage. They are making a vociferous demand to provide reservation for women through legislation but practically, they are not prepared to increase a few seats. Thus a very strong conspiracy is working here. We apprehend a possibility that in the name of this reservation the women enjoying the position of Goddess would usurp all the reserved seats meant for the maids belonging to poor strata of society.

Why reservation has not been provided to women in services? The people of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes are being given reservation, then why the woman is not provided this facility? This reservation for women is a mere fraud. People intend this facility to be given to women who enjoy the position of Goddess whereas it is the rightful due of the maids. They are the real claimants of this reservation. They are exploited right from the moment they take birth and are victimised till death. Now-a-days their exploitation starts even before they take birth. They should be provided security. Therefore, I implore the people of India, through this august House that through this practice these people merely want to continue in power and give this facility to the ladies of higher status in the society and deprive the genuine poor women of power. They should not be allowed to continue this practice. The women of exploited and downtrodden classes whose position in this society is like that of a maid, should be given their due.

No stringent methods were adopted to implement this proposal of reservation, instead, it was deliberately and strongly avoided and later on an apology was tendered conceding inability in bringing the legislation. There is scope

for taking action on it in the House. We break section 44 and go to jails. When a disorderly situation was created in the House, people were asked to violate rules. At that time somehow they tried to bring order but the disorderly situation continued in the House due to which the House was adjourned five times. But even when it was being introduced for the sixth time, efforts were made to stall its introduction.

No civilised person can tolerate atrocity on women. The ulterior motives would not be allowed to be served in politics. That is why, it is a question of conflict. Dr. Lohia used to say "if you want to bring about gender parity, then breach of faith with women, outraging her modesty and eve-teasing should not be allowed at any cost. Strict deterrent law should be enacted and girls should be given education and representation in Police force. I support the statement made by the Leader of Opposition, Shri Sharad Pawar in toto and felicitate Geeta Didi in this regard. This is a crucial question. That is why, we were not interrupted while debating this issue. All of us have been speaking on the issues like dowry, murders. Marriage is a very perplexing exercise. An honest average man finds it very difficult to arrange the marriage of his daughter. Shri Mangan Insan served Bihar as an MLA for many terms but even then he was distributing pamphlets to collect subscription from common man as he was not able to raise the huge amount, to the tune of Rs. One lakh for the dowry. Earlier, there used to be demands for a wrist watch, a cycle. But now-a-days people demand Hero Honda, Maruti cars, Video Cassette recorder. If such dowry demands are not met the bride can be killed. All the laws are there but these are not implemented effectively. Some laws should be enacted and arrangements made for checking the incidents of atrocities on women.

I once again thank you.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the number of female Members is the highest from the BJP in the 12th Lok Sabha.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Please go by the percentage. How many Members were elected and how many were given tickets.

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI (KURUKSHETRA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is considered as the Spiritual Guru of the world because of its rich cultural heritage and glorious civilisation and past. Our glorious past has taught us that "yatra nari pujayante, ramante tatra Devata". Mr. Speaker, Sir, history bears testimony to the glorious past of women in India. Shrimati Sumitrajy has rightly said that woman has immense potential and strength. She is the symbol of sacrifice. We have instances of the world renowned women like Panna—Dhaya symbolising unique sacrifice, Sita and Savitri symbolising devotion to husband; Ahilya, Durga, Luxmibai symbolising as valiant warriors and Razia Sultan as an able administrator.

We cannot forget the contribution made by women in the freedom struggle. The role of Laxmibai in the freedom

[Smt. Kailasho Devi]

struggle of 1857 cannot be forgotten. These women have shone in the firmament as shining stars.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, women have an equal role in a democracy. The women in this country have fought shoulders to shoulder with their male counterparts to achieve freedom for the country and it is because of them that we are living in free India. After Independence women thought that they would get equal status as men and would hold their heads high in free India. But even after 50 years of Independence the plight of women in the society is pitiable. Physical, mental and social atrocities continue to be perpetrated on women even after Independence. Women are being exploited socially, economically and politically and if positive steps are not taken to stop these atrocities, exploitation would continue in future also. Even today women are being treated as second rate citizens. The male chauvinistic society hesitates to give equal status to women. The plight of women is not only a matter of concern in the economic and social field but also in the political field. It is very difficult for a woman to make progress in the male dominated society. In the Parliament there are only 8 per cent women members and this shows how backward women are politically. What better evidence can be there than this. Because of muscle power and mafia in politics, women have to face lot of atrocities mentally. The intensity of atrocity can be gauged from the instance of rape of a woman candidate in West Bengal. The entire country was shocked. If this can happen to a woman candidate who was in the fray in the elections, one can very well judge the plight of common woman.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the mentality of men is primarily responsible for the backwardness of women. Men will have to change this attitude and take initiatives to provide equal status to women. It is only then that women will feel that they have got equal status like men and that men really want to give status to women.

The other reasons for the backwardness of women are illiteracy and dowry. The need of the hour is to provide education to women on priority. I would like to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister and the government for taking initiatives of launching new schemes for providing free education to girls at all levels. These schemes should not remain on paper only and they should be properly implemented so that women could benefit adequately. If we want to make women self-reliant we will have to provide reservations to them in the Boards and Corporations. This would make women economically self-reliant. They would have self-esteem. They would not be forced to beg before anybody and would be able to hold their heads high. We should work on a war footing to create this awareness among women. We call upon the voluntary organisations to make efforts in the directions of creating this awareness among women and take initiative for providing them status in family. We will have to create a feeling in girls that their role is as much important as that of men and they are in no way inferior to boys. They can do the same work as boys. We should pay more attention to the upbringing of the girl child. When it comes to upbringing, we

lag behind. Therefore, there is an urgent need to create such a social awareness among all sections of society. We would not only have to give reservation to women in jobs but would also have to give 33 per cent reservation to women in Parliament and State Legislatures because giving maximum participation to women at the centre of power, where destinies of all sections of society are determined, is very essential. This has to be done so that more and more laws for women are passed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, some days back when the Women Reservation Bill was to be introduced in Parliament, some anti-women elements protested against this Bill proving that they are not genuine well-wishers of women. Today their real face is exposed. They indulge in such tactics to get sympathy of women. When we raise interests of women, they backtrack. Women can never forget the humiliation they had to suffer on this issue. They would teach a good lesson to anti-women elements and they would bury them so deep that even after seven generations they would not think of coming into politics. Women were not begging, they were seeking their right. When they comprise 50 per cent of the population there must be provision of 50 per cent reservation for women. If 50 per cent reservation for men and 50 per cent for women is provided then women would not at all object to 50 per cent reservation for men. I can say it with full authority. Through this House, I call upon the whole woman race that their rights would not be given to them a platter of gold. They would have to fight and struggle for their rights. This fight may be small or big but the field is open for men. Women will also have to fight, even today women are capable to fight. If we could get our rights just by asking. Englishmen would never have left India and yoke of 800 years old Mughal rule would not have been thrown. Lakhs of our martyrs have sacrificed their lives and we achieved democratic governance. So I call upon women to fight unitedly and be conscious of their rights. Leaving two exceptions I feel grateful to women MPs of all parties who were united in favour of Women Reservation Bill and were ready for the struggle. If in future also Women Bill is kept pending, we would unitedly fight. We women would never allow our rights to be infringed upon.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Sharadji and Sumitra Ji spoke about enacting certain laws and amend some old laws in the interest of women. I also have some similar suggestion. I do not want to repeat them. They require implementation and consideration. Unless this apex Panchayat of our country enacts a law for women, the upliftment of this country is not possible. When women would participate in all spheres of activities with men, only then, would India progress and be able to enter 21st century alongwith other developed and prosperous nations of the world. We would be able to celebrate golden jubilee of our Independence in the real sense of the term if we achieve this otherwise it is useless.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will take just half a second. I commend the hon. Member's speech. I heard it on the television in my room. But she made a reference to some woman candidate in West Bengal allegedly being subjected to rape. I am very sorry that on the

basis of incorrect information, the hon. Member has raised such a question. I cannot use stronger words. It has been proved that there was no such incident. By indulging in such misinformation, she has spoiled a very good speech. Therefore, I wish to correct it and put it on record....(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: It came in the newspapers. (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I did not know that newspapers are angels of truth.....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI: I shall show that newspaper later on.....(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU (MADRAS SOUTH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a proud moment for me to make my observation in upholding the prestige and esteem of the womanhood of India. I support the discussion initiated by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

Sir, we are calling our land as mother land. We are not calling it as our father land. We are calling our India as mother India, not as father India. We are calling our language as mother tongue. We are not calling it as father tongue. We have named the rivers after our women as the Ganga, the Cauvery, the Yamuna, the Narmada, the Godavari and so on. So, everything is after women. Everything revolves around women. It is because women are the embodiment of pride and prestige of our Indian society. If our women are subjected to atrocities, then those atrocities are not against women but they are atrocities against the prestige and pride of mankind itself.

Political slavery has been tarnished to pieces by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. But, at the same time, some unwanted cultural slavery exists in the day to day life of our Indian women which we have inherited centuries ago. Why? Can it not be tarnished by our women? They cannot. It is because a majority of men are at the helm of affairs. They are at the level of decision-making. They are in a majority to take the decision. They do not consider the genuine demands of women to safeguard the interests, to uplift women, and promote the welfare of women. We only preach. But we are not adopting the proper way of our life. We ignore them. It is nothing but male chauvinism. For centuries together, the chauvinistic attitude of men has been continuing. They are having the temerity to dominate the women and they created even a proverb! What is that proverb? It is "*Sth-ee janma papa karma*". It means that *sthree*, the women, are born out of sins. They say that women are born out of sins. During the childhood, a girl should obey her father. After the marriage, she has to obey her husband. When she becomes old, she has to obey her son, not the daughter, not the other women.

Sir, have we ever heard of any woman tying the *Thali*—in Tamil, we call it as *Thali*, here you may be calling it as *Mangal Sutra*—around the neck of a man? No. Why is this disparity there? Why can a lady not tie a *Thali* around the neck of a man? Is it not inequality? Sir, it is a symbol of inequality.

Sir, the Government of Tamil Nadu headed by Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi have been, day in and day out, announcing and adopting various women welfare measures. The Hindu Succession Act of 1956 was amended to give economic freedom to the women, to give them legal protection in the property rights. In 1975, the Government of Tamil Nadu introduced the Widows Marriage Assistance Scheme. There, a widow can be assisted by self-employment. She is assisted by providing employment opportunities to her children and free education. It is just to give social freedom to the women. Similarly, there is another scheme, that is, Moovalur Ramamrutham Ammaiyar Marriage Scheme which is extending assistance of Rs. 10,000 to each and every bride. But there is one condition that the particular bride, the lady, the girl should have at least studied upto eighth standard. Here, insisting education, indirectly compels education to girl child also. So, he advises promotion of education, which is a great thing.

In this year alone, that is, during 1998-99, the Government of Tamil Nadu have earmarked Rs. 53 crore for this Marriage Scheme. Next year, it is going to be increased to Rs. 60 crore.

Sir, what does Article 14 of our Constitution say? It says about the 'Equality before Law'. In Article 15(1), it is written and I quote:

"The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them."

Here, our forefathers have not preached any inequality among men and women. They established equality among everybody. They have not discriminated gender. But why should we discuss the atrocities against women, here now, in Parliament? It is because there are atrocities by the constitution of women, the constitution of body and physical nature. Women are over-powered by men. Sir, even after sometime in the near future, we may discuss the atrocities of women on man, especially on the Government. We do not know.

Sir, what is happening around us? The women, our sisters, are fighting and agitating for their rights in and around Parliament. Their number is 50 per cent, as far as population is concerned. Why do we not give them 50 per cent reservation in Parliament and Assemblies? Even for the one-third reservations, they are fighting, they are begging. Is it fair on the part of the men? Is it fair on the part of men-parliamentarian to see, this Constitution (Amendment) Bill lingering on for months together? It is not due to the fault of the Opposition. But it is all due to the fault and lethargic attitude of the Ruling parties. Sir, is it not the atrocity on the democratic arena? I want to know. They have 50 per cent population outside Parliament. Inside Parliament, their percentage is only 12 per cent. Is it not an inequality?

Now, I come to the atrocities on women in the name of religion. Have you ever heard of a woman priest into the Hindu temple performing the duties of the Hindu deities.

Having regard to these things, Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi got a law enacted in the 1970s with an enabling provision to

[Sh. T.R. Baalu]

see that SC priests who know the law of *Agama* would perform the *puja* in the sanctum sanctorum of the Hindu temples. But, unfortunately, it was struck down by our friends in high places.

My next point is regarding atrocities by social customs like prevention of widow remarriage. At the early age of 16 or 17 or 18, a girl loses her husband. The customs prevailing in the Hindu religion do not allow her to get remarried. At the same time, social reformers like Jyoti Baphule of Maharashtra and Thanthai Periyar E.V. Ramaswamy Naiker of Tamil Nadu have preached for widow remarriage. It is even now further promoted by Dr. Karunanidhi.

There are atrocities by caste system. In Kerala, when the State was known as Travancore Princely State, a woman belonging to SC was not allowed to wear blouse or jacket. Is it not a heinous crime? At that time ladies belonging to the Scheduled Caste had converted their religion. They had gone to some other religion. In spite of that, the Queen of Travancore banned ladies to march towards her residence. Then the Governor of Madras gave instructions to the Queen to see that women are allowed to wear their jackets.

If you go through the statistics in regard to all India crime rate, in 1996, 1,06,720 cases of crime against women were registered throughout India of which, cases of rape were 12,661; cases of kidnapping were 13,003; cases of dowry deaths were 5,250; cases of torture were 30,514; cases of molestation were 26,600; cases of eve teasing were 12,172; and crime under special law were 6,523. In 1996 alone Maharashtra registered 15,815 cases which is 18.1 per cent. Rajasthan registered 10,603 cases which is 21.6 per cent. Delhi alone registered 2,719 cases which is 23.1 per cent. But Tamil Nadu registered only 8,512 cases which accounts for 14.5 per cent. This shows the administrative capacity of our leader Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi.

Before I conclude, I would like to say that let us put forth our concerted efforts to promote women's welfare, let us give womanhood full knowledge through education, let us give them full freedom in the area of economic and let our ladies fly high with scientific temper.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE (SURENDRA-NAGAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I feel grateful that Balu ji finished his speech and I got one-two minutes to speak. It is my good luck. I am pained to speak on this issue. Our colleague Geeta ji has given us a good opportunity to speak about increasing incidents of atrocities against women. I thank her for it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to ask all my colleague brothers and sisters sitting here and people of the country as to why we have discussed this subject here in the House after 50 years of Independence.

15.00 hrs.

Is it the same country where learned scholar woman like Hanumati were born. Women are not helpless, our cultural

heritage bears testimony that whenever required, women participated in scholarly debates and also took up arms. Women were never weak, they never remained behind but now for sometime we are observing that social condition of women is deteriorating. I remember that just for sake of speaking we say a lot on this issue.

15.01 hrs.

[SHRI V. SATHIA MOORTHY *in the Chair*]

Here, the male members spoke excellently. They eulogised women, mother power but I want to ask all these brothers as to when the Bill relating to reservation for women was being introduced where were their members who are now eulogising women? Why did not they allow introduction of this Bill, Members who spoke here, have gone but somewhere they might be hearing this debate. I know it. We have studied history and we know as to why condition of women reached this stage in the great India. During Medieval age several foreign invaders attacked our country and tried to destroy its culture. Just now, Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan spoke a lot in this regard. At that time women became their victims. During Medieval age whenever they saw a beautiful woman on 'Panghat', (a place from where women fetch water) they abducted her.

Whenever they saw a beautiful daughter or a bride in a house, they took her away forcibly. Through you, Sir, I want to make this point that the culture of this country has always glorified women. With the advent of foreign aggressors in the medieval period in this country, many evils like child marriage etc. also crept in our society. If the daughter was abducted, naturally the father had to be worried and hence the practice of child marriage came into being. Likewise, Parda System (veiling the face) also came into being and became a part of our culture. In the ancient period, the woman was held in high esteem as the mother but now a days she is treated like a commodity. I remember the glorious culture of this country. My brethren and sisters belonging to Maharashtra must be present in this House. I urge them to go through the chapters of History and remember the life-story of Chattrapati Shivaji, which is still alive in our minds and it is worth cherishing too. One of his commanders brought the bride of Ahmadnagar to present her to Shivaji. You must remember what Shivaji said at that time. He chided his commander and ordered him not to resort to such act again and said that if it happens again he would be awarded death sentence. Why did you hold Shivaji in so low esteem? Was he a characterless person? Subsequently, Shivaji treated the bride of Ahmadnagar as a motherly figure. He appreciated her beauty and sent her to her husband in an honourable manner...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL (HINGOLI): She was the wife of Kalyan Subedar, who was presented before Shivaji as gift and Shivaji appreciating her beauty observed as follows:

"Sheech Amuchi Mata Asali Sunder Rupwati

Amhito Ashech Jhalo Asto Vadle Chhatrapati".

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE: Thank you for

enlightening me. Shivaji said that had my mother been so beautiful, I would have been a handsome person, not so ugly. He paid her due regards. The country which had a culture of treating a woman as the mother is witnessing atrocities on women. I want to cite an example here.

Recently, a girl child was kidnapped from village Bardauli in South Gujarat, it has come to notice that after kidnapping, she was converted. I can even tell her name. Her name is Varsha Seth. She was allured away from her school. Then she was converted and after ten months when, she gave birth to a child she was brought back to her village. If the incident like this keeps happening, then no mother would dare send her daughter to a school or college for studies. My point is that it is question of their education and health facilities. We have to pay attention towards it otherwise the women of this country would continue to be illiterate. We know that our daughters and wives are not safe today. They are being exploited socially and economically. In this age of growing consumerism, the women have always discharged their duties. I am talking of middle class. Women go out of their house to serve in the offices to share the economic burden of the families. My colleague mentioned about 'Devi' and 'Dasi'. I wish to tell my hon'ble colleague that a woman is a woman neither she is 'Devi' nor a 'Dasi'. Woman is the mother of a nation and when this mother shouldering the economic responsibility goes out to work, she is subjected to gender exploitation. She is not only exploited at her work place, but she undergoes exploitation even at home. There are a large number of such cases and I do not want to go into all this because I am short of time. But I want to make one point that though both man and woman go out to work at one or other place yet when a woman leaves her work place, a number of things keep her mind engaged as to what she is to cook at home, what items are required for the children and that she is to do so and so for her in-laws etc. Once she leaves her work place for home, she engages herself for the jobs to be attended at home. On the contrary a husband makes himself comfortable by relaxing on a coach when he returns from his work place while a woman sets out for her cooking and other domestic chores and takes care of all family members. She is being exploited even at home. Hence, I take exception to the expression 'Dasi' (maid servant) used by our hon. Member. We should not call woman a maid servant. She cares for the whole family. You should not insult a OBC woman by calling her a maid servant. You should not divide the women on caste and religion basis. All the women of this country belong to backward category and we have to take care of all women.

They are lacking education and health facilities. If a woman giving birth to the generations to come is not healthy, then the coming generation of the country would also not be a healthy generation. There is a saying that a mother is equal to hundred teachers. But if a woman is illiterate, how she could educate her children. There are a number of caste based harassment cases which are not even registered and they do not go to courts for trail. I have read in the newspapers that sometimes it so happens that when a

woman approaches the court and discusses her case with the lawyer, not only the lawyers but even the judges also deride and laugh at her.

I would not take much time as other woman Members also would like to speak on this subject. One more thing I would certainly like to say about the atrocities on women in the society that we need to bring a change in our outlook and males will also have to change their psyche. I request that we want only 33 per cent and not 50 per cent. This is not alms but our legitimate right. I request that the Women's Bill should be introduced in this Session itself. This will add to the honour of 60 per cent women population of this country and if this women's Reservation Bill is passed this will also add to the dignity of Parliament.

I conclude with these words and express my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[*English*]

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (NARASARAOPET): Sir, a very important issue is being discussed here in this House, but there is no Minister in the Treasury Benches which shows their disinterest on the issue of women who are more than 50 per cent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister is present here; and as you all know, hon. Home Minister also used to be present always. Now, he has gone for the leaders' meeting with hon. Speaker.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (RAJNANDGAON): Sir, they have taken it very lightly, though the subject is very important.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (SATNA): Males too have some good views about women so male Members should also be given an opportunity to speak. It is not that all men are rogues.

[*English*]

KUMARI KIM GANGTE (OUTER MANIPUR): Hon. Chairman, Sir, can I be given a chance to speak, especially since it is women's issue? Thank you.

Sir, after such a hard struggle for the introduction of Women's Bill, some time has been allotted for us today to discuss atrocities on women; and we thank you for that.

I am sorry to say that the House is not full today. The day when the Women's Bill was to be introduced, the House was fully packed, but today when the Women's issue is being discussed, I could see that not even one row is full.

I would like to ask a very serious question or it is, in fact, a statement. Any one can take it in any way one feels right. There is not even one human being in this august House and also in the whole world, who is not given birth by a woman. Everybody on earth has been given birth by a woman. This being the case, why should we be discriminated against? Why should we be looked down? Why should we have to fight, as

[Kumari Kimi Gangte]

we are entering into the 21st Century? Why should we fight for our rights today?

When our country, India proclaims to be the champion of human rights—human rights are women's rights—I do not think, we are asking for too much. Women, as a whole, are looked upon as a symbol of piece. Women constitute half of our population. Today I wonder as to whom are we asking for our rights! I am sorry to say that. Certain elements are trying to divide women on the basis of community, on party lines and on religious lines.

I come from a backward State; I come from a backward community. I belong to the OBC; I belong to the tribal community. I belong to a very backward region.

That is the way I, as a woman or a lady, look at it; and please do not divide us any more on these lines. Women are the same and we will remain the same; we speak the same language of pain, misery and happiness.

Sir, it pains me to recollect that hundreds of menfolk spoke so much and indulged in shouting on that day in this august House against just the introduction of that Bill.

I would like to ask one question. If they profess themselves as champions of OBCs, backward tribal people like me, then why did they not give tickets to contest for the Assembly seats? I can just count on my finger tips as to how many OBCs or tribal women and minorities have been elected as Members of the Assembly in the State. This shows or I should say that this great India is not yet ready to enter the 21st century alongwith the women folk, to bring full economic development. We should push the womenfolk up so that the whole country can move into the 21st century with progress and development. Women are the ones who are suffering today. In my State, the condition is not different, whether the women are literates or illiterates, or whether they are rich or poor. We speak the same language. If I see a poor man by the road side or a man falling by the road side and his mother crying with tears in her eyes, it brings tears in my eyes. I do not know that person but tears come in my eyes. This shows that we women speak the same language. So, we cannot be divided. No one should try to divide us on these lines.

I visited the jails when I visited my constituency in Manipur. I visited the Central Jail. I saw a number of women there on different offences. It touched my heart. I would just cite one instance. A woman got her daughter married; she was tortured to that extent by her husband that she could not bear it any more. Her mother and the woman fought against the man and killed him. They were fighting for their survival. But both the mother and daughter are now languishing in jail. The mother is about 72 years old. I talked to some of the authorities to look into the case. They have been in jail for about twelve-and-a-half years. They have been accused of killing the husband but we also cannot ignore as to why this thing happened. When women cannot bear the tortures inflicted upon them any more, they use their teeth and nails and when something happens, they are put in jails and their cases are not looked into.

Sir, when a couple gets married. I do not think there has been a promise at all between the couple that if the woman does not bear a child, then she would be divorced. I do not think there is any promise between any couple. When the woman cannot bear a child, the man's eyes go for shopping. The woman is left behind. She is divorced without anything. If this is going to happen, then, I am not accusing all the men. I am only talking about those people who commit such kind of crimes against the women.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

KUMARI KIM GANGTE: I am sorry, the Bell has been rung a little early. We should be given more time so that we are able to speak in this august House. The women's issues could be taken up here.

The women have special qualities which God has given to them. They have very special qualities like adaptability, long suffering, and love. Today, we are not asking for too much. We are asking for only 33 per cent. In fact, as an individual, I would say that it should be 50:50 because our population is also 50 per cent. So, with respect to the hon. Members, the menfolk should be very happy that we are asking for only 33 per cent.

We are watching which party is against the passing of the Women's Bill. Next time, no women should vote for that party. Any man who is against the passing of this Bill should be watched. I think, the women of his constituency should be made aware of their rights. We will be making them aware that such a person should never be elected. He should never be given votes by the women. Then, we will see to it how he gets elected without the women's votes.

Today, we are entering into the 21st century. But the women are not asking for too much. It is not asking for anything. We are just demanding our rights. Our rights should be given to us. This great country should be the first country to pass this Bill so that other countries all over the world could see us and follow our footsteps for progress and development.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (SATNA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, atrocity is being done on us. We also want to speak in support of women.

DR. SHAAKEEL AHMAD (MADHUBANI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I suggest that there should be 33 per cent reservation for men and 66 per cent for women.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Private Members' Bill would be taken up for discussion at 3.30 P.M. They would not get justice as only 5 to 7 minutes are left.

DR. PRABHA THAKUR (AJMER): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Smt. Geetaji has brought a very important issue for discussion under Rule 193. Atrocity on women is on the increase and we are discussing this issue today in the Parliament. In this House our male colleagues are sitting and I would like to tell them that this is not men Vs. women. This is not an issue only related to women. It is an issue which concerns the entire

nation. I want to know from the males as to what their view point is on this issue and what solution do they suggest in this regard?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, after 50 years of independence, the situation is very much deplorable as per the data given here. I would not like to repeat the points which have been made by the Congress leader Sharad Pawarji and Smt. Geeta Mukherjee nor do I want to go into the history of this issue. I want to talk about the present and in today's context. Even after 50 years of independence, the women, despite comprising 50 per cent of the population of this country, are still suffering exploitation, atrocities and torture.

I would also like to refer to the aspect in which there was a time when this Country visualised the posture of 'Ardhnarishwar'. The very idea of 'Ardhnarishwar' symbolises that here women and men have been equal partners in the nature's set up. In a country where it was said—

"Yatra Nariyastu Pujante, ramante tatra devta"—a country where such a philosophy existed, in the same country with the passage of time the condition of women became so miserable that Maithilisharan Gupta had to write:

"Abla Jeevan Hai Tumhari Yah: Kahani,

Anchal mein hai doodh aur ankhon mein Pani".

This poem of Guptji depicts the sad plight of women and what the women of free India are facing. Even now in Rajasthan when a male child is born in a family people beat 'Thali' to express their joy otherwise they beat 'Chhaja'(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: When a son is born in the family people also start singing 'Sohar', the song of happiness and when daughters are born. (Interruptions).

DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Please do not interrupt. I can not understand the intention behind his interruption. I am not labelling any personal charge against the hon. Member. He can say whatever he liked when he gets an opportunity to speak. It is my way of expressing the same point.

If we are keen to know the history of women exploitation for the last 100 years, we must go through the bulky novel in three volumes—'Pratham Pratishruti,' 'Swarna Lata' and 'Bakul Katha' written by famous author Ashapura Devi of Bengal from where Smt. Geeta Mukherjee hails. This novel depicts 100 year's history of women exploitation. The girls are born and brought up in this environment and they are told from the very childhood that they are somebody else's property. This thing is inscribed in their mind that they are somebody else's property and they feel it after marriage that they have no place of their own. First, the girl child has to reside in her father's home, then in her husband's home and in old age in her son's home. She has nothing of her own. Unless she is co-owner of husband's property, she can not own any property and till then nobody can shelter her and her rights are a farce. If it is done, she can overcome this feeling of insecurity. In that case, no husband can threaten his wife of divorce on every petty quarrel and abuse her. If a man comes to know in this male dominated society that the

wife is co-owner of his property and if he divorces her, he would lose half of the property. Out of this fear, he will not harass his wife. Tulsidas has also stated that "Bhay bin priti na hoy gusain". (There can be no love without threat). Therefore, he will take care of wife's respect and regards and she will be able to enjoy her rights.

We can broadly divide the atrocities perpetrated on women in to three parts—Economic exploitation, Mental exploitation and Physical exploitation (Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Private Member's Business was to commence at 3.30 P.M. Please extend its time. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It will be taken up in time. There are still thirty seconds left for it.

[Translation]

DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we talk of Women's Bill but do not think about freedom of women. Unless women in the country are economically independent, they can not be free. But the law provides for five hundred rupees to a woman after divorce. The provision of Rs. five hundred after divorce is similar to 'Kanyadan' at the time of marriage. Is it adequate? The Government must do something in this regard so that women can be made economically independent.

[English]

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Member, Shrimati Thakur can continue on Monday.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (CHIMUR) : Sir, this discussion should continue on Monday also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, the discussion on Atrocities on Women will continue on Monday. We will now take up the Private Member's Business.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (PANSKURA) : The Members may please do not say that it should be continued after Private Members' Business.

15.30 hrs.

The Patents (Amendment) Bill*

(Amendment of Section 5 etc.)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASEKHAR SAHU: (MAHASAMUND): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Patents Act, 1970.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Patents Act, 1970."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASEKHAR SAHU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Patents Act, 1970."

The motion was adopted

DR. SAROJA V. : I introduce the Bill

15.31 hrs.

**The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order
(Amendment) Bill***
(Amendment of the Schedule)

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes), Orders, 1950."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : I introduce the Bill.

15.32 hrs.

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Bill*
(Amendment of Section 11)

SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK (PANAJI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : I introduce the Bill.

15.32½ hrs.

Patents (Amendment) Bill*
(Amendment of Section 53)

[English]

DR. SAROJA V. (RASIPURAM): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Patents Act, 1970.

15.33 hrs

Medical Profession (Regulation) Bill*

[English]

DR. SAROJA V. (RASIPURAM): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate medical profession with a view to provide best available health care to the citizens of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate medical profession with a view to provide best available health care to the citizens of the country."

The motion was adopted.

DR. SAROJA V. I introduce the Bill

15.34 hrs.

Constitution (Amendment) Bill
(Insertion of new article 16A)

[English]

Dr. SAROJA V. (RASIPURAM): I beg to move for leave to introduce a bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India"

The motion was adopted.

Dr. SAROJA V.: I introduce the Bill.

15.35 hrs.

[English]

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL—CONTD.
(Amendment of article 15, etc.)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have the honour and privilege of moving this Bill on certain important aspects of our reservation policy. I have already

pointed out that the Bill which I have moved seeks to protect the extent of reservation and reservation policy as it exists in the various States today. I have pointed out certain difficulties which have come up because of a court decision. My Bill seeks to remove these difficulties.

As far as the question of protecting the extent of reservation as it exists today in various States is concerned, I understand that even the present Government is committed to it. In the National Agenda for Governance, we have para 30. It says:

"The interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes will be adequately safeguarded by appropriate legal, executive and societal efforts and by large scale education and empowerment. We will provide legal protection to existing percentages of reservation in educational institutions at the State level."

The Supreme Court, in the first instance, has laid down that the extent of reservation must not exceed 50 per cent. By 'reservation' I mean 'reservation in service and in educational institutions'. This has created a piquant situation. In Tamil Nadu, for example, we have reservation up to 69 per cent. There are similar instances in other States.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Karnataka made a request for 73 per cent reservation.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

This entire issue of extent and policy of reservation gets upset. The question as to who should be dropped now from reservation list will not only create a law and order problem but will also lead to social injustice.

I have already pointed out that the policy of reservation, at least as far as the Southern States are concerned, has been in existence long before even our Independence. My Bill seeks to provide that every State will have free and complete authority to decide on the extent of reservation in the State depending upon the situation existing in that State. That has to be the policy. Even some of the Judges in the Supreme Court, in the case which I had earlier cited, had felt that it is not for the courts to take upon themselves the determination of the social conditions and the response of the Government, the response of the legislature, to those social situations. However, this situation has come up because of the judicial decisions. Parliament has to take cognizance of them.

I have had the honour and the pleasure of visiting Tamil Nadu several times. Whether it is the former Chief Minister and the AIADMK leader, Kumari Jayalalitha, or the present Chief Minister Dr. Karunanidhi, I must say that the entire Tamil Nadu is united on this issue.

They are in the forefront in order to protect the policy of social justice and the freedom of the State to determine their reservation policy and the extent in accordance with the situation prevalent in the State. My bill seeks to give the States the complete freedom and the authority to decide the extent of reservation according to the situation prevalent in the State.

Second point that has come up is about what is generally called the concept of creamy layer. It is absolutely a false notion, I submit, that the so-called higher-ups among the backward classes snatch away or swallow the benefits of reservations and those who are really backward among the backward communities get deprived of the benefit. An orchestrated publicity goes on as if to say that those who are a little higher-up from the income point of view, in the backward community, they get all the reservation benefits, and others are deprived of the benefits. This, as I submitted, is an absolute false impression. It is a myth which has been exploded.

In this connection, I want to draw the attention of the Government and this House to two important factors. In the first place, it should be realised and it should be appreciated that even with the so-called creamy layer included among the backward classes, the reserved posts and appointments do not get filled up. If it is true that all the posts are snatched away by the little advanced among the backward community, then how do you account for this situation that all the posts and appointments reserved do not get filled up. There is a backlog and we have to consider this backlog also. The quota does not get exhausted and the vacancies persist. Therefore, I say that it is wrong to think and say that there is any upper layer that swallows and snatches away all the reservation benefits.

My second point that must be appreciated here is this illusory concept of creamy layer. Here, even the so-called Higher-ups in backward class do not have the capacity to compete with the forward class. Therefore, Sir, to exclude the so-called higher-ups in a backward community is to leave them high and dry because they do not have the capacity to compete with the forward class. They will be neither here nor there. The policy of social justice will thus be a flawed policy doing grave injustice to the people. As I have also already submitted, even with the so-called creamy layer included among the backward communities or classes, their percentage does not get filled up and vacancies exist.

I may point out that in Kerala, for example, the Committee on Welfare of Backward Classes and Communities has in its Fifth and Sixth Reports submitted to the Kerala Legislative Assembly gave a long list of services in Departments under the Government of Kerala in which the reserved quota has not been filled up. Therefore, we have these realities of the situation before us. Then, as I pointed out, the so-called creamy layers of the backward communities or classes are not in a position to compete with the forward classes.

Sir, Justice Sawant has pointed out that to locate a creamy layer, one must find out whether there are sections of backward classes which can successfully compete in higher employment with forward classes and not with their own community men. I may also point out to this House that in the United States of America, there is reservation for 'Blacks'.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (MUMBAI-CENTRAL):
Negroes!

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): I am very much

[Sh. G.M. Banatwalla]

afraid because there are words which they do not like. Therefore, I say 'Blacks' only.

There is no exclusion on the illusory concept of the creamy layer. The United States Supreme Court held that if backwardness is race-based, *i.e.*, if the backwardness is based on race, then ameliorative measures have also to be race-based.

Therefore, Sir, I submit that there cannot any consideration of the so-called economic criterion or the creamy layer as far as the backward classes are concerned. My Bill seeks to provide that this illusory concept of this creamy layer to upset the entire policy of reservation cannot be considered.

In Kerala, we have a legislation to protect the reservation quota and this legislation has declared as per Section 3, Clause A that there is no socially advanced section in any backward classes—I underline—who have acquired capacity to compete with the forward classes. Mr. Chairman Sir, Andhra and Tamil Nadu also have not yielded to the false concept of the creamy layer.

Sir, a third point on which I have my Bill is to place the Kerala Legislation in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. The Bill seeks to place the Kerala State Backward Classes Reservation of Appointments or Posts in the services under the State Act 1995, which is Act 16 of 1995, in the Ninth Schedule, so that it gets due protection from the judicial review.

Sir, it must be remembered that the policy of reservation has a long history. We have had reservations even before the Independence. In the case of Kerala, the erstwhile Government of Travancore had provided reservation for backward communities as early as 1935. On the formation of the erstwhile Travancore Cochin State on 1st July 1949, the reservation rules were extended to Travancore Cochin State.

Take the question of Malabar. In the case of Malabar, the reservation existed as early as 1921.

After the formation of the State of Kerala on the 1st November, 1956, we have the unified set of rules in 1957. Sir, now this reservation policy, the Kerala legislation and all others are challenged in the court of law upsetting the age-old and time-tested reservation policy. It is necessary for the Government to come forward to protect it. In the case of Tamil Nadu, their Act called the Tamil Nadu Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of seats in educational institutions and of appointments or posts in the Services under the State) Act of 1993, which is Tamil Nadu Act 45 of 1994, has been placed already in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution by virtue of the Constitution 76th Amendment Act, 1994. Similarly, there is a demand that the Kerala legislation which I have referred to, should also be placed in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution in order to give it the necessary protection from Judicial scrutiny, in order to preserve and protect the age-old and time-tested policy of reservation and social justice to the Backward Classes and

communities. My Bill seeks to place this Kerala legislation in the Ninth Schedule.

In the case of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, there is reservation in promotion. Similarly, reservation in promotion has also to be given in the case of the Backward Classes. These are the various points on which I have placed the Bill before the House.

The social policy of justice today stands flawed because of certain court decisions. Let the States be competent, let the State Legislatures be competent, and let the State executives be competent to decide the response to the social exigencies. It is not for the courts to interfere in this particular area.

I, therefore, forcefully request the Government and this House to give due consideration to this fact that if the policy of social justice is flawed or impaired, it will further aggravate the situation rather than contribute to any social justice under the present situation.

I, therefore, commend my Bill for the consideration of this House. The Government has been promising. Demand comes forcefully from the parties like Anna DMK, DMK, and various States like Kerala and so on. Everywhere, the policy of social justice needs to be saved. Reservation is key factor in any policy of social justice. Let us rise to the situation. Let us save this policy of social justice, and let us see that the various sections of our society get justice that is due to them. I hope my Bill will receive the support from all sections.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose this bill. So far as I understand, Shri Banatwalla wants that 49.5 per cent reservation should be increased and it should be made unlimited. Secondly, in view of the decision of the Supreme Court, if those sections of society to whom we are extending reservation have become strong, they should be excluded from the reservation list. The creamy layer has been redefined by the Supreme Court and therefore they should be excluded. Besides, the States should be given powers to provide as much percentage of reservation as they like. That is why in my opinion this Bill is in clear violation of the basic tenets of the Constitution. When the reservation was provided in the Constitution it was only for 10 years. This was done by Dr. Ambedkar, the founding father of our Constitution, who belonged to a dalit family and had seen lot of hardships throughout his life. At that time the dalit children were made to sit separate in the class. Reservation was therefore made for such sections only for 10 years. It is true that the desired change did not take place in those 10 years and we had to continue the policy of reservation till today.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (MUMBAI NORTH-CENTRAL): We should continue with this reservation policy till all the dalits and backwards are uplifted.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: All right, why are you repeating this. The Hon. Prime Minister has himself said this.

[English]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (CHIMUR): That was only political reservation. That was not for educational policy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can explain when your turn comes.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: Those were political reservations. So far educational and employment reservations are concerned there is no limit.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Behind the dispensation of reservation we had the sole objective to bring suppressed people of the society at par with others and even today we have the same intention. But if we make reservation with vested interest and ulterior motives and we are hell bent upon disintegrating the society instead of uniting it, then it cannot be in the interest of society. Some people have decided to ignore Constitutional provisions and decisions of judiciary and subvert them in practice. The present discussion in the House on atrocities against women has been necessitated solely due to this fact and a section of our society did not agree to give relief to women. We got it subverted from here. I want to say the experience of the last 40 years has made us realise that even today 40 per cent people in our society live below poverty line. A poor child born in a good family studies and gets 80 per cent marks but when a person getting only 40-50 per cent marks gets selected for a post, then you yourself can imagine what would happen to the other fellow. Therefore, the section which has this provision....

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: You say that candidate on getting 80 per cent is from general category and the candidate with 75 per cent is from reserve category.

16.00 hrs.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: In protest against reservation the way several youngmen immolated by pouring kerosene over themselves after the implementation of Mandal Commission in reaction of which all this happened? It resulted from the fact that deserving candidates were being denied jobs. I submit that under these conditions when we propose to give power to the State, it is wrong. We should not at all talk about violation of our country's Constitution, but we should talk about uniting the country. I believe that the decision of the hon. Supreme Court is fair and the reservation policy should continue on its basis. With this, I conclude.

*SHRI RAJA PARAMASIVAM (PUDUKKOTTAI): Hon'ble Chairman, I would like to express first of all my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi (Revolutionary Leader), the champion of social justice and our able leader with a mass appeal who lives in our hearts. I profusely thank her for having sent me to this august House, the House of the people.

Let me also express my deep gratitude to the people of my Pudukkottai constituency for electing me to represent them in this august House.

We are completing soon the celebrations of the fiftieth year of our Indian independence. At this point of time I have got an opportunity to render my maiden speech on an important Bill pertaining to the social justice. I would like to thank the Chair for providing me with an opportunity to speak on this momentous occasion.

Chairman Sir, the pioneering efforts of the Dravidian movement were aimed at ushering in social justice by way of providing job reservation. I am really glad and my heart is filled with a sense of gratitude to speak in my first ever speech in this House on the measures that were upheld first by the Dravidian movement.

I welcome this Bill moved by Shri Banatwalla as a Private Member's Bill. This Constitution Amendment is an important one. Reservation for the backward classes is a right step that dates back to the early twenties. It is being continuously implemented in Tamil Nadu ever since that. Major parts of the present Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh were parts of the erstwhile Madras province. As these States were forming part of the then Madras Presidency reservation is in vogue in these States also.

The first ever Constitution Amendment was made to amend Articles 15 and 16. That was the fruition of the ceaseless efforts made by the great leaders like Periyar and Anna of our Dravidian Movement.

It is only during the regime of our late lamented leader 'Bharat Ratna' MGR that the reservation for the backward classes crossed the 50% mark. I would like to point out that it was only Tamil Nadu that pressed for enhancing the reservation well beyond the 50% level so that it may match with the population of the representative backward classes. Every now and then we have been facing the hurdles and spokes put forth by the courts and the judiciary. They have been intervening in our endeavour to extend the benefits of reservation to all the needy.

It is pertinent to note that a resolution was passed in the Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu to provide for 69% reservation. It was moved when the General Secretary of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam was at the helm of affairs as the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Our leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi led to Delhi a delegation of All Party Leaders of Tamil Nadu and all the Members of Parliament hailing from Tamil Nadu and impressed upon the Union Government and all the leaders of all the political groups in the Parliament, to pass unanimously a Bill to incorporate the Backward Classes Act of Tamil Nadu in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. It was a historical one and a history by itself. Without any opposition the resolution providing for 69% reservation was accepted here at the Centre.

I would like to point out with a sense of pride the fact that the acceptance to the demand resulting in its implementation

[Sh. Raja Paramasivam]

rightly initiated by our beloved leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi is nothing but a great pioneering move. This forms the basis for the Bill moved by Shri Banatwalla now.

In 1994, this House adopted the 76th Amendment to our Constitution. It is my bounden duty to recall and record the fact that the dynamic force behind this legislation was our beloved Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi, the General Secretary of AIADMK and the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. It was she who asserted the rights of the State. "Tamil Nadu Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act, 1993" was included in the Ninth Schedule of our Indian Constitution. This legislative move was intended to obviate the interferences from the courts of law. Thus Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi championed the cause of putting an end to the oft-repeated judicial interventions in the measures aimed at ensuring social justice.

In a similar fashion, the Bill we discuss now seeks to include in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution the Kerala Backward Classes Act. While we express our thanks to Shri Banatwalla, we cannot but expect him to thank our Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi who espoused, pioneered and championed this cause.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: One second, please. I have already thanked the AIADMK supremo, Jayalalithaji in Chennai itself when I said that she had been fighting for the cause of the depressed over there. I said this in a public meeting where I was speaking and she was also there, either presiding or as a Chief Guest.

SHRI RAJA PARAMASIVAM: I would like to point out that our leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi went beyond the 50% limit to 69% of reservation. She also obtained Constitutional safeguard and protection to that legislation. But I am pained to point out that the judicial interventions are still coming up. For instance, it has become a recurrent feature during the commencement of every academic year. Courts intervene to fix the number of seats during the admissions made in professional institutions like the medical colleges and engineering colleges. For the past two years DMK is in power in the State. They were part of the Government at the Centre too. But they have not taken any positive step to put an end to this menace and to ensure the smooth sailing of this 69% of reservation in both the jobs and admission of students in educational institutions.

The present Government too believes in social justice. Our national agenda includes the action plan to safeguard the 69% reservation provided by the State dispensations. Considering the need to pay heed to the demands of the people of Tamil Nadu and the emphasis laid by our beloved leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi when we evolved the action plan for the national agenda, I urge upon the Government to accept the Amendment Bill in toto and pass it in this House. This is necessary to ward off the unnecessary interventions from the judiciary time and again.

Every State must have unfettered rights to take appropriate steps towards ensuring social justice especially to the backward

classes in their respective States. Their rights must be completely safeguarded. The proposal by Shri G.M. Banatwalla in the form of this Constitution Amendment Bill which we are considering now shall pave way to achieve that goal. Hence I welcome again and express my support to this Bill.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak. I rise to oppose this Bill. First I shall read out the amendments which have been brought by the senior hon. Member, Shri Banatwalla and then tell you why I oppose this Bill. This is about amendment of article 16... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon., Member, I would like to bring to your notice that at the time of inclusion of the Act relating to 69 per cent reservation in Tamil Nadu, in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution, the hon. Minister, who was at that time the Leader of the Opposition, had given his consent on behalf of his party. You are now speaking on behalf of that party. You can proceed now.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, this is a Private Member's Bill. I am free to express my opinion. I am not speaking on behalf of my party. So, I can speak out my heart. I belong to a backward caste and I have something to say about this Bill.

Sir, he has said in Clause 3 (i) of the Bill as follows:

"in clause (4A), for the words 'the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes' substitute 'the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the backward classes of citizens'."

He further says Clause 3 (i) (a):

"the State shall, in exercise of its authority under clauses (4) and (4A) of this article, have free and complete power in regard to the identification of a class or classes of its citizens and in regard to the percentages of reservation made for any or all of such backward classes."

Then, he further goes on to say in Clause 3 (i) (b):

"the State shall not deny benefit of reservation to any section of a class identified as a backward class of citizens on economic consideration."

Sir, I would like to say that the very term 'backward class' is a very ambiguous term. Maybe, in Tamil Nadu and Kerala there is a precedence that such and such castes belong to backward class. But what about Orissa? What about West Bengal? What about other parts of India? Who at all belongs to backward classes?

Secondly, he wants to introduce a clause saying that the State shall not deny benefit of reservation to any section of a class identified as a backward class of citizens on economic consideration. He is not talking about any caste here. He is talking about backward class and, that too, on the basis of economic consideration. Suppose this Bill is

introduced and the Constitution is amended, it will not be amended for Kerala and Tamil Nadu alone; it will be amended for the whole of India. It will be applicable to the entire country. So, when you come out of the confines of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, you have to see the interests of the entire country.

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to ask a question to the hon. Member. Is the hon. Member of the opinion that the backward classes will be decided only on the basis of caste and not on the basis of social and educational backwardness?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I would appeal to the hon. Member to wait and listen what I am going to say. I think, after I speak out my mind, he will not have to raise any question. So, I would appeal to him just to give me a patient hearing.

Sir, I would like to say that the term 'backward class' is a very ambiguous term. How can the backward class of citizens be identified on economic consideration? This is the point I want to raise. Why is this demand for reservation on the basis of economic consideration raising its head? It is because of this reason, that we have been giving reservation only on the basis of caste for the last 50 years. But there are so many people among the so-called forward castes or higher castes who actually belong to the economically backward class, whereas there are so many people among the so-called backward castes who actually form the forward class.

Initially, when the country got its Independence in 1947, at that time, virtually class and caste were intermingled. A person who belonged to a backward caste generally belonged to a backward class. That was the situation at that time. What happened then? Then, reservation was given. When the reservation was given, some people from the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes, those who were given reservation, became Collectors. They got into the civil services, business activities and some sort of high governmental jobs. Once they got into the high governmental jobs, they did not belong to the backward class. They went up to the higher class or the forward class. Maybe, they still belonged to lower caste but after becoming a Collector or an I.A.S. Officer, they belonged to higher class. But from among the higher castes, those people who remained poor, they remained backward. So, the distinction. The chasm between the caste and the class went up and up once this reservation was given. I mean to say that the situation has changed.

Now, Shri Banatwalla has raised a point about the creamy layer. He has said that it is a very false notion. He also raised a very pertinent point. The pertinent point is that the creamy layer does not exist because even after providing all sorts of reservation, all the posts under the reserved category are still not filled up. That is the point which he raised. But, Sir, can I ask him why this situation has arisen? It has arisen because, those people from among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who got the privilege of getting good jobs—Class I or Class II—only their children got the higher governmental jobs. The benefits of reservation never percolated down to the poorest of the poor. I would appeal to the Government of India

that it should make a survey in this regard. Actually, if you conduct a survey, you will come to understand where lies the crux of this problem. I suggest one thing. Let the Government of India try to know how many parents of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people—who are Class I or Class II officers—belong to Class I and Class II categories. Then only, you will know where lies the crux. Here lies the crux because those who got into the higher services, they wanted that all those facilities should be available to them only. So, it remained with a minuscule minority of that community. It never percolated down. This is the reason for which I tell you that the creamy layer existed. I do not agree with Shri Banatwalla's contention.

Now, a time has come when we must give a fresh look to the policy of reservation. Do you mean to say that only Scheduled Caste or the Scheduled Tribe people in India require the crutch of reservation to rise to the higher positions. Take the example of our hon. President, Shri K.R. Narayanan. Has he become the President of India because he belongs to Scheduled Caste community? Sir, I can dare say that the courage, the dynamism, the honesty, the integrity and the impartiality which Shri K.R. Narayanan has shown, ...*...

We can take the example of the hon. Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi also. Did he become the Speaker of this august House because he belongs to the Scheduled Caste community?....(Interruptions) I say that he has shown much courage and I am certainly entitled to my own views. You take the example of our Hon. Speaker, Shri G. M.C. Balayogi. How he became the Hon. Speaker of this august House? Is it because he belongs to Scheduled Caste? No. He might have become the Hon. Speaker of this house because of anything else, but not because he is a Scheduled Caste. Some years back, one of the persons from the Scheduled Caste community secured the 7th position in the All-India Civil Services examination. We cannot simply wish it away by saying that this is an exception and an aberration. The world is changing. The situation is changing. The Constitution is changing. The society is changing.

I belong to Bharatiya Janata Party. But here I will refer to Shri Kanshiram who belongs to BSP. I do not subscribe to his political views. But the point I want to make is Shri Kanshiram is not an individual. He is a phenomenon. He has proved that without reservation, the Scheduled Castes of this country can play a very vital role in this country. I give you an example. BSP is led by Shri Kanshiram and he belongs to Scheduled Caste community. Kumari Mayawati herself belongs to Scheduled Caste community. They do not win from the reserved category seats. Many of their Members and MLAs win from the general seat. What does it mean? It means that a person belonging to Scheduled Caste in India can stand up even without reservation and win from any general seat. That is the phenomenon. That is what I am hinting at.

What I mean to say is that this policy of reservation requires a fresh review from the Scheduled Caste people

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Sh. Kharabela Swai n]

themselves. Once they are relieved from the clutches of reservation system, they will stand up. They can raise their community. A middle class has come up among them and it is the middle class which is the harbinger, the torch-bearer of all the changes in the world and the infrastructure has already been created amongst the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people. I think now by just telling them that they belong to the Scheduled Caste and underprivileged, we are sending them to the labyrinth of inferiority complex. As I already said, I belong to a backward caste community. I stand up here and proudly say that I do not require reservation. When the question of reservation comes, if it is offered to me, I feel humiliated.

Sir, I was in the Civil Service. I defeated so many so-called higher caste people and got into the Civil Service of India. Here also, I have entered into this august House of Parliament by defeating so many so-called higher caste people of Orissa. I am capable of competing with anybody in India.

So, I can proudly say that I do not require any reservation. It is a humiliation to me. It denigrates my prestige and integrity. I also have my own dignity. I can fight and compete with anybody in this country. I do not require it. So, in the name of caste, class and all such things, this confusion should not be created. Our Mother India should be allowed to become the most powerful and most prestigious nation in the next century, in the 21st century to come.

With these words I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But only because of your brilliance, you cannot deprive other suppressed people of reservation.

[Translation]

*SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUPPATHUR): Hon'ble Chairman, I would like to congratulate Shri Banatwalla for moving a significant Bill to protect reservation extended to the backward classes. This is a very good piece of legislation and I support this Bill.

Reservation adds strength to social justice. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, the introduction and the continuance of reservation to the deprived classes has got a long history and tradition. Dr. Kalaignar, the present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the President of our Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam has dedicated his life to uphold the cause of social justice and sacrificed enough in all the struggles for a very long time.

As early as in 1920, Montjovi Park issued a communal G.O. to benefit the deprived and deserving backward classes of the society. That was a beginning towards social justice. During the justice party rule when Hon'ble Muthaiah Mudaliar was a Minister in that Government a law was enacted in this regard thereby converting an order into a law.

After independence, conspiracies were hatched to subvert this law. There were attempts to do away with this law. Those

who conspired came out with a slogan that 'all are equal'. They argued that there is no need to have reservation to the backward classes anymore in the Free India. But the conspiracy in the garb of a noble ideal called equality was thwarted then. Later on leaders like Thanthai Periyar, Perarignar Anna resorted to agitational methods to safeguard the interests of the deprived classes in Tamil Nadu. All the political parties unitedly fought for the continuance of reservation to other backward classes in Tamil Nadu. Yielding to the pressure from the south, the first Prime Minister of the independent India brought forth the first Constitutional Amendment to our Indian Constitution to extend the reservation benefits to the other backward classes.

Later on it was decided to extend 69% reservation in all by way of providing 50% to the backward classes, 18% to the Scheduled Castes and 1% to the Scheduled Tribes. In order to ensure its Constitutional validity it was incorporated in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. But I must add that this was not done at a time when there was a far cry to resort to this measure to ensure 69% reservation. At a time when people were moving to courts including the Supreme Court to Stall the extending of 69% reservation, the right moves were not forthcoming. Several leaders have struggled with dedication and devotion to ensure social justice in Tamil Nadu. Many of them even gave their lives participating in several agitations. Many even went to the extent of challenging them in the judicial forums including the Supreme Court of India. In order to honour those who dedicated their lives in the struggle for social justice to provide for reservations and to honour the martyrs and sufferers, a pension of Rs. 1520 per mensem was announced by Dr. Kalaignar, the Present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the leader of DMK. He even withdrew all the cases foisted against them. Ex-gratia payments were also made to the dependents of those who lost their lives in those agitations. Thus our leader dedicated himself to the cause of social justice and involved himself in all the campaigns to protect the rights of all the deprived sections of the society like the SCs, STs, backward classes and the most backward classes. I would be failing in my duty if I fail to take the name of our leader Dr. Kalaignar the present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu who was always in the forefront to safeguard the interests of the backward classes.

The reservation for the SCs and STs was earmarked to be 22.5% ever since 1950. It was enhanced to 41% and later on to 49%. These social measures were adopted by Dr. Kalaignar in the years between 1971 and 1973. He was the first Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to increase it up to 49%.

Our leader Dr. Kalaignar has pointed out that State Governments are the ones that have direct access to the masses and the people of the States. So the rights of the States to enact laws to benefit the people of the respective States according to their social conditions, history and tradition have to be upheld and must be safeguarded by the Centre. It is rather its duty. Hence there is a need to give constitutional protection to the Acts enacted by the State Governments. Such Acts must be incorporated in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

*Translation of speech originally delivered in Tamil.

As far as Civil Services like IAS and IPS are concerned, the total reservation including that of OBCs has not touched 69% as is provided for in the State of Tamil Nadu. I fervently hope that the Constitution Amendment we seek to make now may obtain such of these benefits in due course.

Former Prime Minister Shri V.P. Singh implemented the Mandal Commission recommendations. Many of the recommendations are yet to see the light of the day. Many of the well-meaning suggestions contained in the Mandal Commission Report are put in cold storage. I would like to urge upon the Government to implement fully the Mandal's recommendations to benefit the other backward classes.

The ancient Vedas were there. They were predominantly permeating into the society. The caste system that came into being as stipulated by those literature has come to stay. Integrating the backward classes with the forward communities is not going to be an easy task. Hence it has become imperative to make this 69% reservation a common one.

Reiterating our stand that State Governments must have complete freedom to decide about the measures they take to ensure social justice in their respective States. I hope this amendment will provide Constitutional safeguard to such measures of the States. Expressing my support to this Bill let me conclude now.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank Shri Banatwalla sahib for moving such an important Bill for consideration in this House to draw the attention of the country towards this vital issue. There is no controversy about the fact that in the given odd social circumstances in India, reservation plays an important role to bring socially and educationally backward people at par with others in the pace of social development. Sometimes our colleagues are under the impression that our Constitution framers provided for reservation on economic consideration. The reservation provisions being implemented currently in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies was not provided by the framers of our Constitution. During the British raj itself the provision for reservation in the representative bodies was implemented by the Government and after the Second Round Table Conference in 1935 when the draft of the Government of India act was brought forward and the Government made provisions for reservation in the representative bodies on communal basis. Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation went on fast unto death in protest and the famous and historical Government of India Act in 1935 was signed in Pune by none other than our great leaders, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya whereunder the British Government made provisions for reservation to an extent in the representative bodies. Such a provision was earlier made first time in 1909 on communal basis by the Britishers. It is an irony of Indian History that in the Central Assembly, Pt. Moti Lal Nehru supported this provision and the much defamed Zinna the 'Quid-E-Azam', whom we ever curse and abuse opposed this provision. Ironically, India was divided and the Constitution was framed twice—first for United India and second time, after partition of India. At the time of partition, our national leaders opposed the provision for reservation on communal basis but since our

society was plagued by untouchability, our Constitution framers provided for reservation for the 'Dalits', which was already available to them during the British Raj. While making provision for right to equality in the Constitution. Our Constitution framers also ensured that while the Executive and the Parliament make special provisions for Dalits and untouchables for their betterment, the fundamental "Right to Equality" would not stand in their way.

The President of India would simultaneously appoint a Commission for socially, economically and educationally backward section of the society and the report of that Commission would be presented before the Parliament. The Commission would deal with the condition of the people of backward class of the society and the Government would make arrangements for their upliftment pursuing the recommendations of the Commission. Such a provision has already been made in our Constitution. Under this provision the first Backward Classes' Commission under the Chairmanship of Kaka Kalelkar was constituted. The said Commission had recommended 30 per cent reservation for backward class people in proportion to their population. The Government of India was fighting shy in implementing those recommendations. The pressure to implement the recommendations of the said Commission was increasingly mounting on the Government but ultimately when Janata Party came to power under the leadership of Shri Morarji Desai, another Commission was appointed for Backward Classes in 1978, known as Mandal Commission which submitted its report in 1980. As Kaka Kalelkar was a Brahmin, so he recommended 30 per cent reservation and this made Mandal Saheb a bit scared. He recommended that since the total population of backward class people is 54 per cent so they should be given 27 per cent reservation which is half of their population. This report continued to gather dust. The Governments kept on changing but when V.P. Singh Government came in power, a portion of the said report was ordered to be implemented. Here our colleague was saying with great confidence that they have achieved high position despite belonging to backward caste leaving upper caste behind. The backward communities of the society have become equally respectable. If such a situation comes then we shall oppose the law of reservation. This is why the framers of the Constitution had said that we shall review the reservation laws after every ten years and the situation prevailing at that time would be analysed. Such a provision was made in the Constitution. We have made provision for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes Commission under the Constitution for improving their lot. They submit their report, it is discussed here and I expect my colleagues to go through it. They would be surprised after reading it, because such an issue is being discussed even after 50 years of Independence. This is going to be discussed in the House. Would our friends like to tell us as to what kind of treatment our Dalits friends are getting in the society today? Do not talk about the same treatment? These acts are politically motivated. A Government of this nature was formed in Uttar Pradesh with the support of BJP under the Chief Ministership of a nominee of Shri Kashi Ram's choice. Then on what ground the support was later withdrawn from that Government? Vora Saheb is

[Sh. Mohan Singh]

present here, he was the Governor of U.P. at that time. You ask him, he can explain in a better way. I would like to tell this to you, specially to my AIADMK colleagues.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You are giving this matter a political turn. I disagree with it. You have taken it otherwise. I was saying in a general way.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: You cannot agree.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kharabela Swain, please take your seat.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Shri Mohan Singh, it is controversial.

[Translation]

You know what you spoke and I know what I stated. It is a controversial issue. Do not politicise it.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: One of the major reasons of withdrawal of support from the Government by the party was made public and given in writing to hon. Governor.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (MEERUT): Will you not talk of Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh?...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you quarrel, the local panchayats will come and interfere. So, please do not give a chance for that.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: The support was withdrawn merely on the ground that the said Government was planning to organise a fair in memory of Pariyar Saheb. The party you were supporting, withdrew the support from the Government merely because the said Government was planning to organise a fair in memory of Periyar Saheb, still you claim yourself his staunch follower. Can a fair not be organised in support of Periyar Saheb. What is the reason? The reason is that Periyar Saheb had started the struggle within India for Dalits and weaker sections in a strong and organised manner. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: What did you people do? Which party planned killing Mayawati ji in the guest house? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Learn the habit of listening. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: What did you do that now they are shouting? ...*(Interruptions)* what did you do for Bahujan Samaj Party? What did you do for Dalits, you should think over it ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak with mannerism. This is not good. Shri Mohan Singh, you may please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Because of Pariyar Mela, Bhartiya Janata Party had withdrawn its support from Mayawati ji. Another thing that I want to say is that in this country when the Supreme Court gave a decision that reservation cannot exceed 50 per cent in any case, the Tamil Nadu Government formulated a rule to increase the reservation limit and motion favouring amendment in Constitution was also brought in the House with a consensus to accord approval to this rule. Whenever issue of reservation was raised in the House, it took the decision through consensus and never took decision in peacemeal. As per Constitution of India, a census would be conducted in India after every 10 years. Constitution of India says that backward castes, dalit castes would get reservation in representative institutions in the ratio of their population. After 1971, census was not conducted in India. We amended the Constitution and stopped this practice of census upto the year 2001 A.D. We stopped the census work, now population of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes has increased by about four percent vis-a-vis their ratio in total population as on 1971. When census is undertaken and delimitation of seats is conducted, their seats in representative bodies would have to be increased in accordance with constitutional provision. The day you increase the seats and the Supreme Court has earmarked a limit on reservation, so circumstances would develop causing hurdles. That is why Banatwalla ji has presented this bill at an appropriate time attracting the attention of this House, during the coming days you would demand 33 per cent reservation for women, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes should be given reservation on Government jobs in proportion to their population but the Supreme Court has directed that reservation can not exceed certain ceiling, it is leading to confrontation. Therefore in view of this development, this Parliament having premonition of this position, should consider reservation issue afresh and comprehensively, not in peacemeals.

My second point is that the dispensation of reservation is based on untouchability and social backwardness. It does not have any economic basis. The new method evolved by excluding backward people in the name of creamy layer needs further consideration and if we consider this issue with this view point then your bill should be adopted. Hon. Minister should assure this House that the Government of India would do something immediately on this issue as your national agenda also provides for setting up a commission to review constitution and amendment the constitution on the basis of the recommendation of this commission. Ordinarily you have been bringing constitution amendments. I would request the Government that this bill has also been presented with this intention only i.e., when you are considering review of constitution then you should also thoroughly consider the principle of reservation, its objective, its spirit and also see as to what extent it is useful even now in our society keeping all these aspects in view, a comprehensive bill should be introduced and with this demand I fully support the bill introduced by Banatwalla Saheb.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ): Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are calling names of members from one side only.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (SAMASTIPUR): As names have been given, in same sequence they are being called.(Interruptions).

[English]

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The issue discussed is apart from a political one because the discussion is on a Private Members' Bill. Chance is given irrespective of political parties.

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank Shri Banatwallaji for bringing forward this Bill at a right time. I very much agree to the point made by Shri Mohan Singhji that this Bill is most pertinent at the time when we wish to undertake the review of our Constitution.

When we deliberate on the issue of reservation, a section of people rise to oppose it. It would have come to your notice that this dissenting voice is raised by that section of society which has so far been wielding power and enjoying authority. The population of India is about 100 crore. It is a sort of irony that though 100 crore pair of hands are engaged in the production activities yet India is one of the poorest countries of the world. It is simply amazing why it is happening so? It is so because we have a social disparity in our country. We look down upon the people engaged in manual work and those who are not engaged in any production activities, they hold the highest positions in the society. I want you to go through the annals of history. Over 500 years back, an invader named Babar came to this country from Samarkand. He had an army of 12 thousand soldiers but with a might of merely 12 thousand people Babar trampled over this country and made us slaves.

16.53 hrs.

[SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *In the Chair*]

How did it happen? It happened because our society was plagued by social disparity. One section of people in the society thought that they alone were entitled and authorised to defend the country and running its administration and no other people were to meddle with these affairs. That is why this section did not allow other people to defend the country and as such we remained slaves for centuries together. This was the result of social disparity and disharmony. In fact, it was not the only sort of slavery. Imperialism led to political slavery and an elite class emerged in the society which had their own vested interests. This elite class wanted to maintain status quo and it looked down upon the rest of the people as their slaves. The oppressed class resorted to revolt time and again and raised their voice against it and social movements were launched. Our founding fathers of the constitution assessed the situation immediately after independence and they, rising above political considerations,

made provisions for reservation to remove this social disparity and bring about sense of equality in the society.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, that is why they did not seek to provide for reservation in the Constitution on economic basis. I wish to quote here sub-article 4 of the article 15 of the Constitution.

[English]

"Nothing in this article or in clause (2) of article 29 shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled castes and the Scheduled Tribes".

[Translation]

There is no reference of economic backwardness therein. Similarly, I read out the sub-article 4 of article 16 of the Constitution, which reads as follows:—

[English]

"Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State."

[Translation]

There is no reference of economic position or consideration in the Constitution.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now Hon. Member, Sh. Banatwallaji has raised a point that we need not meddle with the verdict given by the Supreme Court. If you peruse the Constitution, you would find that the spirit of the Constitution suggests that the state affairs should not be interfered with.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the concept of creamy layer comes only in the mind of these people who look at reservation from the economic point of view. I do not know on what basis the criteria for creamy layer has been fixed by the Supreme Court. I think there should be some criteria. After all, the ceiling of 50 per cent should be supported by certain rational. It should not be that the verdict should be based on the whims and fancy of hon. judges. I do not think that we have any ground for that. When we do not have any ground then what was the rationale behind keeping the limit at 50 per cent? Had population been the ground according to them, a time frame could have been worked out. Fifty per cent reservation is nothing and no method works in this regard. Therefore the Supreme Court has fixed 50 per cent limit in an arbitrary manner. Therefore, State Governments should be given a free hand to take a decision or make arrangements on the basis of their local problems.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know the reason behind the verdict given by Supreme Court in regard to creamy layer. It is so because the Class for which the Supreme Court has provided reservation has no representative in the Supreme Court. Therefore, there is no one in Supreme Court who can think in the interest of this class as to what are their problems and difficulties. The Courts have no such information. They

[Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta]

get information through reading from whatever written material they get. No judge has ever suffered their miseries. Therefore, it is the appropriate time to say that there should be reservation in Courts otherwise interests of that class would not be reflected in the Court verdicts.

17.00 hrs

Sir, it can be concluded from the above points that when the Constitution is under review, these points should be placed before the Government whenever any decision is taken by it. I think that for this reason, the Constitution amendment Bill should be supported and therefore I am supporting it. With these words, I thank you and conclude my speech.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Constitution amendment Bill introduced by Shri Banatwalla. The time when our Constitution makers made the provision for reservation in the country, there was a need for reservation to build a society based on equality, harmony and bridge the gap between the high and the low but there is a difference between today's need and the need of that time. We should analyse the circumstances. The time when this law was enacted, Harijans were not permitted to enter the temple. Harijan students were not allowed to sit on the front benches but today there is equality in society. Today if any Harijan student wants to sit on the front benches, nobody can dare ask him to leave the front seat he is occupying calling him a Harijan. Today, nobody has the courage to prevent a Harijan from entering a temple and worshipping. Therefore, as per the need of that time, at times (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA (AMBALA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, whatever the hon. Member said is not correct. Recently in Rewari, when some people belonging to SCs after taking Ganges water from Haridwar started pouring the water on 'Shivalinga', people belonging to high castes did not allow them to do so. This effort could be made possible only with the help of D.C. and administration. Due to that, there is high tension in the village. We are talking about Harijans but there should be parity in everything.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Such matters are raised by politicians. In fact, such things have not been uttered, therefore, I do not believe it. I was saying that there is a difference between the needs of the past and the present. Therefore, it should be changed according to the needs of the present time. In 1935, the provision of reservation in Constituencies was politically motivated. This was needed at that time but today, there is no such need. I am saying so because there is hon. Ram Vilas Paswanji in the House as a member and a big leader of the country who has adorned several important offices in the country. Now, what type of reservation do they need? Elections are lost and won in the name of such things. They do not need reservation to enter this House. Therefore, we understand that the time has changed and accordingly there should be a change in the system also. Those who demand reservation. I want to tell

them why do they not stress the need of education. They should go to the villages and see the condition in which the children of the people belonging to Harijans, Backwards, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes go to schools. For how many days do they attend their schools? Had education been made compulsory and efforts were made to let them participate in the competitions, there would not have been any need for reservation to continue in the country. Hon'ble Member Shri Mohan Singh expressed this view. I felt that Shri Mohan Singh has not tried to understand it in the right perspective. His idea was that despite belonging to backward class we have defeated the people of forward class. We have participated in the competition and each and every person belonging to Harijans and Backward class have the right to participate in the competitions and take what is due to him. This is what he felt but his views were twisted. If compulsory education is provided to all people belonging to Harijans, Backward Castes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and they participate in competitions then I feel there will be no need of reservation and everyone will get their due. It should be reviewed as to what is the condition of those who are called forward castes in the villages. You also belong to village but you have to change your stand under political compulsions. This is your compulsion and I also understand this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no compulsion.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I am also personally close to you so I do not find it difficult to understand. In the villages people say that Brahmins belong to forward caste. What is their condition? During marriage season they earn through 'yajmani' at others house and perform the rituals of marriage. During this season of two or three months they earn and fend for his family through out the whole year with that meagre amount of money only. This is how they are from forward class? Let us see the condition of backward people in Bihar itself. There are people of one caste who only clean vehicles on the bus stands and do not go for any other job. At this time kidnapping has become a lucrative business in Bihar. They are master minding this business. They have built palaces in villages also. If there is a competition of palace owners in Delhi city we may find many persons of Bihar who can compete with them. Yet they will avail the facility of reservation since they belong to backward class. Those who are earning their livelihood from their age-old occupation of performing and conducting religious rituals are deprived of reservation facility as they belong the forward caste. On the other hand let us see the castes to which we belong. They do farming. They can get a job only in the military services and there is no other scope for them. If they do not get even this, they go to Calcutta and become a gatekeeper at the house of some Marwari. They also can not get the reservation facility as they belong to the forward caste. Should the businessmen type people who have built big buildings of Rs. 5-10 crores at Patna and Delhi, be given the benefits of reservation? Shri Yashwant Sinha is sitting here and he also belongs to forward caste. The people of his caste have little agricultural land in villages. They depend on service. But they can not get the benefit of reservation since they belong to forward caste. There is a great disparity. A farmer who

earns Rs. hundred for his day's labour may save Rs. fifty. His aim is to save money for the marriage of his children or treatment of his family members if they happen to fall ill. If he has some surplus money he buys land or builds a good house. On the other hand those who are called tribals or harijans, if they earn Rs. hundred, they spend more than this amount and consume toddy with their family. Let us atleast bring equality. Let us educate them so that they can compete on merit. They will then understand that drinking toddy or consuming liquor is bad. They would realise that if they stop this and stand on merit, they too would become forward people. The forward caste people earn money with great effort and hard labour so there is a need to ponder over the issue of reservation afresh and there is a need to review it at the national level.

India is a vast country and there is a vast majority of people who live in rural areas. Ours is multi-linguistic, multi-religious country where people have different food habits but there is one union. This Bill seeks to provide more powers to States. If there is more devolution of power to States the significance of the Union may diminish. Therefore keeping in view the importance of the Union, it should given more powers so that it may have right checks and balances over the States. In respect of bringing legislations, the Union should be more powerful and State Government should not be given more powers in this regard.

A point has been raised to provide reservation on economic basis. I am totally opposed to the idea of reservation. I want that people of all castes should participate in the competition and on that basis successful candidates should be appointed to any post. Those demanding reservation have never said that during war there should be a reservation on the basis of caste to fight the battle. We have never come across such a news report. Those who are demanding reservation if they decide first of all that those persons will be sent to the battle field first who get reservation on the basis of caste only then we shall accept that their intentions are good. But if they do not do so then it is nothing but snatching away others rights and on the other side those who are not deserving people, if they are appointed to higher posts, it will only diminish the dignity of that post.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Chair you are occupying at the moment is the Speaker's chair and Hon'ble Speaker Balayogi is the present incumbent. Did he get this position because there was reservation? The President of India belongs to Harijan Caste. Was there any reservation? He did not achieve this high position through any reservation but through his ability and by dint of his merit. We supported him unanimously. I would like to say that in a situation like this where is the need for reservation? But somehow there is a compulsion to give reservation, though I do not support this view but in the Government's view there is a compulsion and this House also has this compulsion. In this connection, I would like to say that the criteria for reservation should not be caste but its economic basis. If reservation is given on economic considerations, all poor people of all castes will be benefited. They will get reservation according to law and social system and only then there will be an egalitarian society. You are a

Lohiaite, a true follower of Lohia and have been propagating the views of Lohia and express your view in the words and manner of Shri Lohia. You are in the chair at the moment and it is just a chance that I am speaking in front of you so I wish you to remember Lohiaji and give such a ruling that there may not be any politics in the name of caste and religion. If there can be any division of the society on the basis of caste there can only be two classes the rich and the poor. Today there is no one in this country who can be said to be forward and backward or harijan. So I would like to request you to get rid of that type of compulsion. It is just a chance that Lalooji is not here, so give a ruling as he is not listening. You please overcome your compulsions and give a ruling.

With these words, I would request you to try to speak the truth when your turn comes. We are internally one but due to political considerations the equation gets disturbed. I would like to say that sometime we have to take decisions under political compulsions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not try to impose your view on others.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: No, Sir. Political decisions are taken that way and they have their ill effect on the society. One former Prime Minister who used to be here, when his senior most cabinet colleague the then Deputy Prime Minister revolted, then in an effort to belittle his status under compulsion he had to(Interruptions) You may not be relishing it, I know but I am to finish in one minute and I am not going to talk much about that. Just to belittle his stature, Mandal Commission was implemented. What is the result of it in Bihar we both know as we have suffered together and have first hand knowledge. You were enjoying at that time while we had to pay heavily on that account. The Bihar Government had invoked National Security Act due to which I had to remain out of Bihar for about eight months.

I would like to say that in these circumstances he imposed the National Security Act. Others are gaining political mileage but nobody in the country remembers him at present. Whenever a wrong political decision is taken, the person taking decision has to bear the brunt. Therefore, I would like to urge that no political decision should be wrong. Let all of us together oppose this Bill for making a society based on equality and harmony so that such a Bill is not introduced in the House again. With these words I would thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mandal Commission was implemented and that was accepted by the Supreme Court.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I avail this opportunity to congratulate my senior colleague and the leader of the party, Shri G.M. Banatwalla for bringing a Bill which is very much appropriate in the present circumstances in India.

Sir, it is always there. Whenever there is a plea for reservation, there will be opposition from a cross-section. We have been seeing this throughout the political history of the

[Sh. E. Ahamed]

country. Even then the great Baba Saheb Ambedkar propounded the theory of reservation. It has been opposed to by a very forceful section of the society. I may just mention here that there were also brilliant people in this country but Baba Saheb Ambedkar was one of the most brilliant figures in the Country. He was able to bypass many of the people of different communities with his intelligence, brilliance, educational background and experience. He never said that his caste or his people should be denied the reservation.

But in the modern times, here are some people who are more brilliant in upper class as well as in lower class or in the society as such. But only because they have the facility for education or go through the educational process by the family tradition or by circumstances, they got through the examination. They are also quite competent enough to get elected to the Assembly or Parliament or to hold the Ministership or the Chairmanship of the Statutory Boards. They shall not say that the poor sections of their backward community to which they belong, should be denied that opportunity. I am capable of getting through all these because of the facilities available to me. I am not that much competent. I am only giving an illustration.

Therefore, the standard argument by critics, as usual, was that the reservation would destroy the democratic values of equality before law, foster the caste feudalism, polarise the people on the caste lines, endanger the social unity, etc. This we have been seeing.

Just now, I have heard the statement by a Member from Bihar whose leader is my great friend, Shri Nitish Kumar. Shri Nitish Kumar is a man who is also fighting for this. Had Shri Nitish Kumar been here, I do not think, my friend from Bihar would have spoken the way he has spoken. He was asking the Chair to just change the views since Shri Lalu Prasad is not here. If that would be applicable to himself, he would not have uttered a word in the presence of Shri Nitish Kumar.

My learned friend from Orissa, just opposing the Bill moved by Shri Banatwalla, has mentioned that the Bill seeks to deny the benefit of reservation on economic consideration. I do not know what he meant by the provisions of the Bill introduced by Shri Banatwalla.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons has clearly stated and I quote:

"The Bill also seeks to provide that the State shall not deny benefit of reservation to any section of the backward class, on economic consideration."

This is in consonance with the provisions of the Constitution.

The Bill of Shri Banatwalla is only to make some amendments to include certain provisions. It is not against the fundamental principles laid down in the Constitution. It is not against the provisions provided in the Constitution. For the benefit of my friend, I would like to state, because he has asked what is backward class, how the backward classes come and whether there may be backward classes in Kerala

and Tamil Nadu and what about other areas, where there are backward classes all over the country. There are certain norms for identifying the backward classes. For the benefit of the hon. Member as well as of this House, Mr. Chairman, I may be permitted to read what the Constitution has envisaged for the reservation of the backward sections. That is very much enshrined under article 15(i). Under article 15(1)(4), it is mentioned—I may be permitted to elucidate my point of argument:

"Nothing in this article or in clause (2) of article 29 shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes".

Sir, in this section, article 15(1) says:

"The State shall not discriminate any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them."

There an exemption is given that nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provisions for the advancement of any socially or educationally backward classes of citizens. So, socially and educationally backward classes is the criteria, is the guiding principle. The Constitution has already adopted and approved it and it is now in practice in this country.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Would the hon. Member just yield for a moment? Can he just tell me why for the last fifty years, the Government of India or most of the States have not identified the economically backward classes? Does he have any idea in which State it has been done or has the Government of India done this?

SHRI E. AHAMED: It is quite natural when the Constitution empowers the governance of a country to identify what is educationally or socially backward, then why should the Government just travel beyond the ambit of the Constitution? The Constitution has empowered the State Government or the Government of India to identify, if at all, that it has to be in consonance with the Constitutional provisions or educationally and socially backwardness. There is no mention about the economic consideration. That is what I am saying. The economic consideration is nowhere here. This is a consideration on the social and educational aspects.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Two hours time was fixed for this discussion, if members agree, the time can be further extended by half an hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: All right, Sir.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: Now, what about article 29, sub-clause 2? It also mentions that because even what is contained in that article shall not stand in the way of providing reservation to the backward classes on the ground of social and educational backwardness.

Now I quote article 29 for the information of the hon. Members of this august House. It says:

"(1) Any section of the citizens residing in the territory of India or any part thereof having a distinct language, script or culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the same.

(2) No citizen shall be denied admission into any educational institution maintained by the State or receiving aid out of State funds on grounds only of religion, race, caste, language or any of them."

Therefore, even the limitation of the Constitution is not applicable in providing the reservations to the backward classes. That is what Shri G.M. Banatwalla has also mentioned in his Bill. He has categorically mentioned it in the Statement of objects and Reasons, which says: "The Bill also seeks to provide that the States shall not deny the benefit of reservation to any section of the backward class on economic consideration." So, economic consideration is not a criterion under the Constitution. Of course, there may be economic criterion. I do not want to outrightly deny that.

My friend has asked as to how these backward classes can be identified and it has not been done so far. He also said that without identifying that we are speaking about backward classes. I do not agree with his argument. For the purpose of identifying backward classes, there are set rules and accepted norms. Now, I quote an article written by Shri K.C. Sury, which will elucidate as to how these identification of castes has been done. I am only quoting his version. It says:

"The criteria for identifying the backward community adopted by the First Backward Classes Commission of India included: (i) low special position in the traditional caste hierarchy of Hindu society; (ii) lack of general educational advancement among the major sections of a caste; and (iii) inadequate representation in Government services and in the fields of trade, commerce and industry.

It prepared a list of 2,399 backward castes for the entire country in 1955, of which 837 were classified as the 'most backward'. By 1980, the number swelled to 3,743 castes in the Report of the Second Backward Classes Commission headed by Shri B.P. Mandal. The population figures for the OBCs are not available as caste-wise enumeration was stopped after the 1931 Census. The Mandal Commission, based on projections using the 1931 Census, estimated that about 52 per cent of India's population (both Hindus and non-Hindus) is backward."

This is the criterion adopted to identify the backward classes. There is a measure or criterion, which has been accepted, approved and implemented in this country. How can an hon. Member of this House say that there is no criterion to identify the backward classes? That is why, I have quoted this article.

Therefore, his argument holds no water in opposing the reservation or even extending the reservation as has been mentioned in Shri G.M. Banatwalla's Bill.

I would like to make one more point. There is a Supreme Court judgement. The Apex court has every right to make any observation and give any decision. What is this 50 per cent? This fifty per cent cannot be static. No decision of the Supreme Court can be static. It has to be dynamic because more backward classes are coming in.

Population is increasing. Different sections of society are suffering from lack of day-to-day needs which are necessary for leading the life. Therefore, the Supreme Court cannot say it is sacrosanct. It is not acceptable because the population is increasing in this country. In different States, different situations are arising. Social inequality is increasing. Social justice is to be achieved. That is what is provided in the Directive Principles of State Policy in our Constitution. Under these circumstances, I respectfully, submit that this House cannot agree to what the Supreme Court has said that reservation should not exceed 50 per cent. That cannot be acceded to. Sir, I am concluding for want of time.

But I would only like to say that the Bill passed by Tamil Nadu has been struck down by the High Court. The leadership was given by no lesser a person than Ms. Jayalalitha who has really shown a way to all other States. Unfortunately, wherever the States have given the reservation for more than 50 per cent, it has been struck down by the High Courts. That is why, I say that the Supreme Court has to change this ruling. I have with me a table here which gives the State-wise reservation. In Andhra Pradesh, the general reservation is 71 per cent, but it was struck down by the High Court. In Karnataka, it is 68 per cent. It met the same fate. Again, the Madhya Pradesh, the reservation is 78 per cent. It has also met the same fate. Tamil Nadu's 68 per cent has been included in the Ninth Schedule. Therefore, Kerala has passed a Bill and that Bill is to avoid or to remove this creamy layer. The name of the Bill is Kerala State Backward Classes Reservation Act. Therefore, that Bill of the Government of Kerala has also to be included in the Ninth Schedule. That is, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of seats in Educational Institutions and of appointments or posts in the Services of the State) Act of 1993 should also be included in the Ninth Schedule.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): I have only two points to make. I would like to make just two sentences.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already spoken.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, please allow me.

SHRI E. AHAMED : I may also be given the right of reply.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The first thing is that if this Bill is passed, you are not going to include the Statement of Objects and Reasons in the Constitution. So, it will open to interpretation. The second thing is this. It is because that the social class is a vague thing, no Government has tried to identify it.

SHRI E. AHAMED: He is repeating the same thing.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (DHUNDHUKA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I oppose the Constitution Amendment Bill introduced by Banatwalla ji. I was listening to the speeches made by various speakers in which they talked about reservation for scheduled Castes and scheduled Tribes. Unfortunately there is 7 per cent reservation for SCs and 14.5 per cent for STs in Gujarat but even after 50 years of Independence their backlog has not been filled up.

There are vacancies in their quota even today. One type of quota has not been filled up and now another type of reservation is being demanded on economic basis. I am making an appeal to all the hon. Members of the House that to achieve the goals set by Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, they should bring a resolution that the vacancies meant for SCs and STs numbering lakhs should be filled up and after that any provision for further reservation should be made. Making provision for further reservation is to put the reservation of SCs/STs in jeopardy.

My hon. friend from Gujarat said one thing that reservation in the country, specially in Gujarat has been provided on the basis of untouchability and not on economic basis. Respect is more important for a human being. If sweetmeat is given to a man with disrespect, he would not eat but if he is given dry bread with love and affection he would eat it happily. The reservation was provided on the basis of untouchability. Untouchability still persists and nobody is opposing it. When the period provided for reservation was to end, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was in opposition at that time. Then he said that there was a need of reservation and even today he reiterated the something in the Rajya Sabha. Therefore, I request that the backlog of SCs/STs should be cleared and it should be confined to SCs and STs only. There is no need of an amendment in the Constitution. If there is a change in attitude and affection is extended, there will be unity in the society and it will make progress. We may be highly educated but the feeling of hatred in the hearts for others is not good. With these words, I conclude. Thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (CHIMUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to make two or three points in regard to the Bill on Reservation, moved by our hon. veteran Members of Parliament, Shri Banatwalla ji. A large number of people in our country have a lot of misconceptions about the reservation. The issue of reservation is inter-related with the religious, social set up and system of Governance in this country. It hardly needs any mention that at the time when the constitution of the country was drafted by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, it was sought to give an equal opportunities for development to the large section of people who have been deprived of human rights for thousands of years owing to their religious and social status and the constitution provided for reservation to the SCs, STs people of this country in order to bring them at par with the privileged sections of people of the society which had surpassed them in the race of development by the virtue of their caste and religious status. But a lot of

misinformation has been spread about it in the country. One of our hon. colleagues observed that reservation leads to a discriminatory system and divides people, society and the country as a whole. I want to tell him that reservation does not create any disparity, nor it divides the society. Indeed, it troubles the privileged section of society which has made great progress by the virtue of its caste religious status. They cannot tolerate SC and ST people coming at parity with them and that is why they are always out to oppose reservation policy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my colleague has rightly pointed out that SC and ST people were left far behind in the race of development due to ill practice of untouchability and this educational and social backwardness was taken to be the criteria for reservation and hence this reservation facility was provided. Opposition to the reservation system is not at all desirable. If you want to help a economically weaker section, on one would object to it. Reservation facilities should be provided to those people who need it. But the reservation facilities available to the SCs and STs should never be withdrawn.

Mr. Chairman, Sir I want to make this point that though the Government have implemented the reservation policy, yet it is like serving a delicious meal to somebody and forbidding him to taste it. This is what happening with the dalits, tribals and backward class people of the country who even after 50 years of Independence are being denied the benefits of the reservation. A lot of promises, tall claims have been made in the name of reservation. Our Prime Minister has stated that reservation will continue and all precautions would be taken in this regard. But what the deptt. of Personnel and Training says in this regard. Such top notch officials are posted there in this deptt. who are against the dalits and SCs. They do not want to see these people progressing.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the officials with such mentality are running this deptt. and they do not like that the people belonging to SC and ST communities ever make any progress. These officers have issued such orders which have stalled the recruitment and blocked the promotion avenues of SCs and STs employees. The employees belonging to these class are being harassed by not implementing reservation provisions. Hence, it is my request that officers with such mentality should be shifted elsewhere from this deptt. and the most urgent need of the hour is to enact reservation laws. These people would not get justice until such a law is enacted.

Mr. Chariman, Sir, I would also urge upon the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment to pay adequate attention towards it and take measures to safeguard the rights of all the people belonging to SC, ST communities and backward classes and taken steps to enact proper laws for the continuation of provisions of reservation and quash the orders issued by the Deptt. of Personnel and Training which clash with the provisions of reservations and promotions of these people and thus protect the rights of these people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

to express my views on such a vital issue.

*SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI (DHARWAR-SOUTH): Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to oppose this Amendment Bill brought by my colleague Shri G.M. Banatwalla. This feeling of reservation came at the time of our independence in 1947. People were expressing their views in favour of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to become the Prime Minister of independent India. Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our nation, had the intention to make Mohammad Ali Jinnah the Prime Minister. He tried his best to avoid partition. But Jinnah had other intentions. It is due to the small mistake of some big leaders. Now unfortunately the nation has been divided into India, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Article 15(4) of the Constitution mentions about social backwardness and educational backwardness. I feel that it would have been better to consider backwardness only on economical conditions. Shri S. Nijalingappa even today advocates this view. This amendment should come at least now. Consideration of backwardness should not be only on caste, sub-caste and community, etc.

Supreme Court has given its judgement on Mandal Commission's Report. Accordingly, 50% is the limit for reservations. The States have 69%, 56% as reservation for these classes. In our Karnataka it is 56%. These have to be removed.

According to the Supreme Courts's verdict we have to maintain 50% reservation throughout the country and that would lead to uniformity in the entire country. It is very good and very useful to our society. I am speaking on behalf of Lok Shakti Party. Hence I may be given another one minute. Limitation is very essential. I, therefore, oppose this Bill introduced by Shri Banatwalla.

Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak and with these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (CHAIL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Bill introduced by Shri Banatwallaji on reservation. Today, the issue of reservation is being discussed. Through you, sir, I would like to tell the House that we have got reservation after making many sacrifices and difficulties and it has not been a begging from somebody. Our former leaders and forefathers of Constitution granted this facility of reservation after great struggle. In this context, we can never forget our Constitution framers including Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. You might remember that today during zero hour I had raised a matter that although our country achieved Independence 50 years ago, yet even today, the Chairs of Lower Court judges are washed with holy Ganga Jal. It is a matter of shame for the society. Here it was said that State Government should be given power to fix reservation for SCs and STs. I say that all the States have many Commission and these Commission make recommendations and forward them, only then reservation is given. Even today, there are several ignored and exploited castes in our society which are deprived of the benefits of reservation. They are being denied all sort of facilities. You can see Government's department whether it

is Central Government's department or State Government's department, nowhere reservation quota has been filled in toto. In this context, I had given a report to the Hon. Prime Minister and Home Minister that even today there are very few persons belonging to Scheduled Castes who are Secretary. We are not in favour of those influential persons who have attained higher posts and are still getting reservation facility. It is not so that only they should get reservation. We oppose it, but if today we see the real face of India in villages, you would see that even after 50 years of Independence, we are backward. There, economically backward and Scheduled Castes need the facility of more reservation. Similarly, have a look at the key posts. Nowhere SC-ST quota has been completely filled up. There are no officers and I want to attract your attention particularly towards Uttar Pradesh. Similarly, reports of some States have come before us. In Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat, all Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes have not received these facilities. Similarly, the decision of the High Court has expelled certain sections from the purview of reservation, they should also get reservation facility. Today it is often said and just now one of the Hon. Members said that we have chosen a person from Scheduled Caste as President. If you have chosen a person from SC as President then I want to say to Prabhunath Singh ji that after great struggle waged by SC and ST Forum and Mandal Commission's struggle, we have got this seat. We have not got this seat in doles...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: We also say, participate in competition. You got that post after struggling and for that congratulation to you.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : I want to say that we do not lack ability. Even today the untouchability is based on economic and social considerations. Even today, when you go to backward areas, there you would see people struggling. If you see the real face of India, you would find it in village only.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: You go to village and only then you would know.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: We definitely go. We come here after getting elected by villagers only. I want to say one more thing. In this House the name of our Hon. leader Shri Ram Manohar Lohia ji has been mentioned. I want to say that Shri Mulayam Singh ji, the leader of our Samajwadi party, whenever attends a public meeting, he says that although we are in support of reservation for backward castes, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, yet he talks about giving 2 per cent reservation to persons of high castes who are weak and suppressed.

In the end I want to say that all discrepancies in reservation should be removed and backlog of reservation should be completed. With these words I conclude.

*SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNAIAH (TUMKUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Havanoor Committee was constituted in Karnataka to look into backward classes. Shri Devaraj Urs was the Chief

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

[Sh. S. Mallikarjunaiah]

Minister then. Now Mr. Havanoor is in BJP. Similarly Venkataswamy Committee was constituted. He was the Secretary of the Karnataka Legislature. He is also in the BJP now.

Then Justice Chinnappa Reddy Committee was constituted. He advocated the idea of creamy layer. Those who were financially well off were included in the group of creamy layer. The name of the financially sound persons were deleted and he wanted the poor sections of the society to get the advantage.

Very good and higher education is very essential for the poorer section of the Society if we want to bring them up financially and socially. Then only then can become strong in the society. What have we done in this direction. There are no teachers in Village Schools. There is no drinking water facility in the remote areas. It is not at all possible to impart good education to our future generation. But at the same time we are spending huge amount of money. Even after fifty years of Independence, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are asking for the continuation of this reservation. They can do away with the reservation only when they come up socially and financially. But what sincere effort have we made in this direction? We need coolies in the bus stands. We are enjoying all the facilities. But those poor people do not have drinking water. There are not schools in their villages. There are no houses for them. Poor people have remained poor despite the Golden Jubilee Celebration of our Independence. We give lengthy speeches about these poor people. While making these speeches we use all kinds of adjectives. This is a political gimmick.

This is nothing short of hypocrisy. We are not making any sincere efforts to bring them up. We speak very lowly about reservation. They are suppressed for decades and centuries. We should respect them and allow them to lead a respectful life. What is our efforts in this direction?

Our efforts are not at all sufficient for the amelioration of these helpless people. We speak hours together in the Lok Sabha and in Legislatures about the upliftment of these poor people. We have discussed today about the atrocities on women. But where is the sincere effort to find out solution for the burning problems of women.

It is the men who are behind all these problems of women. Most of the people in the administration are men. In this way the hypocritical attitude does not lead the way for the welfare of the Society. There is an awareness in the society. They are realising the injustice that is mooted to them.

SC and ST students do not get admission in the medical and engineering colleges even if they have scored 70 to 75 per cent of marks in the XIIth class. That is the condition. IAS officers, Legislatures and other advanced people among SC and ST succeed in getting admission to their wards because they educate them in Baldwin School and other Convent Schools. Their children score 80 to 85% of marks and get admission in technical institutions. A poor man from my village

whose son or daughter get 70% of marks cannot get a seat in technical college. Then what is the alternative. What is the facility that you are providing to these down-trodden people? Therefore Mr. Chinnappa Reddy introduced the creamy layer system. Those who have come up in the society and the names of such people should be deleted from the list. They are capable of managing things on their own. They can attend dinners, lunch etc. with others. There is no question of untouchability because they have come up in the society. Untouchability is there for the very poor people, who do not have food to eat. Therefore, the Government should make sincere efforts. It is the responsibility of every individual of our society.

Every legislature should take this responsibility. It is no use in blaming others. Past is past. We have to think and plan for the future. This is our duty. Training classes must be conducted for SC/ST students before they appear for entrance examination. Encourage them. My friend was narrating here that he was humiliated because some people call him as 18% marks. He says that he has come on his own merit. There is truth in that. Leaders, Politicians and others should make sincere efforts for the upliftment of these down-trodden people. We must be sincere in our hearts. Then only they can lead a respectable life in our society like others.

Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity and with these words I conclude.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If House permits, we may extend the sitting of the House for half an hour more. 4-5 members are to speak.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (MEERUT): Mr. Chairman, Sir, then extend it by an hour. My bill would also be included.

Mr. Chairman: Time for this Bill is extended.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Please take my Bill also for consideration.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your views would be considered after this Bill.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (QUILON): Mr, Chairman, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak on this Bill which has been moved by Shri Banatwalla. This Bill seeks to amend articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution of India. The question of reservation is a controversial question in our country. As far as the reservation is concerned, I am very proud to say that the Bill also seeks to include an Act of the State legislature of Kerala in the Ninth Schedule of our Constitution. In our State of Kerala, the reservation for the other backward classes was prevailing even during the reign of King or Queen of Travancore-Cochin State.

This had become a controversial question when the former Prime Minister, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh had decided to implement the Mandal Commission Report. Sir, 49.5 per cent reservation was there in our State as far as the State Government services are concerned. During the time of Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh; it was decided to implement this policy in the Central services also.

Now, a new concept—creamy layer—has come into our country due to the judicial pronouncements. This creamy layer is being connected with the principles of economic considerations. This is a very pertinent point. This has to be discussed in detail and some formula or consensus has to be brought on this point.

Sir, article 15 as well as article 16 are giving exemptions to the educationally and socially backward classes. As Shri E. Ahamad has already submitted here, these two articles are very specific to note that socially and educationally backward classes are having reservation or are having special privilege. So, what does it mean? What is social backwardness? A number of criteria have been evolved by the Supreme Court in its verdicts and so many other criteria are also there.

Sir, I would like to submit that reservation for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward communities is mainly intended to have their role in the administration. For, these sections of people—other backward classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes—are being deprived of the participation in the administration of the country. So, this has to be viewed in social perspective. We know that as per the statistical data of the Bureau of Employment and Labour, Government of India, there are more than four crores of educated unemployed youths in our country. So, by way of reservation, you can never solve the problem of unemployment. The reservation policy cannot be viewed in the perspective of eradicating unemployment. Even if all the posts in the Central Services as well as in the other services are reserved, the problem of unemployment could never be solved. This is the social concern because a section in the society which has been deprived of the right to participate in the administration, in the governance of the country, in the policy-making bodies, is being given special privilege for participating in the administration, governance and policy making of the country. I would like to submit that this has to be viewed in this perspective and this policy has to be continued.

As far as the new concept of creamy layer, which has come out as a part of the judicial pronouncements, is

concerned, that may also be looked into. Yesterday, the Prime Minister has declared in the Rajya Sabha that the annual income limit of rupee one lakh will be enhanced. That is another matter.

The judicial pronouncement also brings out many aspects. The socially and educationally backward concept is changed by the Supreme Court. We have celebrated 50 years of Independence, the golden jubilee of Independence and it is going to be concluded by 15th August this year.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri N.K. Premchandran, you can continue your speech later.

18.0½

Constitution Amendment Bill*

(Insertion of new article 75A etc.)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (MUMBAI NORTH-EAST): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: I introduce the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again at Eleven A.M. on Monday July 27, 1998.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, July 27, 1998/ Shravana 5, 1920 (Saka).

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 24.7.1998.

CORRIGENDA TO LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Friday, July 24, 1998/Shravana 2,1920 (Saka)

<u>Col.Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
15/10 and 25	Shri P.S. Gadhvi	Shri P.S. Gadhvi
35/23(from below)	Shri S.B. Thorat	Shri Sandipan Thorat
53/2	MAJ.GEN(RETD)BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI,AVSM	MAJOR GENERAL SHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI,AVSM
64/9	Dr.Suguna Kumari	Dr.Suguna Kumari Chellamella
64/30	Dr.Y.S.Rajasekhar Reddy	Dr.Y.S.Raja Sekara Reddy
71/3(from below) 231/14	Shri Chinta Mohan	Dr.Chinta Mohan
133/4	Shri Moinul Hassan	Shri Moinul Hassan Ahmed
134/11(from below) 231/15	Shri Sadashiv Rao D. Mandlik	Shri Sadashiv Rao Dadoba Mandlik
137/12	Shri P.R.Kondalish	Shri K.C.Kondalish
150/10 (Col.5,6,7)	379.00 971	39.00 379.00 971.79
168/9	2856.73	2826.73
168/22	N	NA
172/8	Shri Jogendra Kawade	Prof.Jogendra Kawade
202/8	Shri K.L.Sharma	Shri Krishan Lal Sharma
273/17(from below)	Shri Lal Krishna Advani	Shri L.K. Advani
338/18(from below)	Shri Prabhunath Singh	Shri Prabhunath Singh

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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in
Lok Sabha (Ninth Edition) and Printed at Sunlight Printers, Delhi - 110006
